



Grace Neighborhood Nursery School

Fall 2018



The Director's Corner: Notes from Barb

Dear Grace Families,
I am sitting down to finish our newsletter just as the daylong celebration for our long-time bus assistant, Margie Niemi, is winding down. I have to add a few comments here about how wonderful it feels to be part of this community! The day has been filled with joyful moments and such warmth and caring. Thank you to everyone who

stopped in today to wish Margie well. Margie has asked me to convey her thanks and appreciation as well. This was a very special day here at Grace. A number of former staff and parents stopped in to say hello and give Margie a hug. She loves hugs....and holding hands.



Although Margie is not able to continue in her role as our bus assistant, you will still see her around the school helping where she can. She is now our "school-wide aide". She continues to receive treatment for cancer and in her inimitable Margie-way; she is enjoying all that life offers.

I hope that many of you were able to enjoy the fall colors and the sunny, but windy, weather over the long teacher training/parent conference break. We were busy here at school with a day of training on Wednesday and parent conferences. The first part of our training day was spent

learning about how to use Google drive to share photos and documents with each other and with families and an overview of ways technology can help us with our work in the classroom. Kate, my assistant, who has a background as a communications specialist, provided this training. During the second part of our training day we focused on "Supporting children's large motor development through gym activities and creative movement." Carla Bode, who is returning to us to resume her role as the TWTH morning teacher in the Isles Room, will also add the title of "Movement Specialist" to her job description. She will be taking a leadership role in planning gym activities and supporting the children and teachers with the big body and movement component of our program.

We always look forward to our training days together. Spending uninterrupted hours thinking together about the work we love to do is time well spent, because, as the saying goes,... "Great schools have great teachers"... And great teachers are cultivated by regular opportunities for professional growth and learning. **I hope you enjoy reading our fall news!** 🌸 Barb

Upcoming at Grace

Thursday & Friday, November 8 & 9
School Portrait Days

Wednesday - Friday, November 21-23
No School: Thanksgiving Break

Thursday & Friday December 13 & 14
Winter Fair & Book Sale downstairs next to the gym

Friday, December 21
No Friday Add-A-Day

Monday, December 24 - Friday, January 4
School Closed for Winter Break

Thursday, January 3
Fundraiser at Pump It Up - Eden Prairie:
10:00 AM-12:00 PM - RESCHEDULED

Monday, January 7
School Re-Opens

Monday, January 21
No School: Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 22
Enrollment Forms for 2019-20 sent home

Monday, February 4
Enrollment Forms for 2019-25 due back

Friday, February 15
No School: Teacher Training Day

Friday, February 15
Fundraiser at Pump It Up - Eden Prairie:
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Monday, February 18
No School: President's Day Holiday

Saturday, March 9
Annual Silent Auction Gala at St. Mary's
Orthodox Church: 6:30 - 9:30 PM
(Adults only)

Harriet Room News

Submitted by Shannon



Fall is in full swing in the Harriet Room at Grace!

We have been very busy so far this year exploring our classroom, learning and being active in our classroom routine, and making new friends!

Social interaction and communication are such important aspects of early childhood education. One of the greater priorities in the Harriet Room at Grace is to promote social play and peer-interaction. A majority of our learning so far this year has been simply learning to play together. We have had a

wonderful time talking about making new friends, working together, sharing and using our words. We have discussed our feelings, our senses and how each of us is special. In each Harriet Room class, the children have become strong friends and are proud to be a part of the Harriet Room, as well as the Grace Neighborhood Nursery School community.

We have also spent a great amount of time during the month of September talking about and exploring apples. We have read many stories about apples. We have explored our senses through apples and have had a variety of apple snacks! ! We are planning to do at least one cooking project a month this school year! Keep a look out for our month's most recent recipe in your backpack!

In addition to the continuous introduction of colors, shapes, letters and numbers, seasonal topics will also be added throughout the months from October through December. It is sure to be an exciting Autumn into Winter!!

The Harriet Room would like to extend a warm Thank You to all the parents and families who were able to participate in our Parent Night, and Open House at Grace so far this year! These events offer such a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with new families and become familiar with new faces. It is always beneficial to have an opportunity to meet with you and discuss what to expect from our classroom. It is also a great privilege to be able to be present to answer any questions or concerns families may have had so far, early in the year. Communication is the key to all successes!

