



# Preschool Newsletter

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October 29, 2008

*Preschool Integrated Curriculum: Botany, Stewardship, Science (heat, melting, sorting), Language Arts, Mathematical/Logical (counting, spatial planning, sequencing)*

Autumn leaves - collected by committee (Thank you, parents!) - covered the tables Tuesday morning. Each child selected and counted leaves of various colors and species, enough to cover a page of waxed paper.

Another piece of waxed paper was placed on top of the leaves. An additional sheet of paper (a paper bag works well) was placed on top. With one hand behind the back and the other safely in the hand of the teacher, the children slowly pressed the layers with a hot iron and described the smells, and tactile sensations the ironing produced. The smell was of the woods and, for one teacher, a trip down memory lane, conjuring years past when, as a child and as the parent of young children, the same turn-of-season ritual was performed. The arboreal sun catchers are hanging in the classroom windows.



October 31  
Friday  
Halloween Parade  
8:30am

November 1  
Friendship Saturday  
2:00pm-4:00pm

November 2  
Sunday  
Admissions Open House

November 6  
Thursday  
First Thursday @ FSH  
8:30am

November 18  
Tuesday  
FCO Meeting  
8:15am

November 22  
Saturday  
Heritage House Parent Party  
7:00pm  
(see e-vite)

November 26  
Wednesday  
Grandfriends Day  
Thanksgiving Holiday Begins  
11:45am DISMISSAL

December 1  
Monday  
School Resumes

December 4  
Thursday  
First Thursday@ FSH  
8:30am

December 6  
Friendship Saturday

December 9+10  
Tuesday + Wednesday  
Holiday Gift Sale

December 18  
Preschool Parents  
Jingle Bell Band  
9:30am

Meeting for Worship  
11:00am

Dismissal  
11:45am  
at conclusion of Meeting  
Winter Holiday Begins

*Integrated curriculum:  
Math (counting, fractions,  
sequencing, ordinals), snack*

- 1st: Children counted out five small potatoes
- 2nd: The potatoes were cut into bite-sized pieces
- 3rd: The pieces were placed into a bowl and tossed with olive oil and salt
- 4th: The potatoes were roasted in a 400 degree oven for 40 minutes until golden brown
- 5th: The potatoes were eaten among friends with ketchup (optional)



*Self-help skills, fine motor development*

For Monday's snack, each child peeled a banana and sliced it up into bite-sized pieces.

Plastic knives are perfect for young children to cut their food (cooked whole carrots, broccoli, pancakes, waffles, fried eggs, spaghetti, etc.)

Pretty soon, you'll be passing your plate to your preschooler to cut YOUR food!



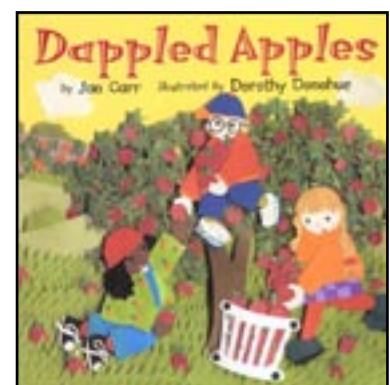
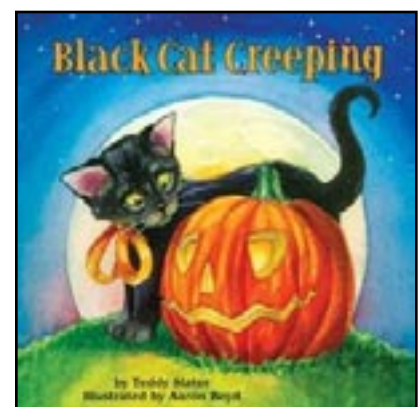
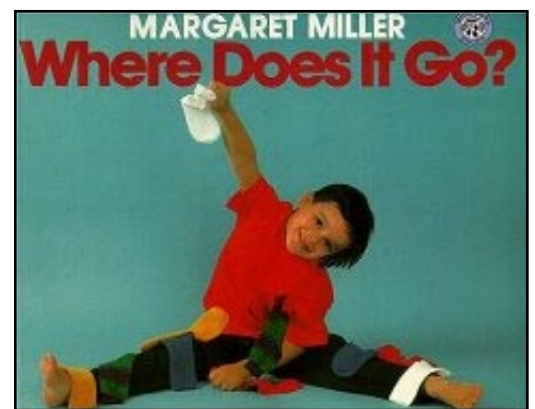
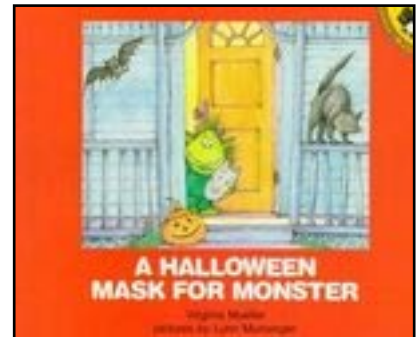
Books we have read recently include:

