

Winnie-the-Pooh Preschool

A not-for-profit cooperative preschool



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Pooh News

Jan/Feb 2011

LESSONS ABOUT GIVING

"Kids Helping Kids" at Winnie-the-Pooh Preschool:



Valentine Cards for the Pediatric Department at INOVA Loudoun: The child life specialist was thrilled to receive our handmade cards; she distributed them to her patients in the Pediatric Department. Great Job WTPP, we are making a difference in the community!

Established in 1969, Winnie-the-Pooh Preschool is a not-for-profit state licensed cooperative preschool. We strive to provide a positive preschool experience in an environment where parents and teachers work together to meet each child's individual needs.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Geier and Dinosaurs, Space, and Good Health

What's going on this winter in Mrs. Geier's room? Well, everything from dinosaurs to deep space and beyond!!

We began 2011 learning about what existed billions of years ago and compared the sizes, habitats, and eating habits of dinosaurs and people! Once we knew a bit about what Earth was like before inhabited by people, we could move on to study our home planet and the other planets and objects in our solar system. From Astronauts to Zephyr winds, we rocketed our way through the alphabet of space and landed in the fun of February! February is when we focused

on our hearts, what they do for us, and what we can do for them to keep them healthy. It is also dental health month and, whether you know it or not, healthy teeth and a healthy heart have a direct connection! Hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day!!

Character Education in SR5

How do you feel when something kind is said about you or done for you? Do you feel loved, valued and appreciated? Mrs. Webb's Seniors are learning the importance of character education and its many positive traits: **Honesty, Fairness, Citizenship, Responsibility and Acceptance;** these are all hallmarks of character education. We

created a "**kindness chain**" and each time a caring gesture is made or a helping hand is offered, we receive a link in our chain. We are working hard to have our chain span the length of our classroom! Our "**friendship web**" is made by sitting in a circle together; each friend takes a turn saying something kind to another friend. As we do this, we are passing around a ball of yarn. As we pass the yarn, we hold on to a piece, thus creating a web! In the end, we are all tied together and feeling great about ourselves! Great Job SR5!

Message from the teachers:

Mrs. Geier, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Webb would like to thank the membership for all of the wonderful well wishes and generous gifts given to us during the holiday season! We are so fortunate to know all of you; we love teaching your children and look forward to many fun and exciting preschool days in the coming months!

Thank you!



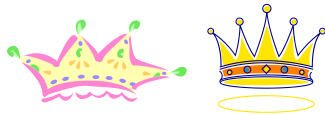
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EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Fairy Tales



Mrs. Geier and Mrs. Smith's Seniors explored royalty and fairy tales. The children learned the difference between real and make believe through role-play and imagination. They practiced small motor skills through fun crafts. At the end of this unit, the children enjoyed a feast together and took part in lively competitions like jestering! The costumes and props were creative, imaginative, and so impressive.



LOVE the ANIMALS service project at WTPP!

Mrs. Webb's Seniors and Mrs. Geier's Pre-K class will experience a service project together as they "love" animals and contribute old blankets, unopened food, treats, toys and gift cards to the Loudoun County Animal Shelter.

On Wednesday, March 9, 2011, we will have a visit from the animal control

officers. They will teach us about animal safety and awareness and what services they provide to our community. They will not bring any animals; just their wonderful knowledge and sincere dedication to keeping us all safe and well cared for! They are true community helpers!

Please bring in your donations to your teacher by March 7, 2011. We will present our gifts to the officers when they visit our school.



Peter McCory will visit WTPP on March 28th and 29th!

"Peter McCory is a one man band performing for kids and families. Since 1996 he's been playing music kids love - lively, upbeat renditions of familiar children's songs, folk songs and his own award-winning original music for kids. His two recordings of original songs have both won Parents' Choice Awards and positive national reviews. Whatever he plays, his interactive and

educational performances are tons of FUN! While singing and strumming guitar or banjo, he's also tooting harmonicas, kazoos and whistles. Then, with his feet, he plays drums, cymbals and cow bell... all at the same time!"