Thank You so much for your continued support, encouragement and communication with the Harriet Room! Happy Autumn!

Calhoun Room News

AM Teachers Cassy and Sarah W.

PM Teachers Sarah W. and LaSandra



The children have settled well into the Calhoun Room and are happy to come to school.

When they enter the room they are excited to explore the new objects and activities that have been thoughtfully prepared for them and as they explore they are making connections with their peers and teachers. Building independence and community through play is what we are doing as we move into fall!



Many children have been interested in mixing colors. This interest emerged while they were painting at the easel with the available primary colored paints: yellow, red, and blue. Several children discovered and identified new colors they were creating. Exclamations such as “Look, I made green!” “I made orange!” and “Look, purple!” were often heard during this process demonstrating an awareness of how secondary

colors are created. Of course various shades of brown, a tertiary color, were also created! This discovery led to reading various much loved books about color including *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh and the interactive book, *Mix It Up* by Herve Tullet. The interest in color mixing continued to grow so finger paint was introduced and many children continued to explore the primary and the mixing colors yellow, magenta, and turquoise blue. Many children noticed the difference between red and magenta as well as blue and turquoise blue and how mixing these colors with yellow created various new colors. We will continue to explore this fascinating process of mixing colors throughout the year!



Another way we build community in the Calhoun Room is by exploring our emotions

and learning how to take care of each other. As many children begin talking about the costumes they may be wearing for Halloween we take this opportunity to talk about reality and fantasy and continue our exploration of emotions. We introduce these subjects at various times throughout the day as well as at group time and while reading various stories. Through our discussions we try to help the children understand that everyone experiences various emotions and that our feelings change throughout the day. We also try to help the children discover that all feelings are valid and honored at school especially those stronger feelings of being scared, worried, and mad. We try to help the children identify and label their feeling and then help them figure out a way to express an emotion appropriately. How to seek reassurance and comfort from others as well as how to offer comfort and take care of each other is an important skill for all of us to develop!



We provide dress-up clothes and in October we will add various masks and silly glasses for the children to try. Pretend play is a way for children to work on their feelings and try things out, like trying out what it's like to be a mother, father or baby, a doctor or firefighter. Children can be confused about what's real and what's just pretend. A costume can seem so real that children, because they're still developing a secure sense of self, may think that dressing up as someone else could change the person inside the costume. In the Calhoun room we encourage pretend play throughout the

Calhoun Room News, continued



year as we explore the concept of how disguises change the way we look on the outside but do not change who we really are.

In the Calhoun Room we spend a lot of time playing with oral language as a building block to written language. We sing many silly rhyming songs that you may have heard at home: Wind the Bobbin Up, Twinkle, Twinkle Little Bat, Two little Blackbirds, and the Silly ABCs, to name a few. These songs encourage children to hear the different sounds inside of words and are a precursor to discovering the joys of written language. We also take time to encourage conversation at group time, snack time, and throughout the day. Building a wide vocabulary through the sharing of ideas is a goal in the Calhoun Room.



We also are beginning to introduce children to the letters of the alphabet, using puzzles, games, and letters at the play dough table. Children are particularly excited about letters in their own name. To support this interest, **soon each child in the Calhoun Room will bring home a large paper letter**, which is the

initial letter of their first name. The children can decorate their letter at home using any materials at hand and when they are satisfied with their creation they can bring it back to school. During group time, the children will identify their letter and describe how he/she decorated it. Next, the teachers will hang the letters and a corresponding photo of each child to create a border around our classroom. This will stay up all year long so that the children can notice and remark on our beautiful classroom alphabet. This activity stimulates much interest in letters as well as in classmates; appreciation for others' work; conversations about children who have the same initial letter; and is one way we begin to build our classroom community. Through this activity children also gain an awareness of letters and letter sounds. They begin to understand that letters are symbols and that these symbols have meaning. This activity helps the children develop a personal connection between letters and their names. All of these are wonderful pre-reading skills, and we love how the children feel so proud of their creations! Thank you for your participation in and support of this special project.

