

Investigator's News and Notes

Welcome

The Investigators have all new faces this semester. Some are old friends from other rooms and some are new friends. These children moved from Stella's room: Daniel, Sarah, Cecily, Federica and Emily. Joshua, Daniel, and Caleb are new to our center. If you see a parent or child you do not know please introduce yourself. We have a wonderful small group of children that are ready for a fun, busy year full of learning possibilities.

The children are involved in some new challenges in the Investigator's room. One of those is eating family style at meals. This means the children serve their own food and pour their own milk. The children are learning to be independent and take care of their own needs. They also eat better if meals are relaxed and not rushed. Of course there are lots of spills, but we are working on slowing down, sitting close to the table, and keeping our feet on the floor while we eat.

The children have started selecting their "Job" for the day. These jobs or tasks enable the children to be independent and responsible. There are jobs such as "Feed the fish." They can also be the Line leader, put out the place cards for lunch, push the meal cart to the kitchen and hold the storybook or tell a story. The jobs may change during the year depending on the interests of the children.

Person of the Week

This year one of the ways we will build community, understanding and acceptance is by having each child take turns being the Person of the Week. When it is your child's turn, a form will be sent home the week before for you and your child to fill out. There will be a place for a photo of your child, your family, a baby picture, vacation and other memories to share. There will be a place to list your child's favorite place to eat, favorite color, song and book. You can use the form or create your own documents. (Please limit the paper to copy paper size) Your child will also be invited to help plan activities and a cooking project for their week. During your child's week you are invited to come to have lunch, facilitate a cooking project, read a story or just play. The possibilities are endless. When your child's turn is finished, their Person of the Week pages will go into a classroom book.

Classroom Supplies

This note is to let you know that it is OK for the children to bring in a quiet box filled with writing supplies. Quiet boxes are used before or during quiet time. If your child is getting ready nap, sometimes during quiet time if they cannot sleep or if your child wakes before the lights go on they can use their quiet boxes. Quiet boxes are shoeboxes that you and your child create at home and you fill with markers, crayons, pencils, paper, coloring or activity books, or children's books to read. If you need ideas or help with your child's quiet box, see Jeri.

Classroom Volunteer

You may have noticed or met our classroom volunteer Andrea. She works on Tuesday and Thursday in our classroom. Andrea helps with meal preparation, clean up, and reading to the children. Believe it not, Andrea was here when she was little. She was an Investigator too.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Dropping your child off in the morning and picking up in the evening are busy rushed times. For the safety of your child please be sure to sign in and out. Also, make sure that the classroom teacher sees you drop off or pick up your child. During those times the children and teachers may be engaged in work or play, but take a minute to let them know if your child is coming in or leaving.

Fall Festival

This year our Fall Festival is at Thies Farm on Hanley Road, not too far from school. Thies Farm is fun! It has hay tunnels, hay rides, animals to pet and pumpkins galore! The children love the freedom and physical challenges there. Parents enjoy talking to each other and watching their children play. The cost is \$5.00 for children and \$3.50 for adults. Tickets should be pre-purchased at school from Lynn or Andrea. This can be an event for the entire family including aunts, uncles, Grandma's and Grandpa's and friends. Bring your camera because there will be many photo opportunities.

This year we are going to have "Pot Luck" during the Fall Festival. We are asking everyone to bring dish to share. There will be tables available so everyone can sit together. After dinner we will have a basket raffle. The raffle is fun and tickets will be on sale before the Fall Festival and that evening.

All of the classrooms are making 2 baskets to raffle off during the Fall Festival. We will be making a "Family Fun Night" and "The Great Outdoors" baskets. I need everyone to help me fill these baskets full of goodies. For the Family Fun Night, you could bring board games, books, DVD or vhs movies, coupons for dinner or ice cream, movie tickets, or tickets to any of the areas attractions. The Great Outdoors can have balls, sports balls and equipment, child size tents, chairs, family size tents, a washer game, kids bike helmets, or bikes, scooters, skates, tickets to sporting events, or anything a family might enjoy doing together. Check the sign in table for the boxes and PLEASE feel free to share ideas to make our baskets fun for the family.

Informal Meetings

During the week of October 8-12, I will be available to meet with you and talk about your child, what they are doing, and setting goals with you for your child this year. I can answer questions about curriculum, the classroom or school policies and share some of the wonderful things your child is learning. I will send a questionnaire home with you before our meeting so I can be sure to answer your question or concerns.

If you need to speak to me about something that your child is doing, a concern, idea or suggestion, anything at all, please call me at school 314-516-5658, email me at whyteja@umsl.edu or call my cell phone. I will be happy to provide my cell number to you at school. You never have to wait for a meeting or conference to talk to me. Though those are important times, they never take place of daily communication between school and home.