



Preschool Newsletter
[Preschool Webpage](#)

November 2, 2006

The days immediately after Halloween, the children spent a few mornings relaxing and enjoying the predictable peace that exists in the classroom. Manipulating play dough and stringing bead necklaces were ways to be together in small social groups -- not unlike the pleasant pace of a quilting bee where hands are busy and the conversation comes easily.



On Friday, the children discovered the ability to speak to each other through "whispering tubes". These tubes (PVC pipe, garden hose, empty wrapping paper tubes) are not as easy to use as they look. It takes some time and practice to learn where to place the hose when speaking and listening.



IMPORTANT DATES

November 22
Wednesday
Grandfriends Day
Thanksgiving Holiday
Begins

November 27
Monday
School Resumes

December 5 & 6
Tues. & Wed.
Holiday Gift Sale (PTO)

December 15
Friday
All-School Coffee
10:00am

Holiday Meeting for Wor-
ship
11:00am
Winter Holiday Begins
11:45am Preschool

January 2
Tuesday
School Resumes





Parents often ask, "How do you get the children to eat all of those vegetable, fruit, and cheese snacks?"

Emily: "I don't like green beans."

Teacher: "Sounds like you don't like green beans. Did you take a bite of these green beans."

Emily: "I licked one."

Teacher: "Why don't you take a small bite and let us know what you think. Sometimes food tastes better in preschool than it does at home."

(After a small bite, Emily ate the whole serving and asked for, and consumed, seconds!)

Teacher (to the children): Did you see what Emily did? She tried green beans at school and she changed her mind. She likes them!

Children: "Yeah, Emily!"

Long gone are the "baby days" of being fed by a parent or caregiver. In preschool, children are developing independence in eating, drinking, and preparing their snacks. They butter their bread, build their own cheese and cracker sandwiches, and use utensils. Consider providing your child with a plastic knife during mealtimes at home. They are safe, just the right size for young hands, and are sharp enough to cut soft foods (fried eggs, pancakes, fruit, many vegetables, Jello, sandwiches, etc.).

We use these knives almost daily to cut and chop play dough.

(Here Petros and James peel and slice bananas for their snack.)





It is the time of year when root vegetables get a great deal of attention. This week we worked with yams. Yams, not to be confused with sweet potatoes, were peeled, cut into bite-sized chunks, tossed with olive oil and salt, and roasted in a 425 degree oven until they were soft on the outside and golden brown on the outside. The caramelized morsels were served with optional ketchup.



"More yams, please."



Fine Muscle Development:

Eye droppers are terrific tools for young children. Here, Sofia and Tessa transfer liquid from one container to another using only an eyedropper. This activity supports the developing fine muscles in young fingers and hands.

Consider adding eye droppers and turkey basters to your water toy collection.



Preschoolers and their Grade III partners spent this week's visit playing with balls in the gym. After a few weeks of building trust in the safe environment of the classroom, we were ready to venture out. The nature of ball play brought out smiles all around. Even our most reluctant pairs seemed to ultimately enjoy the change of pace. At the end of the visit, partners made a pattern in a straight line of older/younger/older/younger children. With legs splayed, the children created a tunnel through which a ball could be passed from one end of the line to another. It took a good deal of team work and concentration!



*Four hands working at the table,
Two are young and two are older,
Four hands strong and able,
Hands that work and hands that love*

This is the refrain of a much-loved song at FSH. It is sung with gusto each year at Meeting for Worship on Grandfriends Day. Ask your child to show you the hand motions that accompany the music.

The tune is posted on the Preschool Music Page.

Thursday we will be walking to the climbing tree for what is likely to be one of our last mild days of the year.

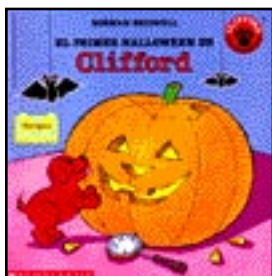
The children will probably only need a light jacket or sweater for the mid-morning walk as the temperatures are forecast to get into the 70's.