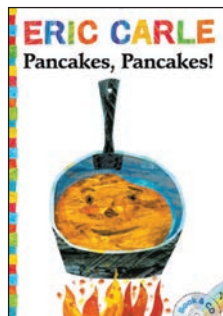
Cedar Room News

Teachers Monta and LaSandra



In the Cedar Room we spent the first few weeks of school getting to know each other and the classroom routine.

This year we sent home a set of classroom photos with names to help your child learn their classmates' names.



We explored the fall season through food and harvest. We began by learning about healthy eating by reading *Good Enough to Eat* by Lizzy Rockwell. We incorporated discussions about healthy foods. Thank you, families for participating by bringing in fruit or vegetables to make our snack healthier. Next, we learned more about farms and where our food comes from through books like *Pancake, Pancake* by Eric Carle, *How to Make Apple Pie* and *See the World* by Marjorie Priceman as well as a variety of farming books. Throughout the

room we touched on the farm food theme by using vegetable to make prints, sprouting new plants from cutting from other classrooms, playing with farm animals in the block area and digging in dirt in the sensory table.

Our exploration of farm foods culminated in a field trip to the Minneapolis Farmers' Market

to purchase fruits and vegetables and cooking many of the foods we bought. The children were impressed by the variety of foods that could be found at the market. We asked the names of some we did not know. Many of the farmers are of Hmong descent and grow foods from their culture as well as foods familiar to Minnesotans. On weekdays the Farmer's Market is quiet, so the sellers had time to interact with the children. We bought some food that we knew, like carrots and pumpkins and some not as familiar, like jicama and sweet potatoes. This past week we had a cooking project each day to eat many of the foods we bought. We made and tried spaghetti squash, sweet potato baked fries and apple crisp.



Eating new foods with a group of peers has encouraged some children to try new foods. We ask that the children put a little of the new food on their napkin and just put their tongue on the new food. We talk up when one of the children tries and likes it. Repetition is the key to learning to like new foods, but if your friend likes it you might be more likely to give it a try.

News from the Isles Room

Teachers Claire, Mary and Sarah M.



An important area of growth this year is in the area of social and emotional development. Therefore, we started the year by reading books and having discussions that focus on making new friends and being a good friend. We have continued to build on the theme of friendship and cooperation by playing cooperative games (such as Max the Cat) and working on collaborative art projects. An example of working cooperatively can be seen in the joyful handprint rainbow and rainbow paper chain on our classroom wall, which develops the sense of satisfaction that comes from working on something together.



Throughout the year we develop themes that reflect the seasonal aspects of the natural world around us. During the transition from summer into fall, there are many opportunities to bring the outdoors into our classroom. During our study of apples, we sampled and charted apple varieties, and made applesauce. We also engaged in our first science experiment and discovered that, by shaking a jar containing whipping cream and two marbles, you can transform a liquid into a solid and make butter! Autumn offers many great sensory experiences outside: bonfires, crunching leaves under our feet, migrating birds, the wind, yellow leaves against a blue sky, piles of pumpkins and gourds, the squishy feel of pumpkin pulp. Inside our classroom we have used our five senses to smell cocoa mulch, taste (and smell) apple crisp, touch smooth and spiky seeds at our science table, listen to everyday noises with our Sound Bingo game, see the amazing art work that decorates our classroom and hallway.



In addition to exploring our five senses in the classroom, Julia Singer, our poet in residence, has been working her magic and tapping into the children's imaginations as they play with words to create poems. By exposing children to poetry, they are encouraged to play with words, rhythm, and language. Before working with the children, Julia led our group time and read a variety of poems. Each class then created a group poem. We learned that some poems rhyme and some don't, that some poems tell a story and that some poems are sung. Our poetry unit is a great example of our underlying philosophy that children learn best in a natural, unforced way -- that by playing with words, they are building pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Writing poems also taps into a very creative part of the brain, and Julia says that it is amazing to witness the natural sense of rhythm and word play that all children have at this age. After creating their poems, the children are making illustrations -- through drawings, paintings or collages -- to accompany their poems. All of the poems and illustrations will be collected and made into a classroom book of poetry for each child to bring home. **We are very fortunate to have Julia and this poetry program at our school!**



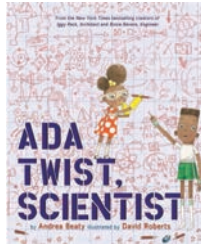


Discovery Class News

Teachers Monta and Claire

The Discovery Extended Day Program at Grace Neighborhood Nursery School is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) based preschool program being taught by Monta and Claire. It is an extension of our students' regular class time. It meets in the Isles Room from 12:00 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We begin the day with lunch that each child brings. There is an opportunity for rest time daily as well as gym or outdoor time.

