



# Pre-K Newsletter

Monday, December 1, 2008



## Impromptu Caterpillar Identification

During Cooperative Play, Pre-Kindergartners took turns holding and making observations about the caterpillar that Teacher Jennifer had found at her house. We wondered what type of caterpillar it might be... some Pre-Kindergartners suggested looking in a book to see if we could find the same type of caterpillar. First, we looked in our classroom insect books and weren't able to find it. Then, we borrowed a caterpillar book from Mrs. Thompson and found it- it was a **banded wooly bear caterpillar!**



## Putting Sounds Together to Make Words: M, S, T, R, A, F

In small groups, after F sound sharing, I shared with Pre-Kindergartners that the alphabet is made up of two kinds of letters: consonants and vowels. Next, I shared with them that consonants we had learned so far (M, S, T, R, and F) and vowels (A so far) can come together to make words. First, I shared with them the word M-A-T. We held out our arms and stretched the word out starting with <m> at our shoulder, <a> at our elbow, and <t> at our hand and tried this two times. Then, the last two times, we slid our hand down our arm (shoulder, elbow, arm) and said "mat". Next, Pre-Kindergartners thought of other words we could make (sat, rat, fat) and we used the same method (Note: This method only works with three letter, phonetic words.) As we add letters to our repertoire, we will continue to revisit this exercise and see what other words we can make and how the sounds of those letters come together to make words.

## Making and Using Booklook Bookmarks

After snack, Pre-Kindergartners flow independently into Booklook, which is a time when children



look at books on their own or with friends. During Booklook, we invite children to choose from any of the books in the classroom, including the book bins throughout the room. While we have been practicing, we discovered that it is sometimes hard to remember exactly the right place to put books away. PreKindergartners created personalized booklook bookmarks and we tried using them the following day. Now when it's time to put books away, all we have to do is look for our bookmarks! We all agree that the bookmarks are a big help and we will continue using them everyday.

## Swimmy and the Pre-K Job Chart

In thinking about the Pre-Kindergarten class' interest in taking turns and working together as a group, I read Swimmy by Leo Lionni. In the story, Swimmy (who is the main character) has an idea of how his school of small red fish can explore the ocean and see great sights without the worry of being eaten by larger fish. He suggests that they should all work hard to swim together in the shape of a big fish with Swimmy as the eye, and it works! We talked about how, if we work together like Swimmy and the other fish, we could do great things in our classroom. We thought of seventeen jobs that we could share: light person, snack helper, wake-up fairy, line leader, caboose (line ender), bookmark collector, compost helper, mat helper, chair helper, block helper, kitchen helper, paint helper, puzzle partner, chalkboard cleaner, sand helper, desk helper, and Socrates helper! In preparation for our job chart, each Pre-Kindergartner helped to paint one red fish and the ocean for our background. When the paint had dried, each Pre-Kindergartner had a turn to help tape on a fish so that they were swimming in proper formation (in order to look like a large fish!).



## Gentle Hands and More!

Two weeks before Thanksgiving, we read five books (one a day) which supported the social skills that we are all working on in Pre-Kindergarten: The Sandlot by Don Rowe (including friends in play, using our words, taking turns), ish by Peter Reynolds (giving friend put-ups), I Call My Hands Gentle by Amanda Haan (using gentle hands), It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr (celebrating our differences and uniqueness), and Swimmy by Leo Lionni (working together). Each book sparked an interesting conversation and Pre-Kindergartners graciously shared their experiences/stories at circle time. Here are some tid-bits from our discussion of how we use gentle hands:

- S1: "I use gentle hands when I pet my dog."
- S2: "I use gentle hands to pet my cat."
- S3: "At school, I use my gentle hands with friends."
- S4: "Sometimes when I pet my dog, I'm gentle."
- S5: "I like to give my brother a gentle hug."
- S6: "I use my gentle hands when I shake my friend's hand."
- S7: "I give my brother a hug."
- S8: "I pat my kitty cat."
- S9: "I use my gentle hands when I pet my dog."
- S10: "I pet my dog and cat so slow. I hug my friends."

## Grandfriends' Day: LI Book, Lemonade, and Booklook

Last Wednesday, we had the pleasure of our grandfriends' company in the Pre-Kindergarten classroom. First, we met at the rug and read the LI book (an emergent reader) to our grandfriends about lemonade and then, made lemonade together. Each Pre-Kindergartner had a turn to add an ingredient and stir three times. After a delicious snack (Thank you, Bree!), we had the opportunity to look at books with our grandfriends. While we were reading, Teacher Melissa brought Socrates around the room so that he could meet our special guests. After some time playing outside, we walked over to the Meeting House with our grandfriends to join in the all-school Meeting for Worship.



