

JUNEAU CO-OP
PRESCHOOL

newsletter

October 2014

Letter from the teachers

Hello Preschool Families,

Selected highlights of the last month include picking, twirling and cooking with apples, inventing things from household recyclables, harvesting potatoes, making soup and dissecting fish. Characters in the climbing room have included zombie mermaids, Batman and ninja, scores of princesses, bats, bombers, block builders, truck drivers, daredevils, and lost kittens. Some children are still exploring the different possibilities of preschool while others return to the same play scenarios and activities time after time. Both approaches are normal and fine reflecting individual temperament, developmental age and how much experience and comfort each particular child has with preschool. While engaged in these activities children simultaneously practice separation from family, social negotiation, and lots of conflict resolution. No wonder some of them fall asleep in the swings at the end of the preschool day.

In the MWF class we bid a sad goodbye to Atlas and his family. We wish them safe travels and all the best in their new home. Winter Osterhout has moved from T/Th into the MWF class and Kia Mangacat is now a sub in that class. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the following new students in the T/Th class: Bertalan Bury, Lincoln Gruening, Penelope Ewing and Oliver Robertson. As of this writing we have two open spots available in T/Th so enrollment may be in flux for a while yet. The combination of a lot of three year olds and a continual stream of incoming students who have just turned three means it's taking a while for preschool routines to gel with the class as a whole. Transitions are difficult and getting dressed to go outside is challenging. Any extra parent help at these times would be much appreciated.

Remember to collect leaves if you're raking them at home or walking out with your kids somewhere. We're hoping to do our leaf jump in the cemetery before the snow flies. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about our first fundraiser and a bit about how we do Halloween at preschool. Also if you have interesting recyclables kids could repurpose into inventions, we'd be happy to take them off your hands. Do check with a teacher before dropping off a giant bag though... like everyone else we struggle to find enough storage for all our stuff.

Thanks for all your contributions. See you at preschool.

Mary, Rhonda and Melissa



Sea star by Cole

Halloween celebrations

at the pre-school | 10/30-31 |



Sadie Frances

We'll celebrate Halloween at preschool on Thursday, October 30th and Friday, October 31st. Because kids tend to be pretty amped up about the holiday we stick to our normal routine except that instead of going outside at the end of the day we have our traditional costume parade in the group area. Any parent who can is encouraged (implored) to come at 11:30 to help their child change into his/her costume and watch the parade. Halloween is a lot of fun but it can also be crazy and we ask your cooperation with the following requests:

- * Please do not send your child to preschool in costume. Put it in a bag with their name on it in their cubby or bring it with you if you will be coming in early to help them dress. There are several potential problems with all 20 kids coming in their costumes. First, we are planning to offer outside time during the first hour of preschool since there will not be outside time later. It could be a gorgeous day but will more likely be wet and many costumes are hard to stuff under rain pants and coats. Elaborate costumes make it hard for kids to climb, jump, and swing. Secondly, there is a good possibility that bits and pieces of the costume will be strewn around the school if kids wear them all day. We offer a number of messy projects on Halloween and even kids who normally don't mind getting messy seem to get upset if their Halloween costume gets marred. Thirdly, your child may be coming as a princess or a lamb or a fairy but several others will come as Darth Vader or a Power Ranger and if they stay in character it will affect how they play and interact. Lastly, the costume parade is more fun if the costumes are a surprise.
- * Please do not send masks that cover the entire face or weapons. They are disturbing to some children. If your child feels that a mask or weapon is an essential component of his/her costume, we'll let them wear it or carry it only for the march around the pumpkin. As soon as they've marched, we'll have them hand it to you or to one of the teachers.

Thanks for your cooperation. If you have questions or concerns, let us know.

Mary, Rhonda and Melissa

Seamus: "Mary, we need more kinds of monkey stuff on the play ground."



Halibut by Mila

Family movie day

Saturday 10/25

thank you gracias

Terry Schwarz (Eddy's dad), for sharing the large western toad he found and cleaning out the trap in the art sink.

Deb Gillespie (Seamus' mom), for lending us her apple twirler when ours broke midtwirl.

Keri Eggleston (Ryker's mom), for laundry basket donation.

Kelly Ord (Kalvin's mom), for substitute teaching when Mary was gone.

Reed Gardinier, Grace Newman, and Eva Goering (preschool alumni), for providing childcare at the parent ed meeting.

Colin Osterhout (Winter's dad), for climbing room rope swings, play yard pulley and water systems, and general knot expertise.

Pastor **Phil Cambell** of Northern Lights Church for allowing us once again to pick apples in his yard.

Evelyn Bass (Maddie's mom), for letting us bathe Samantha in the water table.

Buck Willoughby (Paxton's dad) and **Andrew Eller** (Sigrid's dad), for fish dissections.

Rich Mattson of DIPAC for hosting aquarium field trip.

merci danke kiitos

First fundraiser

Please bring your family and friends and join us for our first fundraiser of the year!

Our preschool will be hosting a Family Movie Day at the Gold Town Nickelodeon Theater. We will be showing classic, family friendly, seasonally themed movies. We will show a few movies in a row, so if you can't make it early on please just come when you can.

The cost: \$10.00 per person or \$30.00 for families of 4 or more. The price includes popcorn!

Date: Saturday, October 25.

10:30am-1:30pm.



Jellies by Cedar

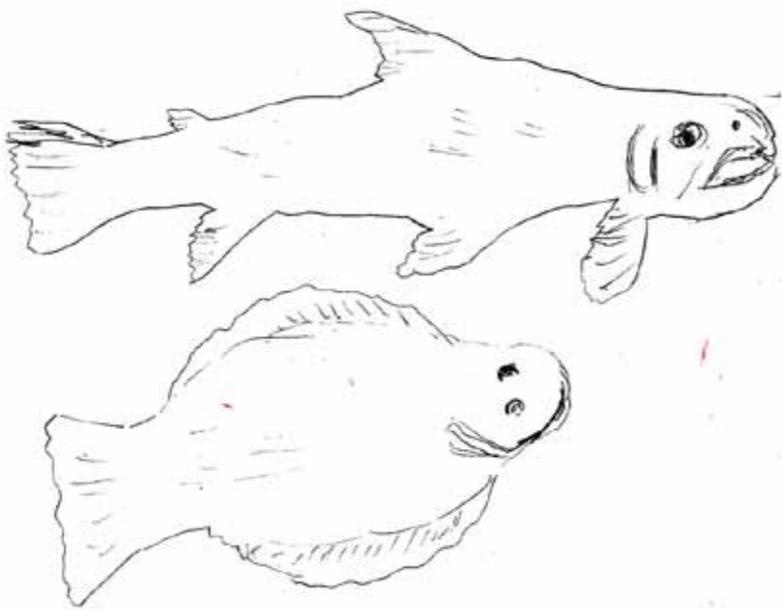


Brea and Mary

Fishes and crabs

at DIPAC

Flounder and salmon



King crab by Matthew



Big fish by Lucy



Looking

backward

Apples

Leaves

Soup

forward

Body outline

Bones

Halloween

This newsletter is illustrated by images of fish and other sea creatures. MWF group drew these after their recent visit to DIPAC.