We began the year by learning how to be a scientist. We read *What is a Scientist?* By Barbara Lehn and *Ada Twist Scientist* by Andrea Beaty. Scientists are curious. They observe and ask questions. As you



know 4 and 5 year-olds ask a lot of questions. This class has at times started asking questions that inspired more questions and new topics for us to explore in the future.

Next, we explored using our senses to observe. The children are very knowledgeable about their senses. We focused on using them to observe the world around them and ask questions. The children colored apples shapes the colors of the real apples they observed. We then tasted these apples and graphed our favorites and dislikes (we snuck a potato in to see if they noticed). The Sweet Tango had the most likes. We taught the children a visual memory game. Starting with a tray of objects, you cover the tray with a scarf and take one thing away, then those playing observe and say which thing is gone. We read *They All Saw the Cat* by Brendan Wenzel to learn about perspective and how different animals see the same thing differently. We then conducted the pop

and Mentos "geyser" experiment from *Ada Twist Scientist* book.

We built on our observation skills by investigating seeds, which is part of an autumn theme. We read *A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds* by Jean Richards and *A Seed is Sleeping* by Dianna Aston. We learned that many seeds we see outside do not grow until next summer or even many years. The children were encouraged to bring in seeds they find and to explore the many seeds we brought in. The children had the most fun playing with the seeds that stick to clothing (burdock). They were encouraged to draw some seeds in their journals. It always inspires us to see children this young start to draw what they observe. We ate seeds: sesame seeds on bread sticks, strawberries, pepitas, and sunflower seeds. Beans were available to make seed art. We tried sprouting beans but we only grew mold in our plastic bags. We will try again with fresh bean seeds.

We will be finishing October by exploring gravity, including marble mazes, paper airplanes, maple seeds and balls and ramps!



Discovery class students posing



The Grace Winter Fair is coming – Dec 13th and 14th!



We are looking forward to this year's annual Winter Fair fundraiser. What a festive tradition! Purchase holiday goodies and crafts, and all proceeds benefit the school. Support goes to the Poet-In-Residence program, purchasing new equipment for the gym, and outfitting the Nature Play Yard.

Please consider making something (anything goes!) that could be sold at the Fair. Possibilities include: holiday cookies, candies, mini muffins; gluten free and vegan goodies; spiced or candied nuts; pickles, salsas, jams, jellies; homemade doggie treats; jewelry; handmade ornaments, pottery, wood crafts; knitted, felted, sewn items; special crafts made by kids; flowering bulb kits; etc.

Encourage grandparents, other family members, nannies, babysitters, and friends to participate. We will begin accepting non-perishable items after Thanksgiving. A "Sign Up Genius" e-mail will be coming soon for donations as well as volunteering. Donated items should be packaged ready for sale (think small cellophane bags with ribbons). The smaller the package, the better it sells!

Do some holiday shopping at the Winter Fair!

Thursday, December 13th, 8:45am-3:45pm
Friday, December 14th, 8:45am-1:00pm

- Charming handmade items for kids and adults.
- Gift bags of holiday treats for the neighbors.
- An excellent selection of books for kids and parents.

Baked Goods That Do Good. Shop the Fair!
100% of the proceeds will support our children's program!

Build community. Grab a coffee and a cookie and meet fellow parents while you shop.

Winter Fair also includes a book sale with Oleanna Books. Expect a rich assortment of reading materials, ranging from board books to picture books, chapter books, books on parenting, and cook books. The collection includes classics, contemporary child favorites, and stories from diverse cultures. Oleanna Books will donate—in books—the equivalent of 10% of its book sales from the Winter Fair to the school. The teachers get to pick out the books! Win-win.

Charitable Giving Project TBA!

Look for an upcoming announcement for a community donation drive coinciding with the Fair. Last year Grace donated an impressive number of winter coats to Jefferson Community School! We hope to repeat a coat drive for Jefferson School or something similar. Details are being worked out.

Thank you for supporting our school and our community.