Spanish Corner:

Clifford's Halloween, Norman Bridwell

New vocabulary:
la mama/mom
bebe/baby
papa/dad
blanco/white
negro/black
cafe/brown



Thank you, Mrs. Doyle!

How lucky the children and teachers in your next classroom will be to have you with them!
You are a wonderful teacher and friend
and we will miss you!

Your friends in Preschool,

Ainsley, Blythe, Cole, Corinne, Emily, Emma, James, Kyle, Lily, Madison, Natalie, Noah, Petros, Sebastian, Sofia, Susanna, Tessa, Zoe, Jen and Tina

The children of Grade II performed their class play based on the book *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson. The following is from the notes on the inside flap of the book:

Can one good deed from an ordinary girl change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary--an ordinary girl from an ordinary school, on her way to ordinary house--who stumbles upon ordinary blueberries. When she decides to pick them for her neighbor, Mrs. Bishop, she starts a chain reaction that multiplies around the world. Mrs. Bishop makes blueberry muffins and gives them to her paperboy and four others--one of whom is Mr. Stevens, who then helps five different people with their luggage--one of whom is Maria, who then helps five people--including a man named Joseph who didn't have enough money for his groceries--and so on, until the deed comes back to Mary. It's a feel-good story that inspires and celebrates a world full of ordinary deeds!

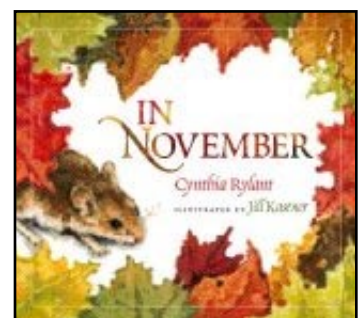
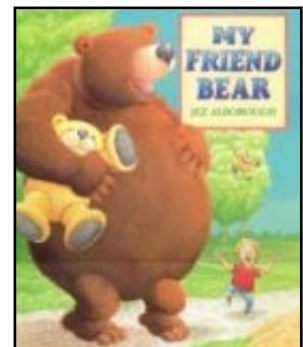
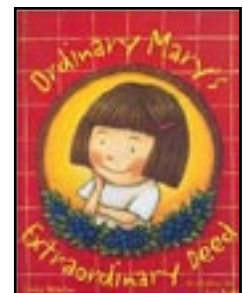
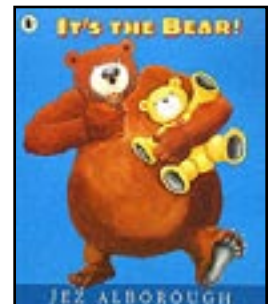
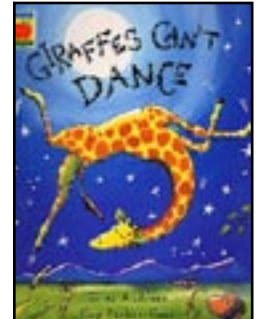
Congratulations to the children and teachers of Grade II for sharing such a lovely play and great story!



Books we have read recently include:

Giraffes Can't Dance, Giles Andreae
It's the Bear!, Jez Alborough
Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed, Emily Pearson

My Friend Bear, Jez Alborough
In November, Cynthia Rylant



MUSINGS

Jen and Tina have decided to launch a "Musings" section of the preschool newsletter. This will not be a weekly feature, nor will it be required reading by any means. These musings will be a chance for the teachers to share a developing idea, a query for which there is no correct answer, an opinion on a popular, cultural assumption in early childhood education (or not), a passion, an observation, or an article that has struck a chord. The following is an article written by Bev Bos and is shared by Tina whose work with children and families is inspired by Bev's work.

(Look for Jen's musings on pre-reading activities for preschoolers in next week's newsletter.)

