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Imagine...

Play

Grow

Learn



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our fall term is well underway and we are busy, busy every day with art, cultures, movement, games, reading, writing, counting and play, play play! The children have been learning so much that it quite takes my breath away. We are ready to take them out on field trips beginning the first week of November.

This month we welcome Chloe Craft to our program. Chloe will be in Sonja's class and in Spanish three days a week. We continue to grow with more phone calls every week. Please keep telling your friends about your favorite school.

This newsletter contains lots of useful and interesting informa-

tion to keep you informed about Creekwood Cottage Preschool. Many of you are very keen to help out and some of those opportunities are listed below. If you don't see what you are looking for, please contact me. Parents can come with us on field trips; help out at our Halloween Party; watch the costume parade; spread the word about our school at The Wildflower Festival; collect recyclable electronics for us; volunteer for yard work; and support your children who are gathering food for animals suffering because of the drought and the wildfires. I hope that there's something for everyone.

Kim Swaffield, Director



*What's going on in ARTober?.... with Abby Salazar,
Atelierista*

Our students have done a great job exploring Eric Carle and our first artistic element, COLOR . For the month of October our focus element (in reference to the various 'Elements of Art') is TEXTURE. We will be studying Joan Miro and his 'reflections of youth' as we journey through pastels, weaving, clay, 2D paintings as well as an impasto (3D) paint project and collage. I so look forward to artistic works our young ones have yet to create.



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS



KINDERGARTEN LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Welcome Kindergarten! The children have had a great first month in Kindergarten. I am really enjoying getting to know all of them and it has been lovely to see how well they have settled into their new class. We enjoy doing daily counting activities, stories, pattern, graphing, and hunting for sight words as a whole class and in small groups. We also began our inquiry about How to play? This month we learned about the different ways we can play outside and inside. We created our own memory sight word game. The students made up their own games that they created. There were a variety of activities that helped the children understand that we can play in many different ways indoor and outdoor. The culture of the month was Pakistan. The children learned the Gol gol song, and identify the Pakistan flag. They also saw the map of Pakistan.

PRE K LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Sonja's class is steadily growing, adding students week by week it seems. The threes and fours are each working at their own level in reading and writing as the older children get to grips with sight words and the younger children learn their letter formation.

The whole class has enjoyed our inquiry into games. We can't wait to ask the firefighters what games they play when we visit them on October 7th.

Our pattern recognition and other math skills come in during circle time, learning about games and just doing fun math activities for their own sake.

SPANISH NEWS - MS. FABIOLA

September was a month full of meeting new friends, vocabulary and songs. I feel the children have just about mastered their numbers, colors, shapes and days of the week!

October is a new month and season... In Spanish we will begin learning the Spanish alphabet along with new songs.

FRENCH IMMERSION

The children have started the year really well: they are motivated and working really hard. So far, the children have learned their colors, numbers (up to 20), and shapes. They also can introduce themselves and should be able to say the following with little or no help: "Hello, my name is _____, I am _____ years old, I live in The Woodlands (or Spring), I like the color _____, and today I am doing well/bad/so so". They have also learned the days of the week as well as September, summer and Fall. During the month of October we will keep on practicing what we have learned in September. The older children will also start reading simple books in French and all the children will start working on the French alphabet: I am planning on working on one letter per week and send home a book about the letter of the week, therefore, the French folder should start going home every Friday with your child. Finally, the children will expend their vocabulary based on our inquiry "How do we play?"



...JUST STUFF



IMPORTANT DATES



Let's Move.... with Aurora Zisner, Movement & Music Teacher

The first classes of Movement have been filled with getting to know one another and exploring how the different parts of our bodies move. We have focused on the words *freeze* and *space*. Students have been practicing focusing on moving to music while listening for music cues to tell them when it is time to stop their investigation of different locomotions. In class we are searching for new ways to understand the world of space.

We are beginning to understand the difference between personal versus general space and small versus large ways of moving. The next month will be focus on how to partner with our friends. We will be participating in mirroring activities, shadowing activities, and learn how to move while attached to our friends in different ways. I look forward to the coming weeks when our movement words will be *contact* and *locomotion*.

Oct. 2nd – Chloe Craft's birthday

Oct. 6th – Kindergarten Field trip to Rob Fleming Park

Oct. 7th – Pre-Kinder Field trip to Fire Station #8

Oct. 13th – Kindergarten Reading Buddies (with Cunae)
11:00 to 11:30

Oct. 14th – French Immersion invites parents to see at 2
2:30 pm.

Oct. 15th – Wildflower Festival 10 am – 2 pm

Oct. 21st – Costume Parade 9:30 am pre-Kinder and
Kindergarten

Halloween Party pm Spanish and French
classes

Oct. 22nd – 31st : Mid-term break and Happy Halloween

Nov. 1st – come back to school. Our culture for November
is **Austria**.





MORE STUFF



FUNDRAISING NOTES

Funding Factory – please continue to bring in the following recyclable items to earn points and so bring in all kinds of goods for our school, beginning with steel tricycles.

