

Fireman Jeremy teaching "Stop, Drop and Roll"



Teacher's Corner

Will spring come? This is a question we are all wondering; however the evidence in our classroom is very clear that spring has sprung. This is a wonderful time of year to see the growth of all our children. They are thriving and enjoying each moment at school. We as teachers enjoy this time of the year as we realize how independent each child has become and how each and every one of them are so capable of many things. Parents, take a moment and notice one thing a day that your child can now do for themselves and let them enjoy the experience. We will continue our spring exploration with planting and hope

to get into our garden for some exploration.

The 4 year old classes have been very busy fixing each other, as our house corner is transformed into a Doctors office. The children asked me one day while I was having a cup of my pretend tea if it made me feel better. "I replied yes and I asked what they thought would make them better; their response was a Doctor so I suggested that we make the house corner into a Doctors office, Yes!!!!!!!" They said with excitement. So I followed their lead and got some paper to make a list of what we may need. Nathan -

mark your calendars:

4's Easter Egg Hunt	April 4
3's Easter Egg Hunt	April 5
Good Friday - No School	April 6
Easter Monday - No School	April 9
Jam for Falima (4's Bring \$5)	Apr 18
Jam for Falima (3's Bring \$5)	Apr 20
4's Field Trip (Art Centre)	Apr 25
3's Field Trip (Train Station)	Apr 27
School Closed - Planning Day	Apr 30

** Check your calendar for Zumba nights AND dates to bring eggs and strawberries to class! **

There is something primal and deeply important about being outside. It doesn't make any difference to the child whether it is cold, windy or rainy - the outdoors beckons to them. - Bev Bos

who loves making lists - was quick to help me... He said "we need lotsa of bandages and an x ray machine Ruth". Avery and Graycen said "we need a phone and a computer and needles and medicine, and outfits Ruth we need hats and masks".

As a teacher my role is to facilitate children's learning through play. At the end of the day, all the dishes were packed away and a Doctors office was transformed. The next day there was so much excitement, lists were being made, children were being cared for and roles were being created on who is who. Band aids were made from our rolls of tape, prescriptions were written down. This is how children learn through social play. By playing these roles they create, they learn boundaries and social interactions. These are things that we cannot teach but they themselves learn through their play. There are no guidelines to follow only their own interactions with each other. I just loved watching and listening to all of their amazing ideas and words and descriptions of their imaginative play. We have been concentrating on acts about caring and kindness and we will continue these social interactions though spring.

The 3 year olds have finally come to a point in the year where they are aware of the other children in the classroom. Their interactions are growing and we see the beginning stages of cooperative play. They know some of their friends' names and are glad to see them when they come into their classroom. We have had some parent volunteers to share some info about themselves. Jeremy (Shae's Dad) is a Fireman so he came in his uniform and all his gear. He explained some important tips about fire. The children loved it when they watched Teacher Ruth put on all the heavy gear. For some children this can be very frightening so this helped, by us explaining the simple facts about fire. Thank you Jeremy, the children loved their books and of course their hats and tattoos. We as teachers always appreciate the look on their child's face as their parents share a morning with them. Tracy (Shae's Mom) came in and sang with us. It was beautiful hearing all the children singing along with her and the guitar. Tracy you can come everyday if you would like. Please parents do come in, share a recipe or a custom that your family holds. Children love the experience and we all benefit.

We will be continuing our social interactions and will start to investigate some planting in the classes.

Have a Great Month, Until Next Time,
Ruth, Glenda and Lindsay

Things to Remember

Parents please be on time for pick up everyday for your children. We need the time in between classes to prepare for our next class and we also schedule meetings after school. We appreciate your understanding. If you know you are going to be late, please call us or make arrangements with another parent to supervise your child. Thank you.

Now that spring weather is here please feel free to enjoy our playground outside with your children after a session. We ask that you supervise your children at all times. Please tidy up when you leave and for safety try to keep the sand off the paths. We are always in need of sweepers and the brooms are on the deck so if you feel the need, please help yourself.

