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Imagine...

Play

Grow

Learn



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

December is a hectic time of preparation and celebration. We have opted to forgo the field trips until January as we have a short month and a lot going on with parties and events. I'm excited to see the stage performance that Aurora and Abby have been developing together with the teachers. It's called "Kaleidoscope" and your children are working hard to get it ready.

Thank you so much for your generosity at this giving time of year. Your time and creative input are what make the parties so special for the children. A big thank you to parents and teachers who represented the school at iWOW last month. It was a successful event for us and strengthened our relationship with the community.

Looking ahead to January, you have all been invited to conference with your child's teachers. We can't wait to spend time with parents talking about our favorite

people, your children. Please know that teachers have been recording observations about students since the beginning of the school year and that the progress reports represent thoughtful documentation, reflection and processing about each child: who they are, what their strengths are and what they are most interested in. Teachers also want to hear from the experts, you the parents. You have much to teach us in return concerning your child.

We have our Open House on January 21st. Please share your enthusiasm for our little school with someone you know and invite them to come along. We are looking to increase registration substantially for the fall and I would love to be able to offer you a program with three classrooms this year. You can help make that happen by bringing lots of people to visit Open House.

Kim Swaffield, Director

Movement with Aurora

The Movement classes have continued the exploration of personal versus general *space* with the addition of partnering work. The students have practiced moving in multiple styles of *locomotion* while attached to another student without a designated and then with a designated leader. They soon figured out which was the easier of the two! We have also explored the many ways that animals move in the jungle, forest, and ocean. As we head toward Winter Break, the classes will be busy practicing the Movement Presentation that will be performed on the outdoor stage on December 14, 2011. Our Movement word of the month is *performance*.



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS



KINDERGARTEN LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The month of November and December the Inquiry is "where are we in place and time." We have discussed about homes, streets and neighborhoods. Our students are excited to show their town that they have created on cardboard. We are going to have a busy month with reading buddies, Holidays around the world and end of inquiry project.

Students seem to show great interest during reading group time. We work on comprehension and recognizing sight words. Students have been working hard on letters, sounds, and sight words.

PRE K LEARNING EXPERIENCE

We discover Christmas around the world, the different traditions and cultures of countries around the world. The children will learn to craft ornaments from the countries, and how presents are delivered to the children.

Also, our culture for December will be Israel, from traditional Songs, to dreidel games, and the Celebration of Hanukkah will be a fun learning experience.

SPANISH IMMERSION

Spanish has been a whirl wind of learning this past month. We have been learning more and more about where the children live, where they have been in the past and where they hope to go. Our Spanish vocabulary has been greatly expanded as the children learn to make their own sentences through conversation, books and music. In December we hope to get to know some holiday vocabulary and holiday Spanish songs. There is still lots of learning and growing to do and we know our children can do it.

FRENCH IMMERSION

During the month of November, the children learned the vocabulary related to their house, city and state and have started to learn the vocabulary related to their country. To the letter of the week, we have added the verb of the week. By increasing their vocabulary list and incorporating action verbs, the children will soon be able to build their own sentences more independently.

During the month of December, we will finish our inquiry from here to there and focus on building three words sentences: this process should help the children getting comfortable with building sentences and give them the confidence and enthusiasm to speak in full sentences as well as boosting their self-esteem

ART WITH ABBY

Kindergarten and PreK classes will be hard at work designing and putting the finishing touches on their Kaleidoscope props for their upcoming play. We are all in for such a treat!!!





IMPORTANT DATES & STUFF



FUNDRAISING NOTES



Funding Factory – if we can get some more cell phones, ink cartridges, gps systems, lap tops etc in this month, we can send in our collections and get a 50% extra credit on the amount donated. We'll be at our target that much sooner and can start cashing in our points. Do you have a source for recycled ink cartridges that you can tap into for our school?

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights – Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night was great fun last month. We are waiting for our check and looking forward to February for our next Spirit night fundrasier.

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Villa Sports - Please send people to visit our booth at the Villa Sports Private Schools Event in early January. We will confirm the date but it will probably be January 7th and all our preschool families will get a free Villa Sports pass for the day when we participate.

Open House - We have attended several local events recently where we could hand out information inviting people to Open House. We have also advertised on Facebook. Most of all, we need each family to invite someone to come along on Saturday, January 21st from 10 am to 2 pm. We will have three classrooms set up to showcase our preschool. The teachers and I will be answering questions about the program. If you would also like to help by being a preschool ambassador, or providing snacks and drinks for visitors, or by helping with set up, please let me know. It is very important that we reach the most people possible for this event.

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

3rd – Creekside Park Village YMCA Holiday Gift and Craft Fair 10 am – 2 pm

9th – Holidays Around the World Reading Buddy Event 10:30 am to 11:30 am

10th – Winter Festival (with snow!) Rob Fleming Park 1 – 5 pm

14th – “Kaleidoscope” Production at 5 pm

15th - Cunaes Thespians @ the stage 6.30 p.m.

15th – Chrisannukkah Party – 1:30 pm

19th – Francesca’s birthday





AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Earth Scouts – Sonja Norman

Our Earth Scouts group has been working hard to earn their badges. We have only two more left "Peace and non violence" which will be earned next week and last but not least, "Participatory Democracy."