"Bev Bos is an internationally renowned presenter and one of the nation's foremost experts on preschool learners. She is in great demand as a seminar leader and speaker at workshops and conferences throughout North America. Bev is an energetic, creative and inspiring teacher who has successfully used every idea she shares in her seminars with her own preschool students. In addition to being a recording artist and author, she has been featured on the television news weekly "20/20" as an outstanding proponent of child-centered preschool education." (Bureau of Education and Research)

Parenting Basics By Bev Bos

Have you ever gone into a bookstore and looked at the number of books there are on child rearing? Just the other day I did and I was overwhelmed. How do young parents sort it out? And how much of the information is important? When I was a child my mother did not read a single book about raising children. She was so busy cooking, washing clothes, bathing and feeding eight children; she simply raised her children as her mother had. About the time I had my children, the "self-help" books started being written and I read them all. I did some things differently than my mother, as every generation does, but a great deal of my mothering came from my background. I know my husband never read any of the child rearing books.

So what's the point of all this? I think there are some important, informative books. I also think that what we have lost is a sense of parenting. With many children in childcare (which I am not against - I, too, have been a working parent) and parents leading very different lives from previous generations, parents sometimes seem at a loss for basic parenting skills.

Here is some basic developmental information I would like young parents to know:

1. Young children cannot collect information unless it is important to them. For example: When you say to a child, "Never, never, never run in the street." they forget that "rule" when the ball rolls into the street. I heard a mother say to her child in the grocery store, "You got your hand stuck in the same part of the stroller yesterday. How could you be so stupid? Don't you remember?" Probably not. When the pain is gone, children forget. The place they put their finger looks like a place to do just that. Too often during the summer we read in the newspaper about children who fall into the swimming pool. Do you think their parents didn't tell them? Of course they did, but the information was not important to them. We make rules but children cannot remember them because their job is to play and develop into thinking young people. We, all the adults in their lives, must be responsible for them - to watch and guide and gently remind them. We must provide safe places for them to play and not expect them to be responsible for their own safety.

2. Young children cannot share. Parents always look at me aghast when I say this. Developmentally, young children do not understand ownership. They think if someone takes something from them that either they won't get it back or it will be changed in some way. If you want your child to grow into a sharing adult, try not to demand sharing when it is not developmentally appropriate. Young children are basically egocentric, in other words, the world exists for them. You all have heard them say, "Mine, it's mine!" My grandson, Zac, who lives in our home, said, "This is my house and you and my mom and Grandpa live here with me." Ah, yes, if only he could make the house payments on "his" house. Does all this mean you must have two or three of everything? Of course not. But be understanding. Here is what I do when a child comes to me and says, "But I want it!" I say, "And I want you to have it! You need to ask her if you can use it when she's through." Make sure if you ask a child to pass out cookies or crackers that you talk them through the task, "Let's see, there is a cookie for Zac and one for Sarah and one for you, too."

Put their favorite things/toys up when others come to play and you know it is going to be difficult. Get a big box and stop at garage sales and get some toys to put in the box. Then, when company comes, get those toys out and say, "Here, these are my toys and all of you can play with them." They will look new to everybody. At about four years old sometimes a child will start sharing but not until about six do they really start becoming much less egocentric.

3. Try to see each new stage as developmental. Too often as a child approaches a new stage of development we think the child is turning into a monster. Let me give you an example: At four your child seems to be able to walk, talk without yelling, and can be helpful with a sibling, etc. Then at four and a half they cannot walk - they fall and stumble. They cannot talk; they either yell or sometimes stutter and often use words you are appalled at. Then, they become five which is a very serene, together age. Remember each child is different at every age and there are many different personalities. But, in general, the more understanding you can be about developmental "stages", the more joy and delight you will experience as a family.

4. The most important thing to remember is that childhood is a very short, precious time. It is just a whisper - ask any grandmother. With tears she will say to you, "Oh, if I only could do it again." "If I had only spent more time." "If only I had laughed a little more and had not worried about the dust." I have never heard anyone say they wished they had dusted more often. Be kind and gentle with yourself as a parent. One hundred years from now, no one will know if you kept a clean house, but it will make a difference in the world if you spend quality time with your children.

"There are people with all sorts of enthusiasms and creativity which are not often enough made use of or even recognized because the tendency is not to rock the boat but to keep on doing things the way they have always been done."

- Frederick Buechner