



Preschool Newsletter
Preschool Webpage

December 7, 2006

Kinesthetic, Intrapersonal (self-esteem, self-help), Interpersonal (cooperation)



Pictured above: Tessa works by the preschool mantra "I won't give up, I won't give up..." as she has done during other visits to the climbing tree. This time, with Kyle's encouragement, she independently climbs to the very top of the Rockwell stone. That's how we do it in preschool!



At left:
Petros and Blythe take off their shoes, dump out the sand, and put their shoes back on - all by themselves!

Important Dates

December 15
Friday
10:00am-10:45am
Preschool parents invited to join the Preschool Jingle Bell Band!

Holiday Meeting for Worship
11:00am
Winter Holiday Begins after Meeting for Worship

January 2
Tuesday
School Resumes

January 5
Friday
First Friday @ FSH
8:30 a.m.

January 6
Saturday
OWLS Gathering

January 9
Tuesday
PTO Meeting
7:00 p.m.

January 12
Friday In-Service Day
PUPIL HOLIDAY

January 15
Monday
Martin Luther King Day
SCHOOL HOLIDAY

January 16
Tuesday
Parent/Teacher Conferences PS & PK
PUPIL HOLIDAY

Please e-mail Tina with your first, second, and third choices for a January Parent/Teacher Conference time.

(There will be no hard copy sign-up form.)

Conference times will be confirmed by e-mail in the order in which they are received. As in the past, all confirmed conference times are posted at Winter Conference Schedule

Peaceful problem solving

As interest in the preschool wooden block area has grown, we have been presented with a “problem” of sorts. Too many helpers! At clean-up time, there can be up to 18 children crowding near the shelves, waiting to place blocks in their proper place. This has resulted in lots of jostling, a loss of patience, and heaps of loud complaining.

As the preschool community was beginning to pow-wow Thursday morning to start the process of problem-solving, the Grade III partners arrived for their weekly visit.

Preschoolers’ responses sounded something like this:

Say ‘excuse me’; move apart then we could see the shelf; put blocks away; wait their turn.

The older partners listened carefully and described how they would feel during the block cleanup: *crowded, disaster, pressured, get hurt, angry*. Partners began to share their strategies to try to improve the process. Oliver suggested that we keep a list of children’s names near the block area. Each day a rotating group of three preschoolers will have the job of putting the blocks away. We will give this a try!



Thank you, partners, for being part of the process of problem-solving. We appreciate all of your thoughtful and creative ideas.

Update: We have been using this method for the last four school days and all is well in the block corner!

Social studies (empathy, group process), food preferences, Math (counting)



Friday, the group of children needed to decide what to have for snack. The three choices were green beans, popcorn, and crackers and cheese. When the children were surveyed, green beans made a poor showing; Friday just didn’t seem like a day for green beans.

During the next round of the survey, it was clear that the group was not going to reach consensus. Votes were cast. To the left you can see the votes being tallied. Popcorn won by a margin of seven to two. The minority who voted for crackers and cheese were pleased to hear that they would be served the next day. Everyone was happy!