Laura Boleen, mother of Ida Boleen in the Cedar Class, is organizing this year's Winter Fair.

You can contact her at laura.boleen@gmail.com

Severe Weather Alerts May Be Coming With Winter! Watch for our annual launch of ONE CALL NOW, our emergency alert system.



We use an automated system, ONE CALL NOW, to alert parents to weather related closings. All families will soon be receiving a voice mail message asking them to "opt in" to receive these alert messages. Alerts can be sent out via texts or voice messaging. You will be able to determine which method(s) of delivery best suits your family and add additional phone numbers and email addresses to your account.

In general, Grace Neighborhood Nursery School follows the guidelines of the Minneapolis Public Schools for severe weather. If the Minneapolis Public Schools are closed for the day due to unsafe driving conditions, Grace Neighborhood Nursery School will also close. There may be circumstances that are unique to Grace that make it seem sensible to close our school, even if Minneapolis School remain open, or on the other hand, Minneapolis may choose to close for cold temperatures, but Grace will remain open, as we do not have children waiting outside for the bus.

We may also exercise the option of canceling bus service without closing the school. If a decision is made to cancel bus transportation, an alert will be sent to families who use the bus via ONE CALL NOW. If your child is at childcare, and that is where we typically pick up and drop off, you will want to add that number to your ONE CALL NOW account. If severe weather occurs during the day, an alert will be sent to advise you of the school's early closing.

Celebrating Halloween at Grace

Contributed by Grace Staff



Fall is a time of harvest and a time of “putting away” the year. One fall highlight for preschoolers in our culture is the holiday of Halloween.

Young children’s concept of this holiday revolves around fantasy and dress-up. At this point in their young lives children are just beginning to develop a sense of “holiday traditions,” mainly through how their family celebrates a particular holiday. At Grace we keep things low-key. We talk with children about “what they would like to be” for Halloween. We learn finger plays and songs, and read stories that emphasize these aspects. Often we include mask making or face painting, as a part of the curriculum.

As part of our way of celebrating, we enjoy pumpkins in the classrooms. We may wash them, paint them, draw on them, hammer golf tees into them, cut them open, look at their seeds, carve faces into them, roast the seeds, bake the pulp and use it in all kinds of delicious recipes! This is also a great time to talk about things that are real vs. pretend. Because we celebrate Halloween in this low-key manner, we do not have a costume parade. This, though exciting, can greatly add to the stress surrounding the day. We know that some young children can become easily frightened by Halloween costumes and masks.

We also want to be considerate of families who may choose not to celebrate Halloween. **Therefore we ask that children NOT wear their costumes to school.** They are welcome to bring a photo of themselves wearing their costume if it seems important to them to share it with their friends at school. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation with this policy.

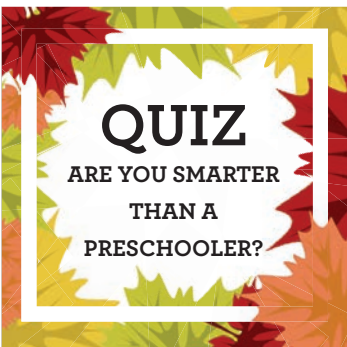
Arrival Time Tips • *Contributed by Barb*



Have you ever wondered why teachers don’t open their classroom doors before our class start-times? Those precious minutes before class begins are very important!

Our teachers have 30 minutes to set up their classroom and prepare materials and activities for the day, which includes preparing snack, setting up the gym, making copies and conferring with each other.

If you arrive early, please choose a book to read with your child (books are located at the elevator entry on both floors), help your child use the bathroom and wash their hands, or supervise your child in the gym. There is also a small table and chairs inside the Dahlman Room (just before the gym) set up with paper and markers. As we move into winter anticipate that it will take extra time to help your child take off their boots and outerwear, hang them up and put on their shoes. We want those drop off times to be enjoyable and stress-free for everyone!



See if you can answer the following questions. When put to the test by Anderson Consulting Worldwide more preschoolers than adults were able to answer them correctly. **The answers are on the back page.**

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?
2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?
3. The Lion King is hosting an Animal Convention. All of the animals are invited to attend.

All do attend except one. Which of the animals did not attend the Animal Convention?

4. There is a river you must cross in the jungle but it is full of crocodiles and you do not have a boat. How do you manage to cross the river?

