



Preschool Newsletter  
Preschool Webpage

January 25, 2007

*Integrated Curriculum: Physical (fine motor), Art (color mixing), Math (greater than/less than)*



Eye droppers are a challenging way to transfer liquid from one container to another. The turkey basters are so much easier! Here, Emily and Madison work with water and food coloring to create new colors. If you look closely at their hands you can see that they are using their fore finger and thumb. This skill will transfer easily to the pincer grasp which is used when working with crayons, pencils, and markers for drawing and writing.

### Important Dates

- January 30  
Tuesday  
PS parents visit PK  
8:15am-9:30am  
(Refer to morning schedule sent by US mail)
- February 2-4  
FSH Book Fair  
Barnes and Noble  
Bryn Mawr
- February 13  
Tuesday  
PTO Meeting  
7:00pm
- February 14  
Wednesday  
Valentine's Day
- February 21  
Stone Soup Ingredients due  
(details to follow)
- February 27  
Tuesday  
Third Grade Play 8:30 am
- March 2  
First Friday @ FSH 8:30 am
- March 10  
Saturday  
Family Fun Activity (PTO)  
To be determined
- March 20  
Tuesday  
Fourth Grade Play  
8:30 am
- March 22  
Thursday  
Spring Holiday Begins  
NOON DISMISSAL
- April 2  
Monday  
OWLS Gathering  
To be determined
- April 3  
Tuesday  
School Resumes after Spring  
Holiday  
8:15am
- April 6  
First Friday @ FSH  
8:30am

*Ingested Curriculum: yogurt, food coloring and a good swirl!*

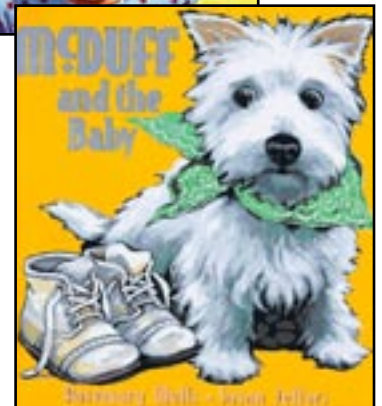
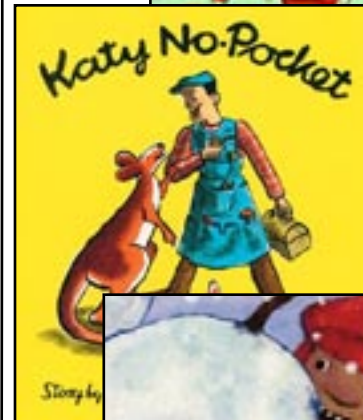
*Red and yellow and pink and green, purple and orange and blue...  
I can eat a rainbow, eat a rainbow, eat a rainbow, too.*

Wednesday's snack was a simple delight. Vanilla yogurt is good enough but made all the better when drops of food coloring are added. Children selected the color(s) of food coloring drops they wanted to have on their yogurt and they supplied the elbow grease -- swirling the colors together. All but one of the children asked for seconds! Food coloring is a great way to make ordinary foods and drinks extraordinary. It's not just for frosting anymore!



Books we have read recently include:

*Thomas' Snowsuit*, Robert Munsch  
*Katy No-Pocket*, Emmy Payne  
*The First Day of Winter*, Denise Fleming  
*I Need a Lunch Box*, Jeannette Caines  
*McDuff and the Baby*, Rosemary Wells



Happy birthday to Petros who turned three-and-a-half years old December 28



Happy birthday to Susanna who turned three-and-a-half years old January 12

Here's a good example of the kind of activity that will allow preschoolers to create their own play with little or no teacher direction. Sebastian decided he wanted to play 'robot'. Without missing a beat, the teacher responded by quickly putting together some top notch robot hats. Lots of friends took Sebastian's lead and got in on the



imaginative play. Others were interested in the hat making process and decorated the hats with stickers.

Within this activity children had opportunities to make decisions about their play, extend their ideas, play along side and together with classmates, get crafty, and use their developing fine motor skills. Interest was high and there were smiles all around. The FSH preschool classroom provides kids with the precious time and the safety of a familiar space to engage their imaginations while teachers follow the lead of the child.

#### *Parent Bulletin Board*

Tessa's parents, Jemma and Jim, are looking for childcare.

- 20-40 hours a week
- At least 21 years old
- Drivers License
- Nanny, day care experience or early childhood education
- Must have a social security number
- Spanish speaker would be great
- College/Grad students would be great
- Competitive rate and health benefits are a possibility.

Check the FSH directory for contact information.





Using color paddles, a slide projector as a light source, and a white sheet, preschoolers explore color, light and shadow during their free play.



*Reminder:*

*This Friday, January 26, is the final deadline for enrolling your preschooler in the optional Lunch @ School program this year.*

*Please refer to last week's newsletter for more information and the sign up form.*

*Musings: Tr. Jennifer*

**Self-Help Skills**

In our family we believe we should give babies/ kids/ teenagers "What they need until they don't need it anymore." The trick is reading the cues and following your heart to discern when that time has come. Often children are ready to do new things before parents even realize a change has occurred. Talking to others and knowing developmental milestones can help us know when to step out of the familiar routine we've developed with our little ones and allow them to take the next step toward independence.

In the classroom you see children dressing themselves to go out in the cold and snow. Preschool teachers set the scene by laying clothes on the floor in a logical sequence: snow pants, boots, jacket, hat and mittens. Teachers are nearby to offer a friendly face, words of encouragement, and sometimes a song as kids practice this important self-help skill. As you would expect, frustration sometimes happens for children in the classroom and on the playground. Children do struggle with a boot, mitten, or tangled strap once in a while. But success also happens, and that is the goal. Sometimes, as parents and teachers, we often jump in to put a hat or a shoe on for a child, or to wipe a runny nose when we see the frustration level rising. Let's face it, after so many years of practice ourselves, we can be quick and efficient at these tasks. And getting out the door on time often guides our decisions in helping our little ones with things like these. However, as I've been reminded these past five months, kids can do things themselves and, when we give them the time to practice, they can master these skills. When this happens we have done our job as advocates for our young learners as they grow toward independence and competence!

Back in the fall a visiting teacher told the FSH faculty that the way to empower our students as learners and problem solvers is to avoid the "swoop and rescue." Instead of jumping in and doing a challenging task for a child, acknowledge that the task might be difficult and that you see the child is working hard toward mastering it.



*Two of a Kind*  
led the All-School Assembly  
in songs of peace, cooperation,  
and the environment this week.

It was wonderful to see and hear David,  
former FSH music teacher  
(1989-1994),  
and wife, Jenny,  
back at Friends School Haverford!



## Parent Visit Schedule 2007

(as of January 24)

### March

5 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Ali and Kurt (Blythe)  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Sophia (Petros)  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Wendy and Chris (Emma)

### April

6 Tracey (Sofia)  
10 Lauren (Lily)  
11 Tracy and Kevin (Ainsley)  
12 Khiet & Christian (Sebastian)  
13 Alaina & Jesse (Corinne)

### April (cont'd)

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Nikki and Greg (James)  
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 \_\_\_\_\_

### May

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Lin (Cole)  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Lisa (Noah)  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Andrew (Lily)  
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 \_\_\_\_\_