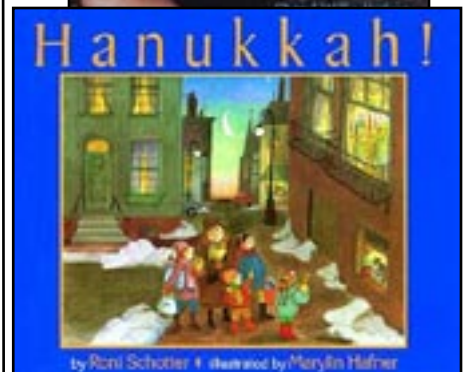
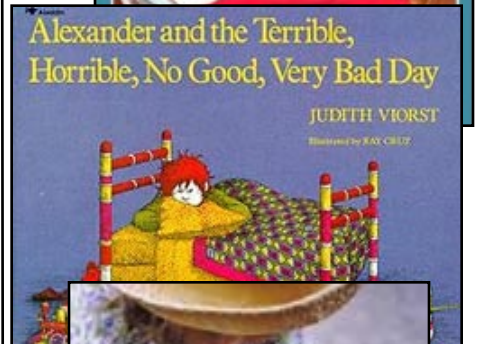
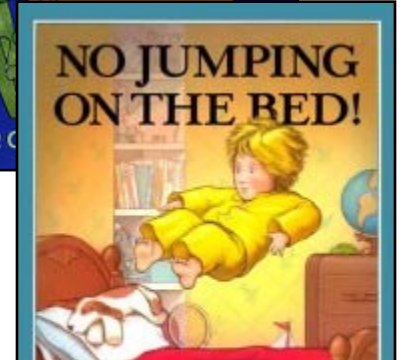
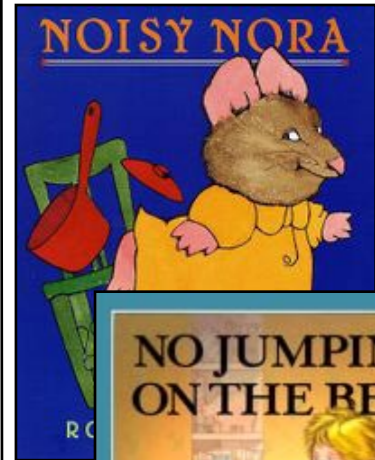
Congratulations to James, parents Nikki and Greg, and sister Kate, on the birth of baby Andrew, born November 30!

We look forward to getting to know Andrew during the next months and years.

Below: James makes the announcement to the class and demonstrates how he holds a baby.



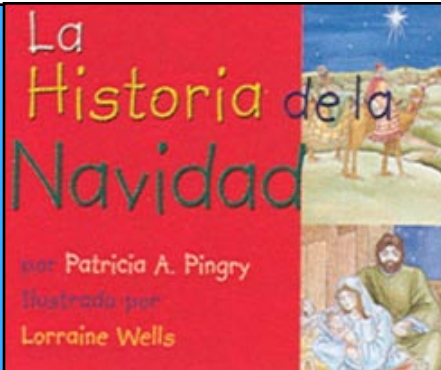
Books we have read recently include:
Noisy Nora, Rosemary Wells
No Jumping on the Bed!, Tedd Arnold
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, Judith Viorst
Hands Can, Cheryl Hudson
Hanukkah!, Roni Schotter



Espanol with Profesora Adriana

La Historia de la Navidad
 by Patricia Pingy

New vocabulary:
 Burrito/little donkey
 Navidad/Christmas
 Estrella/star



Latkes were flying on Wednesday! The salad shooter was spewing grated potatoes and onions, while several electric skillets sizzled in anticipation. The golden potato pancakes were served with a dollop of applesauce for dipping. Our effort was supported by Teacher Joanna's and Mrs. Holt's loaner skillets. We are especially grateful to Lily's family for the donation of a new electric skillet to the preschool classroom. It will be put to good use during the remainder of this year and for years to come! We look forward to quesadillas, pancakes, grilled cheese, and lots of warm goodies throughout the year.



Holiday Meeting for Worship

In preparation for Holiday Meeting for Worship, rehearsals have been happening during preschool circle, twice weekly during music class with Tr. Joanna and also with our Grade III partners. Students and teachers have been working together to decide how many verses to sing, what hand movements make the most sense, who would sing the harmony, and which instruments provided the best accompaniment - guitar and tambourine, of course. It has been a rich process.



The first snow pants of the year arrived in Emma's backpack this week. She demonstrated the finer points of dressing for cold weather play. 1) take off your shoes, 2) sit down and poke your feet through the legs of the snow pants, 3) pull up the straps and zip, and 4) put on your shoes. All set to stay cozy and warm on these very chilly days. Thanks for the demonstration, Emma!