Getting “Dressed” for School

Contributed by Shannon



Learning is fun! Learning can be MESSY!

The teachers and staff at Grace Neighborhood Nursery School are firm believers in open ended art.

Open ended art is a focus on the PROCESS not the product of any given creative work of art. There are no given samples or examples of an end product or project. Open ended art allows the child to use their imagination and to gain skills which allow them to express their ideas visually and orally with confidence. It encourages and preserves your child's natural creativity and strengthens their belief in their own capacity.

Some examples of open ended art are:

- Easel painting
- Watercolor painting
- Finger painting
- Painting and printing with unusual tools, such as tooth brushes, paint rollers, kitchen gadgets, etc.
- Working with play dough, sculpting with clay
- Making collages, working with glue or paste
- Using crayons or pencils

Open ended art allows the child to relax and gives them the opportunity for self-expression. It gives the child the opportunity to discuss their art work and feel successful. Open ended art allows the child the opportunity to predict, plan and problem solve. It enhances small motor skills through painting, writing, sculpting and making collages.

It is important that your child is sent to school in activity appropriate clothing. As you can see, many different materials and experiences are offered in the art areas in each classroom at Grace. However, even though our mediums say “washable”, it can sometimes be tricky to get certain colors or mediums out of particular fabrics. Please help us to encourage and enhance your child's creativity by sending them in expendable clothing for the school day! Getting messy is learning!!

It is best that your child come to school in comfortable, warm and safe play clothes. We spend time in the gym each day running and climbing. For safety reasons, we prefer that you send your child to school in appropriate shoes. As self-help skills are also encouraged at Grace, it is also a good idea to send children in easy on and off clothes. Some buttons, snaps buckles and belts can be difficult for young children.

One last idea! Each classroom plans to spend as much time outdoors as the weather allows. As the winter months draw near, we encourage you to restock your child's back pack with a weather appropriate change of clothes. (Don't forget the socks!) Please remember to label your extra clothes, as well as your outdoor wear, to help us and you keep better track of your child's belongings.

Thank You!

A Note From Our Poet-in-Residence



A Note from
our Poet-In-
Residence
Julia Klatt
Singer

I'm excited to
begin another
year at Grace,
as your Poet-in-
Residence.

It is a blast to sit
on the floor and
the little chairs,
and listen to

poems your children have to tell me. Your children play with words, sounds, and rhythm. I write down what they tell me, and read it back to them, to make sure I've got it right. Your children use their imaginations and tell me what they know. They tell me too, about things they don't know, like what it is like to go to space. Or what it will be like when they are big. They tell me their questions about winter, and the words, the squiggly line on their drawing, makes.

All art comes from life. All art tries to answer the questions, both big and small, that life asks of us. Poetry is both art and play. It is paying attention to the world around us, capturing the beauty and surprise in each day. I love having the opportunity to watch and hear what matters to your children. And I love how they take ordinary things and make them extraordinary.

I will be in each of your children's classes, reading and writing poems with them throughout the year. We will make class books that will have the poems and art of each of their classmates in them.

And come April we will get poems ready for Poem in your Pocket Day, or as Poppy calls it, The Poetry Walk. Each class will either make individual or class poems, and art. Then at the end of the month we will head out into the neighborhood to share our poems by giving them to the people we meet. I am presently writing poems with the children in the Isles room, and getting so many fabulous poems each day. I look forward to meeting each of your children and helping them play with their words, and find the beauty and delight in their worlds.

-Julia Klatt Singer

Selecting a Kindergarten in the Minneapolis Public Schools • *Contributed by Barb*

Children who turn 5 years old on or before

September 1st are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the following year.

If you are looking at one or more of the Minneapolis Public School Kindergartens as an option for your child in 2019-2020, this fall is the time to visit the schools

of your choice! All district schools with kindergartens encourage families to take a tour during the next few months, before the request deadline on February 8th. Some schools have pre-scheduled tour dates, while others schedule tours individually with families. You can check each school's website to get specific information about how to schedule a tour. Once families have made their choice of school (s), they must submit their requests and register their child at the district office, NOT at individual schools. **The district's online request process begins on November 15, 2018. The request deadline is midnight on February 8, 2019.*

How to Request a School

Step 1: To find out which schools are available to you with transportation, go to <https://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/home>. Enter your address to see a list of options with busing available.

