

GRACE CHURCH PRESCHOOL

October 2009

UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The Clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher – the tools he used
Were books, music and art.
The other, a parent, worked with a guiding
hand,
And a gentle, loving heart..
Day after day, the teacher toiled with touch
That was deft and sure,
While the parent labored by his side

And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone.
For behind the parent, stood the school
And behind the teacher, THE HOME.

Author unknown

GETTING ACQUAINTED

We are all busy getting to know each other's wants and needs. The staff is happily embracing the spirit-lifting sounds your children make. Even the few crying sounds (that almost always stop when the child enters the classroom) are reassuring. As the crying lessens and stops, we know our loving care is being accepted and embraced by your child.

OUR SENSES

During October we will be talking about our five senses and learning about our environment. We will be using our senses of smell and taste. We will explore Fall sights, sounds and smells.

MUSIC MINUTE

Music class is starting a brand new school year! We will start off singing and learning about all the sights and sounds of Fall. I am very excited to meet all my new friends and welcome my old friends back. Please enjoy singing the song below with your child. Have Fun!!

Yum Yum Don't You Know I Love Apples
(sung to) Boom Boom Ain't It Great to Be Crazy

Yum Yum don't you know I love apples (clap, clap)
Yum Yum don't you know I love apples (clap, clap)
Red and green and yellow, too
Yum Yum don't you know I love apples (clap, clap)

Way up high in an apple tree (reach up high)
I saw two apples looking at me (make two circles around your eyes)
I reached for an apple and it started to squirm.
OOPS I found a wiggly worm! (make a fist and move it around)

Repeat Chorus (Yum Yum)

MOVEMENT MOMENT

Movement classes are off and running! We've started off the year playing with hoops. Hoops can be "puddles" or "bubbles" or "halos" as we develop spatial awareness and learn positioning like inside, outside, behind. It's fun to roll, then chase the hoops and even make them spin! Our arms and legs are getting stronger as we do the "crab walk" and "bear walk". We stay very active so sneakers and pants are very important on movement class day! Skirts and dresses (even with shorts underneath) impede freedom of movement, especially when we work on things like animal walks.

Three year old classes have movement on Mondays. Four year old classes have movement on Fridays. Two year olds will also have movement on Fridays, beginning Friday, Oct. 2.
Keep movin'!!

HALLOWEEN

Our Halloween celebration is very simple. We sing Halloween songs and do special art projects. However, our celebration does not include costumes. Please do not send in candy treats.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Mike Lehm of Mike Lehm Photography will take pictures of the children on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14. We will try to keep messy activities to a minimum on picture day so you can send your child in dressy clothes. Please continue to wear sneakers. Sneakers are the safest shoes for school days. Parents of Childhood I & II children are welcome to come between 11:15-12:30 if you would like to have your child photographed. Please park in Visitor spaces 82-86.

STARTING THE DAY OFF RIGHT

Please help your child get his/her school day off to a good start.

1. Dress your child in clothes they can manage themselves.
2. Eat breakfast.
3. Go to the bathroom right before you leave the house. (Many children need to go to the bathroom as soon as they walk in the school door, and it is very difficult to take them and watch the other classroom children since the assistants are all outside helping with arrival)
4. Please write your child's name in all their jackets and sweaters.
5. Be on time (arrival 8:50 – 9:05) so your child can build self-esteem as a big school boy or girl. "I can walk into my school on my own."
6. Please – no dresses or skirts on Gym days (Mondays and Fridays). Sneakers -- every day!

CONFERENCES

Conferences for Preschool are November 6 and November 9. If you have a preference for time, let us know, and we will try to meet your needs. **CHILDHOOD I and II classes will meet as usual.**

THANK YOU

Thank you, parents, for supporting the Coffee and Open House. Thank you to all the parents who helped set up and brought goodies. It was wonderful to see so many of you. The day was a fun time for all. Your show of support in so many ways is so appreciated. . . "For behind the parent stood the school And behind the teacher, THE HOME."

A BIG THANK YOU to those of you who have already "gotten with" the GUMPS GRO program. Aren't those gift cards easy to use? And for such a good cause!

Thank you for helping arrival and dismissal run as smoothly as possible. Stay to the right, stay in your car, and **no cell phone use once orange-vested staff are outside**. If you arrive before 8:45 for drop-off, please use the Visitor spaces (82-86) to wait to form the arrival line. You can then move into line at 8:45.

Since we are a non-profit school, we appreciate your support of our fund-raising efforts. We are offering a variety of fund-raisers (some specifically requested by our parents) hoping that everyone will find something of interest they can support. We do not in any way expect each of you to participate in everything offered. We also do not advocate soliciting anyone other than those you know who might be interested in the products being offered.

We have a few openings if you should know of someone looking for a great school.

HELP, HELP, HELP!!

The parking area directly in front of the pavilion is reserved for the Church staff. Do not park in these spaces. Please use visitor spaces 82, 83, 84, 85, 86.

We do not allow children to open and close doors at school. Please do not let your child open or close doors here at school when they are with you. The handicapped buttons are for adult use only.

With thanks,

The Staff

September 30, 2009 Lunch Bunch starts
October 1, 2009 Childhood I & II bring lunch

October 12, 2009 **No School—Columbus Day**
October 14, 2009 Picture Day
October 26, 2009 **No school—Staff Training**

Drive Thru: If you are asked to go around to re-enter the pick-up line at 10th & Washington, please be careful turning left at the back of the Sheraton. The Washington St. and 10th St. intersection is a very difficult intersection to cross—particularly in the morning. A safer exit from the city is to proceed up West Street and turn left on 12th Street.