Please check with your room parent for show-times. Siblings are welcome to attend this event.

www.petermccory.com

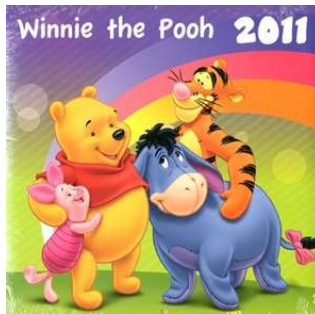


Photo courtesy of Dilley Madison Library

Pool News

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 14	Executive Board Meeting 7pm
March 21	General Membership/Officer Election for 2011-2012 school year 7pm; Attendance Mandatory
April 4 & 5	Teacher Workdays; No School
April 11	Executive Board Meeting; 7pm
April 18-22	Spring Break; No School



CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE WORKSHOP

For Parents/Caregivers & Teachers: Tuesday, March 1, 2011 7-9 p.m.
The topic is "The Language of Problem Solving"
Mt. Hope Baptist Church Sanctuary 42507 Mt. Hope Road, Ashburn, VA 20148



Please mark your calendar and bring a friend or a few! Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a member of WTPP to attend.

The Language of Problem Solving is part of the Conscious Discipline® program by Dr. Becky A. Bailey. This 2-hour workshop for parents and teachers focuses on the Conscious Discipline Skills® of Assertiveness and Choices to help children learn how to solve problems. Participants will learn how to empower victims so that others will treat them with respect and how to empower bullies to find the attention and encouragement they seek in positive, helpful ways.

For more information please visit www.wtpp.org or contact Lindsey Granger at 703-862-6468. This workshop is free. Donations are accepted to cover the cost of the presenter.

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FUNDRAISING UPDATES



Movie Night

WTPP's first Movie Night was a huge success! WTPP students and siblings enjoyed *Toy Story 3*, while munching on popcorn and enjoying lollipops. Ticket sales raised over \$100 for our school. A big thank you to Peggy Wright and Kristine Videgar for organizing the event. Special thanks to Tom Hogan (grandson in SR3) for donating the screen and projector.

Congratulations to the Top Sellers!

Entertainment Guide

1. Cecil Laxa - sold 15 books
2. Kelly Kannan - sold 4 books
3. Nicole Kressley - sold 4 books

Fun Pasta

1. Gordon Chase - sold \$201.00
2. Donna Sateri - sold \$132.50
3. William Narrows - sold \$131.00

Yankee Candle

1. Harleen Dhillon - sold \$335.00
2. Nicole Kressley - sold \$233.00
3. Amy St. Jean - sold \$99.00

IN APPRECIATION

The children enjoyed a dance class courtesy of Ashburn Academy of Ballet. We thank Anne Marie Kimmell and Katherine Beliveau for generously lending their time and expertise so that WTPP students could enjoy a complimentary movement class. For more information about classes offered at this studio, please call 703.723.8089 or visit www.ashburnballet.com.



We also appreciate Minton's Academy of Music for hosting our children during a field trip to their studio. Thank you to Anne Marie Minton and her staff who generously shared their time and expertise so that WTPP students could learn more about music education. For more information about music classes in Ashburn, please call 703.723.1154 or visit www.mintonsmusic.com.

Many thanks to Dr. Michael Gazori of Little Pearls Dentistry and his staff for visiting our school and teaching our children about dental hygiene. The kids learned how to brush properly by practicing on Grace the Dinosaur's teeth. They also learned tips for keeping the "sugar bugs" away! Dr. Gazori's office is located in Lansdowne. Call 703.726.3030 or visit www.littlepearlsdentistry.com.



Welcome WTPP Legacies

- Baby Girl Zubroski - Congrats to Rebecca Zubroski and family!
Baby Boy Latta- Best wishes to Jocelyn Latta and family!
Baby Girl Barnhill - Congrats to Maggie Barnhill and family!

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FUN AND HEALTHY SNACKS

Here's a great snack idea that promotes cooperation and team work!
Shared by Kerin Webb

Friendship Snack Mix: I provided each child in SR5 with an ingredient: whole grain goldfish, Cheerios, dried fruit, pretzels and Teddy Grahams. We took turns putting our ingredients into one bowl and then we each had a turn to stir. We worked together and made a delicious and nutritious snack for our school day! We made extra to take home too!



At WTPP, parents and teachers work in partnership to promote healthy eating habits and healthy attitudes about food.

We encourage parents to help their children select healthy options to serve as snack on their special day.

PARENTS' PICKS

Many thanks to Lindsey Granger (son in SR1) for sharing the following parenting articles and yummy recipes!