## Recipe Corner: Fruit Salad and Lemonade



### Fruit Salad- Ensalada de Fruta (pronounced N-sah-lah-dah day froo-tah)

apples- las manzanas (pronounced lahs mahn-sahn-ahs)

grapes- las uvas (pronounced lahs oo-vahs)

bananas- los platanos (pronounced lohs plah-tahn-ohs)

oranges- las naranjas (pronounced lahs nah-rahn-hahs)

### Grandfriends' Day Lemonade

2 cups sugar

2 cups fresh squeezed lemon juice

3 cups water

→ adjust ingredients to match your taste preference

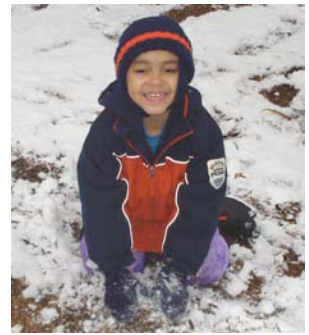


## Notes

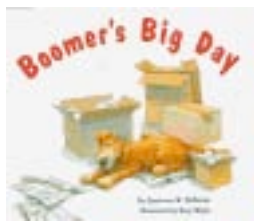
Please send in a warm change of clothes (long pants and long sleeve shirt) for your child's cubby!



Pre-Kindergartners play outside every school day (unless it's really rainy!). Last Friday's weather provided us with a great opportunity to run, roll, and slish around in the snow. Please help your child to be prepared for the wintry weather by sending the following winter gear everyday: hat, mittens/gloves, jacket, snow pants, and boots. As you know, fours and fives are very good at dressing themselves! You can help your child to dress for success by providing easy on mittens/gloves and boots with velcro or easy slip-ons.



## Just So You Know: A Pre-Kindergartner Has Moved to CT!



As you may have heard from your Pre-Kindergartner, Kate and her family relocated to Connecticut this past week. Wednesday was Kate's last day of school with us, and we prepared the group for her move that Monday and Tuesday. On Monday, we read Boomer's Big Day by Constance W. McGeorge, which is a story about a dog (Boomer) whose family is moving to another house. We talked about each saying good-bye to Kate in our own way and how it might look different for each of us: maybe it could be playing with Kate, drawing her a picture, giving her a hug, etc. On Tuesday, Kate brought in a special snack and we all agreed to sing "Happy Move Day" to her (to the tune of "Happy Birthday") in celebration of her

move! While she won't be with us in school everyday, we talked about how we can write to Kate and she agreed that she will write back to us- now we all have a special penpal friend who lives in CT!

## Announcement: The Holiday Gift Sale Is Quickly Approaching!

The Pre-Kindergarten class will be shopping for gifts at the [Holiday Gift Sale](#) on [Tuesday, 12/9](#) for [immediate family members who live in your household\(s\)](#). In addition, Pre-Kindergartners are invited to select a gift for a "child just like me," which will be donated to a student at the James Rhodes School in Philadelphia. The cost of each gift is either [\\$1.00 or one can of food](#), and all the cans of food that are collected will be donated to Project Home. All gifts will come home with your child on Tuesday, 12/9 wrapped and labeled with tags (with the exception of the "child just like me" gifts).

[Please send your money \(in a sealed envelope\) or canned goods \(in your child's backpack\) along with a list of the names and ages of the family members who will be receiving a gift from your child.](#) Thank you!

## Please Ask Your Child About...

M, S, T, R sorting game (choosing an item from the bag and matching it with the beginning letter of that word)

our sound sharing items for A: ax, apricots (2), animals, America, and apples (2), F: flour, flowers, flag, felt, fire trucks (4: four!), and funnel, D: dragon, dishes, dogs (2), dinosaurs (3), and D.S., L: lemons (2), lizard, lollipop, leaves, lion, and Liberty Bell

apple As, feather Fs, dot Ds, and lace Ls

making the letters with wooden pieces and in our handwriting books

Wilmur and Lotus, the two turtle doves who live in the Preschool classroom

learning "Four Hands" and "Razzama Tazzama" for Grandfriends' Day and our shared performance of "Razzama Tazzama" on stage with Kindergarten

two Pre-Kindergartners and a teacher shared birthdays with the class: Tr. Melissa on 11/5, Noble on 11/17, and Aidan on 11/24

rainy day parachute play with our Preschool friends

our first snowy day at school: dressing ourselves in snow pants, jackets, boots, hats, and gloves and playing outside during recess!

Noah B.'s new baby brother, Micah, and reading Peter's Chair by Ezra Jack Keats



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us via voice mail (Melissa x114 and Jennifer x233) or email at [mmcmenamin@friendshaverford.org](mailto:mmcmenamin@friendshaverford.org) and [jwagner@friendshaverford.org](mailto:jwagner@friendshaverford.org)