- Cell phones
- Ink Jet Cartridges
- Laser Ink Cartridges
- i-Pods and other MP3 devices
- Lap top computers
- Digital cameras



Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights – our first fundraiser was a lot of fun and earned over \$140 for us. I'm sure with more families in town and more people knowing how this works and what to expect, that we can double that on our next night out – **Tuesday, November 8th**. Put it on your calendar.

Casino Night & Jewelry Heist – we're still working on a location for this all glamour night of fundraising fun. We particularly want to invite people who are not part of our school. Please volunteer to brainstorm a great guest list of high rollers from The Woodlands community. Don't forget to include any co-workers who would like this kind of social event.

EVENTS

The Woodlands Wildflower Festival – Creekside Park Village, Rob Fleming Park on Saturday, October 15th. This is a wonderful family event. There are lots of activities for children and plenty of free packets of wildflower seeds to collect.

We like to run a booth at this event but we need parents to volunteer to be there, for one to two hours at a time from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The event goes from 10 til 2 so we need some set up time and take down time in there too. Please contact Kim Swaffield to help out.

The International Winter on the Waterway - On the Waterway in the heart of The Woodlands, on Saturday November 19, we hope to participate in this event. We will also require assistance with running the booth from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please contact Anji Price or Kim Swaffield if interested in supporting this event.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



My Wonderful World

It's a loooooong flight, but well worth it! This October we will be 'traveling' to CHINA. We will begin by locating China and having a look at the rich culture of it's people. Week one's project is puppets. Fellow travelers will view various shadow puppeteers, then create their own shadow puppets and show. Week two, we will turn our attention to the mighty Silkworm, study how this small creature can produce such amazingly strong fiber, then complete a weaving project. Week three we will explore the art of Sumi Calligraphy, Chinese characters, and do a little Sumi ourselves. And lastly, we will learn about the history of kites, then design and build our own kites based on the traditions of the Chinese founders.



Earth Scouts

The young scouts are off to a good start learning about how nature recycles naturally and so we take our inspiration from nature's perfect system. The scouts have decorated a cloth shopping bag so their families can reduce plastic consumption and reuse the bags. They have also been inspired by nature in making a beautiful fall hanging each to decorate their front doors.

Please support Earth Scouts who are collecting for pets displaced by the wild fires. Please bring your donations of cat and dog food to Sonja. There will be an Earth Scout field trip to the animal shelter to deliver the goods and meet the pets during October.

Expressive Rhythm, is a chance for students to build on what they are learning in Movement plus have time to explore how everyday experiences enable us to create series of movements which easily become dances in which we express and understand our emotions. We are beginning to isolate the body in ways that enable the students to explore new ways of moving. The students are creating mini dances to tell stories and are learning how to perform solo and with partners. We will continue to learn about the multiple ways that animals move and explore how our bodies can move in similar ways. I look forward to watching the students respond to action words and investigate locomotor activities.



Little Green Thumbs

Little gardeners are planting in the dirt, in pots, and creating colorful pictures to imagine what their plants will look like. There is so much more to grow, so many more containers to use and places to find that plants will love. Join Roxanne every Thursday.

Note: These programs are open to the public so please feel free to invite your child's friends.



PARENT ARTICLE



The Price of Hurrying Children

When I published *The Hurried Child* in 1981, I was labeled a Pop psychologist and the book was not even reviewed *Contemporary Psychology*, the prestigious monthly book review journal of the American Psychological Association. Over the last decade or so however, a truckload of books and articles have been documenting the long and short term effects of pressuring children to grow up too fast too soon. The titles tell the story: *The Over-Scheduled Child*, *Pressured Parents: Stressed Out Kids*, *Parenting Inc.*, *Consuming Kids*, *So Sexy So Soon*, *Less Stress for Success*, *The Price of Privilege*, These books, and many more, attest to the fact that what I observed a quarter of a century ago was real phenomena and, that if anything, it has now become the norm.

Hurrying children is a problem that has always been with us. It was recognized and commented on by our most gifted educational theorists. In response to hurrying they have all returned to the same fundamental principle, namely, that child-rearing and education should be adapted to the growing needs interests and abilities of children. In his classic *Emile* Jean Jacques Rousseau ascribed all the defects of body and soul in pupils is due to "The desire to make men of them before their time." Freidrich Froebel, inventor of the kindergarten, wrote, "The, child, the boy, the man should know no other endeavor, but to be at every stage of development, what that stage calls for." Famed Italian Educator, Maria Montessori said, "The Child's work is to create the man that is to be. The adult will be a fully harmonious individual only if he has been able, at each preceding stage, to live as nature intended him to."

The irony is that no one believes in hurrying children. No parent, educator, or legislator I ever spoke to believes in pressuring children to do things well beyond what they are capable of doing. . "I don't believe in hurrying children but," And there is always a but. A parent says, "I don't believe in hurrying but if I don't put my child in soccer, he will have no one to play with and won't make the team. And the educator says I don't believe in hurrying but the curriculum says I have to teach reading in kindergarten. The legislator says she does not believe in hurrying but that is what her constituents want. If we want healthy, happy children who can compete in an increasingly global economy we have to get beyond the But. We have to use what we know about healthy child-rearing and education.



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