



THE PLAYHOUSE PRESCHOOL OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

From the Director:

As we settle into fall, I'm so pleased to share that we all had a smooth transition back to school in September. Returning preschoolers have reconnected with old friends and have welcomed our new students. The toddlers' discomfort at separation has subsided and they're busy painting, building, and dressing up. Our 6 babies are smiling, crawling, and cruising around suite 102. Peek in anytime.

We've added some new teachers to our staff. Ms. Amy, a lead teacher in a.m. and p.m. preschool, joined us last April and we're so lucky to have her. She and Ms. Mechelle plan and facilitate the pre-k class. Ms. Amy will teach in the toddler class with Ms. Betsy while Ms. Desiree is home with her baby, Camilla. She and Camilla will return in January. Ms. Esther assists in all our classrooms and we appreciate her fun nature and flexibility. Ms. Debbi just joined our baby room team and we are so blessed to have connected with her. Thank you Jenn and Jon. Ms. Michaela joined our baby room last summer and will be an infant-toddler certified teacher in January. She's a senior at Anna Maria College and will student teach in our preschool next semester. All of our teachers work together each day to create a love-filled, learning environment for our students. Many thanks to them.

Happy Halloween! Ms. Ida

As I'm sure you as parents would agree, days pass by quickly. Six weeks have passed since we began our school year. For children who were new to our PRESCHOOL program in September, they have all successfully made the transition in our foyer separating from Mom or Dad and for a few, by acclimating with Mom or Dad in the classroom for a brief period. Each child has different needs and we as preschool teachers understand and accept individual differences. Many children returned to The Playhouse from the summer program or the previous school year and we are delighted to have them return to our care. Some of those children transitioned from the toddler program to our preschool classroom and so have had to adapt to a bigger classroom, a little more structure, a few more expectations, new teachers and many more classmates. For those who were in the preschool classroom last year - our veteran students - most are now the older children in our class ranging in age from 2.9 years - 5 years of age. We as teachers call upon the older children to help their younger classmates throughout the day and we generally expect a little more from the older children. What we as teachers love about our job is not the pay, not the 7:30AM opening time nor the 5:30AM closing time, but the many special moments that happen throughout our day spending time with your children. The interactions we have with your children allow us a glimpse into their lives and their development. A comment by Brendan who was using Q-tips as a painting tool is etched in my brain. He said to me, "I know why these are called "cute tips". "Why?" I asked. "Because they're cute!" he said and giggled. And more recently, Grant walked over to me matter of factly and said, "I need a fresh diaper." We count these conversations we have with your children as one of many blessings we experience as their first teachers. As preschool teachers we view each child as "cute" and each morning feel the "fresh" energy each child brings to the classroom. In the coming weeks and months we look forward to getting to know each child and each family better.



IMPORTANT DATES

October 28 Open House
 November 11 – 15 Ms. Ida to Florida
 November 28 & 29 Closed for Thanksgiving

OPEN HOUSE – OCTOBER 28

Save the date, Monday, Oct. 28 when your child can bring you and/or any guests and proudly show you around his/her school. It is also an opportunity to socialize with other families and exchange contact info for future potential play dates, if desired. Please sign-up for a ½ hour time slot (beginning at 6PM) on the poster that will be posted soon in the foyer.

HALLOWEEN AT THE PLAYHOUSE

We are celebrating Halloween this entire month with our Halloween Store; stocked with a variety of costumes and Halloween themed items to use to engage in dramatic play during our school day. As we have done for many years, we also invite the children to bring and wear and/or show their Halloween costumes from home the week of 10/28 - 11/1.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

You are welcome to send in a special treat to be shared at snack time in our preschool class of 20 children. As a reminder, our school is peanut free to accommodate those with allergies. If your child follows a vegan diet (or has other dietary needs that we are unaware of, please let us know) & please send in a special snack to keep at school for your child so he/she may feel part of the birthday celebration too!

CLOTHES

Please LABEL outerwear with your child's name to help us when we prepare for our 30 minutes of playground time. It is especially helpful later in the season when we are trying to identify snow pants, snow boots, and winter jackets among the children. Additionally, please have a change of clothes available for your child due to toileting accidents, etc. and that is appropriate for the approaching colder weather.



FIRE DRILL POLICY

As required by the Office for Children, we practice exiting for emergency reasons once a month. We try to post a notice on the door at pick-up time so you will know if your child has participated.

CONFERENCES – PROGRESS REPORTS

As required by the Office for Children, in November, the preschool classroom teachers will be writing a short narrative about how your child's experience has been in the preschool classroom in these first few months of school. If at any time during the school year you have concerns or any questions regarding your child, please speak to one of the preschool teachers and if needed, we can schedule a conference time for a lengthier discussion with you.



ANNUAL WELL VISITS

Reminder: A copy of your child's most recent physical is required for your child's file.

ABSENCES

If your child will be absent, please call to let us know so that we can offer that space to another child who may be looking to make up a day or do an extra day that week. Thank you.



TUMBLE BUS

The big yellow bus that brings fun and exercise to schools and parties will visit us the first Wednesday of each month, starting Nov. 6. Please return the permission form and a \$10 fee will be added to your tuition bill monthly. Our "Helping Hands" fund will cover the cost for any child not able to participate. The children are so excited about this activity.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Ms. Betsy will organize and order books on-line for our families this year. The order form is attached to this newsletter. Please return orders plus money to the Scholastic envelope in our foyer by 11/1. The more books you order, the more free books for the Playhouse library. Thank you, Betsy.