We encourage parents to come in and enjoy our classroom and share a moment with your child, but please remember that valuable learning is taking place in our classroom. It becomes very distracting to the children when we have parents socializing along with 20 children busy at work. If your child is ready for you to leave them, please take the time and talk outside on our deck or in the yard. If you are spending a day inside the classroom we also ask that cellular phones be turned off. Enjoy the day without any distractions. Thank you for your continued support.

Co-Presidents' Message

Hi everyone,

The year is quickly flying by and there are lots of activities coming up to look forward to. We are moving forward with two fundraisers and we need your help and involvement to make these a success! Please come out and support the preschool and have fun at the same time. We have Zumba and the Groove Method scheduled for our Get Active in April Fundraiser and a Family Day scheduled for May 26th. Last year's spring gala fundraiser was a great success but involved a lot of parent volunteer man hours to deliver. In response to suggestions for less labour intensive fundraisers, we've decided to switch things up and opt for two "less intensive" events as opposed to one large event. Here is a quick rundown of the details:

1. Get Active In April

Registration forms are out there for the Get Active in April Zumba and Groove Fundraiser. This event is open to anyone, so please pass along the information to those that might be interested or bring a friend along. Spring Break has hindered registration so please get the reg forms in to your class reps as soon as possible. **In order to see if we have enough numbers to make this a go we are asking all parents to fill in and submit the registration form by MARCH 31 (if you are not attending - please indicate that on the form).**

Four classes in April in the Anmore School Gym - April 4, 11, 18 and 25 (alternating Zumba/Groove Method). Cost is \$10 per class or \$36 for pre-registration in all four.

2. Family Day, Featuring Music with Marnie - May 26 - SAVE THE DATE

The Family Day we noted in the last newsletter, which we were thinking of for the end of April with Cinemazoo, is now tentatively scheduled for the end of May with a music instead of animal focus. Currently on the table is the idea of an ice cream social or pizza lunch, with a music concert, games, art and crafts. The Volunteer Crew on this event has had their first meeting and will be finalizing a lot of details over the course of the next month. As the volunteer team moves forward with planning, they will be putting a call out to parents for donations that would help make this event a success - everything from the donation of supplies, toys for a toddler space (and then to be donated to Share), door prizes, gift cards, to specific skill sets within our parent community. Musician Marnie Grey is tentatively confirmed and has a background in Early Childhood Education and children's music, and provides lively and interactive performances promoting audience participation through music and movement, imitation and sing-a-longs. To get a sneak peak at Music for Marnie, visit her website at:

<http://www.musicwithmarnie.com/>.

What is ZUMBA?

So you think you can't dance? ZUMBA is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and International music and dance movements creating a fun, exhilarating environment suitable for all abilities.

What is The GROOVE Method?

The GROOVE Method classes teach you SIMPLE movements to a variety of dance styles, so that you can move and DANCE your OWN WAY...for the fun and for the HEALTH of it - no experience necessary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT YOUNIQUE FITNESS STUDIO:

http://youniquefitnessstudio.com/Dance_Fitness.html

Co-Presidents' Message, Continued...

3. Tell us your thoughts on a Friendly Forest Charity Sale/Stuff Swap - We've had one parent come forth noting they would be interested in organizing a community wide garage sale. This is an idea that has been raised in the past and while we may be too far along in this year's fundraising efforts to consider it, tell us what you think. Do you think a community wide garage sale/charity sale should be on the radar for the 2012/2013 school year? Might you have things to donate and would you be interested in shopping at such an event? **Email me at info@friendlyforestpreschool.com with your thoughts on this. I think its a great idea and would like to know your thoughts!**

Parent Meeting - May 8 Talking Child and Family Nutrition

Jane Wark, a Community Nutritionist with the Fraser Health Authority, will be visiting with us to talk about child and family health and nutrition. Please join us at 7:00 pm at the Anmore Elementary School Library. If there is anything specific you would like Jane to cover in her talk, please let me know.

Other Board Updates.....

Thank you to everyone that came out for the last and BIG Outdoor Cleanup in February. Thank you to the teachers for hosting a Parent Night on March 7th. Thank you as well to Vicky Kollenz, VP - Grants, for staying on top of our funding and grant applications. We've received Gaming Grant monies for some much needed projects and will be setting these projects in motion at the next Board Meeting, which is scheduled for April 3, 2012. Thank you as well to Gordona Wallace for handling the efficient mailout of tax receipts and to Megan Krempel for making the Open House and enrollment process for incoming families seamless - two very big jobs! In follow-up to our Open House, the teachers posted links on early learning on our website: check out these resources under "useful links" in the parent section of the website.