Expressive Rhythm – Aurora Zisner

In Expressive Rhythm the students enjoy the experience of sharing an interesting moment in the day and then choosing an emotion that corresponds. The class has been practicing working as a large group as we play games with the parachute. For the games to succeed, all the participants must work together! The next couple weeks we will work on creating a story, characters, and movements for the words. It will be exciting to see what the students imagine.

Little Green Thumbs – Roxanne Wheless

Our Little Green Thumbs are still having lots of fun growing, watering and exploring. They made beautiful centerpieces for Thanksgiving, we hope you all enjoyed them. This month they will continue watching their flowers that have been planted and recording their growth. We will also be doing something special for the holidays still to come!

.My Wonderful World - Abby Salazar

Just how do the African people celebrate the holiday season?

And what about the people in Germany or Finland? Our after school sweeties will be exploring the geography, traditions, and stories of these cultures, comparing and contrasting the ways they celebrate the holiday season.





AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS TERM 2



After School Care Term 2 (January 9th to March 8th)

\$120 per program. Discounts applied to multiple programs. \$15 for drop-in sessions.

Monday: 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

IT'S TIME TO DO LAPS!

Come and do LAPS (Australia's Little Athletics Program for Schools) with us....no not in the pool – around the track.

Creekwood Cottage Preschool is excited to bring the first LAPS to the U.S. market. LAPS is an Australian program based upon the sport of track and field, offered to young children to teens. There is a wide range of events from running, relays, jumping, hurdles, throwing and walking and they are modified to suit the age and ability of the children.

The goal of LAPS is to promote fun, participation, performance, technique, and just doing the best of your abilities, in addition to enhancing gross motor skills, health and team building. So come get a taste of down under, and jump like a kangaroo, run like an emu, hop like a bandicoot, or just plain laugh like a kooka-burra. We'll see ya soon mate!

Teacher: Sonja Norman

Tuesday, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Animal Wonders

Young children love animals and everything about them. In this program, children will learn about all sizes and shapes of animals and how we can show them love, care and respect as we share our world with them. Hands on learning activities will include crafts, games, songs, stories and short educational videos. We will learn about the most famous animals and the most

amazing animals. Be ready to prowl and growl, flap and squawk, leap and dive into the animal kingdom.

Teacher: Roxanne Wheless

Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m

EXPRESSIVE RHYTHM

This after school class will focus through Expressive Rhythms the ways in which children know themselves and connect to the rest of the world. The class will explore individual emotions and the ways that multiple emotions can be expressed and experienced through movement and music. Children will have time to independently share their daily emotions and then investigate a range of expressions found inside and outside of the classroom. The class will incorporate rhythm patterns, physical skills and spatial awareness while encouraging the development of imagery in each child's movements. The class will end with a time to review individual or class emotions through coloring.

Teacher: Aurora Zisner

Thursday 3:30-4:30

Science Wonders

Scientists will observe the natural world: weather, plants, and insects, as they enjoy the wonders of our environment and see how everything works together in harmony. Children's attitudes towards the environment and everything in it begin at an early age. Children bring an innate curiosity and have many questions about nature. We will learn through creative and fun hands on activities that engage the children as they explore while developing scientific thinking and observation skills. Creekwood Cottage has six acres of registered wildlife preserve to serve as an outdoor classroom for our young learners.

Teacher: Abby Salazar



PARENT ARTICLE



What is the role of the parent in the Reggio Emilia Approach?

Parent participation is considered essential and takes many forms. Parents play an active part in their children's learning experience and help ensure the welfare of all the children in the school. The ideas and skills that the families bring to the school and, even more important, the exchange of ideas between parents and teachers, favor the development of a new way of educating, which helps teachers to view the participation of families as an intrinsic element of collegiality and as the integration of different wisdoms.

Adapted from Fundamentals of the Reggio Approach – The New School West

Bringing Reggio Emilia Home by Louise Boyd Cadwell

Excerpt from "Working in the Reggio Way: A Beginner's Guide for American Teachers" by Julianne P. Wurm

"In Reggio Emilia (the city) the role that families play in the preschools deserves particular attention. Family participation is seen as essential to both the families and to the school. In Reggio there were innumerable ways for parents to be engaged in the school experience. A few examples include: work evenings to prepare for events or help the teachers prepare materials, class meetings, holiday parties, and meetings around issues that involved families, such as the birth of new siblings or the nutrition of small children.....The families can serve as resources to one another with their varying degrees of parenting experience and can offer support and humor to other parents.....

School is the central point in the lives of children, and when families share in the school, children's pride and sense of connection is palpable. When families are "inside the story" of school, then parents, grandparents, and siblings are provided the opportunity to know children in an entirely new way. Children can show parts of themselves as they are with peers, other adults, authority figures, and materials, for instance. Growth that may otherwise not present itself in the daily life lived by a family may be clearly visible in another context in which the child is comfortable – school This also gives children the opportunity to share who they are becoming with their families, things they are proud of and have acquired as they are developing.

Being welcomed and included in the school experience offers families, an opportunity to know one another in new ways that are playful, celebratory and fun....Families also have the opportunity to work with other families who share a common experience and the philosophy of involvement with their children. The presence of parents gives teachers and parents the chance to build a relationship and create a regular exchange of advice and information about the children. ...

The bottom line is that the regular participation of families is what is best for children, and every educational project is about the children."