*A Halloween Mask for Monster*, Virginia Mueller

*Where Does It Go?*, Margaret Miller

*Black Cat Creeping*, Teddy Slater

*Dappled Apples*, Jan Carr



On rainy mornings, gross motor opportunities are always welcome.



Here the children pedal their tricycles on the classroom ceiling!

*Integrated Curriculum: Visual/Spatial (architecture, engineering), Logical (alternating, patterns, same/different), Interpersonal (taking turns, sharing a common goal, problem solving)*

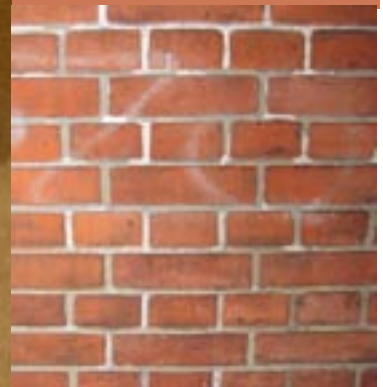


How many times have we observed groups of children working together, building a very tall tower of blocks, only to see it come crashing down just as they were reaching up to place a block on the very top?

This week, the children were ready to try a new technique.

Like bricklayers around the world, the blocks were placed two at a time in alternating directions.

The result was quite satisfying! The tower was not wobbly at all and it survived until the end of free-play time.



Which one is heavier -- the child or the pumpkin?

*Integrated curriculum: Logical/Mathematical, Bodily Kinesthetic*

Each child took a turn playing seesaw with the orange gourd. We discovered that sitting at different points of the plane affected the balance of the two participants.



Have the Media shaped my ideas of what a young child “needs”/“deserves”? Do I select materials that promote gender, racial, or social stereotypes? Am I providing children with materials that are non-commercial, age-appropriate, and that provide opportunities for open-ended exploration?

**Gift ideas that can stimulate a child’s sense of wonder:**

Non-digital egg timers, spray bottles, turkey basters, food coloring, wooden blocks, funnels, empty containers that can be filled with rice, lentils, or jingle bells to make a shaker, syphon, 5’ to 20’ sections of garden hose (minus the nozzle or fittings), magnets, magnet marbles, paper clips, PVC piping, magnifying glass...



# A Holiday Invitation

**Who:** This invitation is for Preschool Parents only

**What:** The Annual “Intergenerational Performance” of the Preschool Jingle Bell Band  
Yes! You will be asked to sing and play.  
No solos required!

**When:** Thursday, December 18, 9:30am-11:00am

**Where:** The Preschool Classroom circle time rug  
(you’ll be on the floor so wear comfortable clothes)

**Why:** To share the music and joy of the holiday season.

To help the teachers guide your child’s expectations for the morning, please RSVP by e-mail to the teachers to let them know if you will be attending.