

Stepping Stones Newsletter

(Where You'll find the Good Details)

In the Classroom

September has simply flown by! It was wonderful to meet with all our families during orientations and open houses. Thank you for taking the time to participate in our opening week events. We hope you enjoyed reuniting with old friends and greeting new ones as much as we did.

October is a busy month at Stepping Stones with lots of new experiences. We have several special field trips and with our Family Fun Day and Halloween coming, we have many fun things planned. We ask that you please refer to your child's schedule everyday to keep up with what is happening in the classroom.

All classes will be studying about their five senses over the next several weeks.

Threes

It was such a disappointment that our three year old class couldn't go to Sunnycrest Farm last week. We were so surprised to learn that the drought affected the apples so badly that they have already had to stop apple picking. It is usually such a fun time for everyone. No worries! We will just buy the apples we need for all the fun things we have planned.

The children will be using apples to sort, graph, and paint with. They will taste and compare different kinds of apples and they will also be making some yummy applesauce to share with all of you!

Fours

Friday, October 9th we will be going to J & F Farm to pick out a small pumpkin for the "Pumpkin Head" replicas of ourselves. We sent a letter home explaining that we stuff old clothes for their bodies. These bodies will be outside for a couple of weeks, so please be sure you send clothes you don't care about. **Clothes are due in class by October 4th.** The scarecrows will be displayed through Family Fun day and should be taken home to sit on your steps for Halloween right after. **Please**

remember we will need the pumpkins back the beginning of November so that they can become our pumpkin pies for our Pumpkin Pie Festival.

Our field trip to Squam Lake Science Center is scheduled for **Thursday October 15th.** We will be hiking their nature trail, having a picnic lunch and attending an instructional class about how animals use their five senses. This will be an extended day of school. Let's hope for a warm and sunny day!

They will also have fun this month making a pumpkin piñata for our Halloween party. **Don't forget we need your piñata items in class by October 18th.**

If the weather permits you will be invited to come film the destruction of our piñata on Halloween. If it is anything like past years, we may even need to recruit a little help from the adults!

Enrichment Class

Our Enrichment Class has been busy settling into their afternoon schedule. The transition time on the playground at 11:30 is working out very well.

They have been writing a book about themselves, learning to pattern and graph, and have each started creating individual Alphabet Books that will go home at the end of the year.

We have an interesting apple experiment going on over the next few weeks. This month they will be studying about spiders as well as reviewing their 5 senses.

Creative Movement with Kristen and Kindermusik with Miss Rose are a big hit! Miss Diane starts next week. We can't wait!

Please label every piece of outerwear your child brings to school. We have already established a lost & found of misc. sweatshirts and sweaters.



Stepping Stones School

October 2016

Special points of interest:

- ☺ In the Classroom
- ☺ Family Fun Day
- ☺ Label Clothing
- ☺ Literacy Corner
- ☺ Scholastic Book Club
- ☺ A Special Thank You
- ☺ The Halloween Party
- ☺ Let's stay safe and Healthy!

Picture Day

Friday October 21st
Check your calendar for times

Family Fun Day **Saturday Oct.22**

10 am—1 pm

Crafts, Games, Face Painting, Raffles, Art Show, Making Cider, Bake Sale, Hot Dogs and featuring

Pa Pa Joe

the Storyteller
Celebrating 35 years of serving the local community



Literacy Corner

Reading books to your preschooler is the single best thing that you can do as a parent to enhance early literacy. Read to your child every day. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "storytime" as your favorite time of day.

Moms and dads, brothers and sisters can all become great models for our preschoolers. Take a few minutes out of your busy day, every day, to read as your child plays quietly close by. Set aside 20 minutes of "quiet time" each day when you read and your child looks at books. Discover what works for your family. Lets read!

Scholastic Book Club

An inexpensive way to build your personal library and reinforce the school/home connection. Many of the stories we read in class are available in the book club. Children get very excited about receiving a new book. Likewise, they are disappointed when they never get one. Consider it once in a while. It is just another way to encourage reading.

Let's Stay Safe and Healthy!

It is well established that proper hand washing is our best defense against spreading illness. Therefore we encourage you to spend time instructing your children on proper hand washing technique. We will follow up with this at school.

Our policy is to have children first wet their hands, apply soap generously and scrub. Rub backs and palms of hands, under nails, in between fingers, and around the thumbs. Rubbing under warm running water is more effective in removing germs. We recommend washing for at least 20 seconds then rinse under the running water. Children often choose a song to pass the time as they scrub.



We finish by rubbing hands very dry on paper towels (at school). The drying (rubbing) process is another way to remove any left over germs.

We would appreciate your cooperation in practicing this at home. The more you supervise at home the faster they will learn the importance of proper hand washing.

The Halloween Party

- All classes will be having a traditional Halloween party. Your room parents will be responsible for organizing your child's party.
- **Please send your child's costume to school in a labeled bag. We will help them dress at school after snack.**
- Weather permitting, parents are invited back to school for a parade of costumes on the playground. Please refer to your child's calendar for specific days and times. Bring your cameras!



We would like to thank all of you who have volunteered to be room parents. Some of the responsibilities of a room parent include planning and helping with class parties, Family Fun Day and occasionally helping teachers with communicating with your classmates. We appreciate your help!

**Your room parents are helping coordinate
Family Fun Day
Saturday October 22.
They will keep you updated.**

Room Parents, Please contact your child's teacher to discuss your plans for the Halloween Party.

Insurance Cards

Before you may attend a field trip we are required to have a copy of your license and auto insurance card on file. **The state requires this of everyone driving for a school event even if you are only driving your own child.** We would actually like copies from everyone (even if you do not plan to drive). This will help in the event of an emergency and extra or alternative drivers are needed. Please remember to update these cards throughout the year as your policy anniversary date occurs.