Thanks to everyone for helping out where you can, supporting our teachers and our school! Watching Lola grow this year has made me realize just how quickly these early years go by and how we must try really hard to enjoy them and remember them!

Joanne



Avery in scrubs



Addison attends to Rachael

Advance Notice of Mother's Day Tea

4's: Wednesday May 9th
4am class: 10-11:30am
4pm class: 1-2:30pm

3's: Friday May 11th
3am class: 10-11:30am
4pm class: 1-2:30pm

Mum, Dad, Grandma or Caregiver may attend (but only one) and preferably no siblings.

Tea Party Agenda

1. Children arrive with one of their family members at the posted time and sit together on chairs in a circle (no preschool before).
2. Sing-along and finger plays together.
3. Work on a craft together.
4. Children serve their mums (or Grandma's) cake.
5. Tea and coffee is served in the kitchen.
6. Story time.
7. Children present their gifts and we sing goodbye.

Jam for Falima Foundation

4's: Monday, April 16th
3's: Thursday, April 19th

Please bring in one basket or 1/2 pound of strawberries (about half of the plastic box you buy in the grocery stores). This will be our third fundraising activity for our sister school in Uganda. The children will be making the jam and then you, the parents, will buy our delicious homemade jam to enjoy (\$5).

** SMALL GLASS JARS WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU HAVE ANY **

April Field Trips

Port Moody Station Museum Field Trip: 3 year old classes, Friday April 27th

2734 Murray Street, Port Moody

3am meet at 9:15am for 9:30am-11:00am
3pm meet at 12:15pm for 12:00pm-2:00pm

Cost is \$3.00 per child (adult chaperones are free). Please pay class reps.

Parking: Free parking at the museum or at Rocky Point Park.

Snack: snack person to bring muffins and fruit. We will have snack on the railway car at the end of the program. Parents are responsible for driving their children to and from the Station.

The children will experience the exciting world of trains in this interactive program. Children will take an imaginary journey with "JESSIE" on the 1920's car. They will have costumes, and explore the station with a scavenger hunt. We ask that we have about 10 parent volunteers but no small siblings. You can all join us on the box car for our snack at the end of the trip.

Art Village Field Trip: 4 year old classes, Wednesday April 25th

The Outlet building at Leigh Square Community Arts Village (2100-2254 Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam)

Cost: \$5.00 per child. Please pay your class reps by April 23rd.

Parking: Available on McAllister Street or at the bowling alley parking lot across from the Outlet. Some parking available on Donald & Wilson.

Other Notes: We suggest bringing no more than 4-5 parent helpers to the field trip. If there are additional parents, there are local amenities close by such as Starbucks or the Gathering Place living room.

Artwork: The children will be making a variety of art pieces. They will be painting, stamping, and gluing. If the artwork is pretty dry the kids may take it with them, otherwise you may need to arrange for a pick-up for the following day.

Easter Activities

Please send 2 hard-boiled eggs to dye on this day:

4's: Tuesday, April 3rd (Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 4th)
3's: Thursday, April 5th (Egg Hunt same day)

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place in the forest behind the preschool. Please make sure children are dressed warmly and have comfortable shoes. Children will find chocolate wrapped eggs in the forest and place them in the teachers' baskets for distribution into their individual baskets back at the preschool. Parent help would be warmly appreciated on these days.



Matthew as Honorary Fire Chief.



Teacher Ruth tries on the Turnout Gear.



Dr Euan checks to see how Dalance has been brushing.



Dario, Avery and Nathan answering the phones.

Recipe Corner - Gluten Free Play Dough

Did you know that we use two different types of play dough at school? We have many allergies so we always try new recipes. We also do this with all our cooking so each child can have some of our yummy treats. Here is one you may enjoy.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/4 cups rice flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract or cinnamon
- Colour, if needed

Mix rice flour, salt and cream of tartar. Add water, oil and color or flavour mix until smooth, and knead. Place in an airtight container. We always double the recipe as it is good to have more.