Step 2: Research schools by checking their websites. By learning basic information about school start times, locations and program offerings, you will be able to narrow down your school choice options.

Step 3: Read "Frequently Asked Questions" about each school you are interested in. You may find the answers to any questions you have.

Step 4: Visit schools you are interested in to further narrow your school requests.

Step 5: Decide which schools you will list on your School Request Form. It is strongly recommended that families select two schools and that one be the community school in your attendance area.

Step 6: Submit your request form online.

Step 7: Letters notifying families of their school placement will arrive in homes in late March or early April.

Step 8: If you have any questions, please call Student Placement Services at 612.668.1840. Student Placement Services staff are available to talk you through the request process.



Add-a-Day Enrichment Program

Contributed by Claire

Our Add-a-Day program is off to a great start! In September, we spent our Monday afternoons in England, and discovered that even though we share the same language, many words and phrases are different! We sampled Eton Mess and home-made scones. October finds us exploring Kenya, a country with an abundance of wildlife that dovetails perfectly with a child's love of animals. We've learned some fun Swahili words such as jambo (hello) and safari (journey). We are deepening our country explorations to include the musical traditions unique to each country. As the children share their worldly knowledge with their families, it is a joy to watch them become "world citizens."

We enjoyed the spectacular September weather as we began our Friday Field trip program with several outdoor excursions. Our first outing took us to the JD Rivers' Children Garden, where we harvested yummy tomatoes, peppers and kale, and made a fresh salad for snack! Our annual nature hike through Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden exposed the children to the wonderful sights and smells of autumn, including flowers that smelled like chocolate or looked like turtle heads, and our visit to Minnetonka Apple Orchard included a hayride through the woods. As we head indoors, we started with a visit to the new Bell Museum for a planetarium show that was truly out of this world! Our adventures encourage children to learn in the best possible way: through an increased awareness of the world around us. Each field trip ends with animated discussions of what we have experienced.

Offered on Monday and Friday afternoons, Add-a-Day is a unique enrichment program that allows children to expand and deepen their preschool learning experience. Children who attend Grace on Monday or Friday mornings have the option of extending their school day, and children attending classes at other times, can extend their school week. The program is flexible to accommodate your scheduling needs – your child can participate on a regular basis, or you can use Add-a-Day on a drop-in basis. Children must be potty-trained to participate in Add-a-Day.

The Monday afternoon class will continue to visit a different foreign country each month, and Friday afternoons will consist of field trips that allow the children to discover our community in new and exciting ways.

Please Note: Due to the enthusiastic response to Add-a-Day, we often have a waiting list. If your child attends regularly, please try to let Barb know in advance if your child will not be attending, so that we can give the slot to a child on the waiting list. Thank you!

Answers to "Are you smarter than a preschooler?" quiz.

1. Correct answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. *This tests whether you tend to overly complicate simple things.

2. Did you say: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the door? WRONG ANSWER

Correct answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant, and close the door. *This tests your ability to think through the consequences of your previous actions.

3. Correct answer: The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him there. *This tests your memory.

4. Correct answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Haven't you been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Convention *This tests your memory and critical thinking skills.

Now share with your children and LAUGH!!

Play-Doh Recipe



3 c. all purpose flour
1 c. salt
2 TBLSP cream of tartar
3 TBLSP vegetable oil
3 c. hot water
Food coloring or liquid watercolor

2 TBLSP liquid extract (i.e., vanilla, lemon, almond) OR 1 packet Koolaid OR 6 TBLSP dry spice for scent

1. Mix dry ingredients well (include Koolaid or dry spices in 'dry ingredients')

2. Mix wet ingredients together (water, oil, food coloring and liquid extract if using)

3. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and stir/mix with spatula (dough will be hot!) until recipe binds. Turn dough out onto counter or table and knead until it is the right consistency. (Be careful not to let children play with the dough until it cools.)

-For playdoh scented with dry ingredients, (ie; cinnamon, ginger, cloves, Koolaid, etc.) add desired amount first to one of the cups of flour (to make it a 'cup'). Also, as dry spices tend to take the moisture away quickly during play, add one more TBLSP of vegetable oil for longevity.