EMBRACING MOMMY GUILT

http://moms.today.com/_news/2011/01/21/5891578-why-we-should-embrace-the-mommy-guilt

THE CASE AGAINST OVER-PARENTING

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1940395-1,00.html>

MARY HARTZELL, TEACHER AND NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER, on PARENTING and DISCIPLINING WITH LOVE

<http://goop.com/newsletter/113/>

Try these recipes enjoyed by Lindsey and her family:

BANANA SWEET POTATO MUFFINS

<http://umamigirl.com/2009/10/halloween-banana-sweet-potato-muffins.html>

SWEET POTATO ENCHILADAS

<http://www.theydrawandcook.com/recipes/sweet-potato-enchiladas-by-roxy-christensen>

(Lindsey uses anywhere from 3-5 sweet potatoes, has added chicken, and has room for 8 flour tortillas in her Pyrex dish).

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NURTURING YOUR CHILD'S CREATIVITY

Preparing for Kindergarten

Shared by Nancy Geier

Parents are their child's first teacher and they know their child in ways no one else does. Parents often ask how they can prepare their child for kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers recommend that the child entering kindergarten have the following concepts or skills.

LANGUAGE/LITERACY

- Exposure to rhyming (say/recall simple nursery rhymes)
- Discriminate between letters and numbers
- Recognize first name (orally and visually)
- Know letters in first name
- Print first name (first letter capitalized and remaining letters are lower case.)
- Use correct pencil grasp (crayons, markers)
- Recognize colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange, white, black, brown, purple)
- Listen to a story attentively and without interrupting
- Hold/handle a book
- Sing and say ABCs
- Exposure to alphabet (identify most upper case letters)
- Print experiences (knows that print is read)
- Understand and demonstrate positional words (over, under, in, out, behind, in front)

MATH

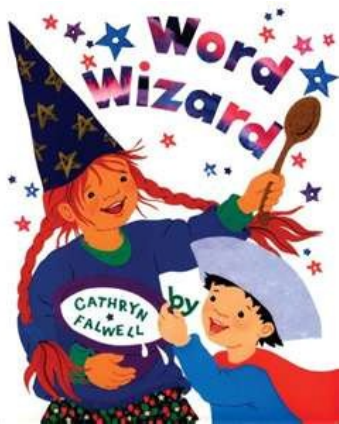
- One to one correspondence to 5
- Rote count to 10
- Recognize numbers - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Identify basic shapes (square, circle)
- Understand comparison words

SOCIAL/SELF-HELP SKILLS

- Able to operate backpack brought to school
- Recognize personal space (keep hands and feet to oneself)
- Listen and follow directions (one-step and two-step)
- Use scissors properly
- Put on jacket/coat and button or zip it
- Express bathroom needs/ know how to properly use the bathroom
- Able to wash hands
- Able to put toys away
- Know how to line up and walk in line
- Separate from parent
- Able to carry on a conversation with others (another child, friend, adult)
- Can tell how he/she feels
- Raise hand to speak
- Attend to a task for 10 minutes
- Can say first and last name



Feel free to discuss kindergarten readiness with your child's preschool teacher. Parents may also find it helpful to visit local elementary school websites to review kindergarten learning outcomes.



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RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Cathryn Falwell is the author and illustrator of many award-winning children's books including *Word Wizard*, a Notable Children's Book; *The Letter Jesters*, a Reading Rainbow book; and *Feast for 10*, a featured title on the PBS show Barney.

Get set for an anagram adventure with *Word Wizard!* "When Anna scrambles the letters of a word to create a new word, she is making an anagram: a word or phrase formed by reordering the letters of another word or phrase." The author suggests using alphabet pasta, buttons, and veggies to create anagrams. Children will have fun while discovering the amazing power of words!

David's Drawings may provide comfort and encouragement to children who face the task of making friends in new situations. "One winter day David sees a beautiful bare tree. As soon as he gets to school, this shy young boy who loves to draw begins a picture of the tree he has seen. One by one his classmates come by with suggestions for the drawing, but the fun really starts when they all join David to add grass, stickers, clouds, a rainbow, and other imaginative details to the picture. As the drawing develops, David overcomes his shyness and finds a way to make new friends."

WINNIE-THE-POOH EXECUTIVE BOARD

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We encourage you to contact any member of the executive board with your questions, ideas, and suggestions. We value your input and want to maintain a positive and inclusive environment for children and their families.

Please contribute to the "Parents' Pick" section in future newsletters and send your recommendations/referrals for kid-friendly activities, programs, books, recipes, etc. to Partamin Nawabi at pfarzadnawabi@yahoo.com.

Please contact Partamin if you wish to advertise your business, organization, or upcoming special event in this newsletter.

It is the goal of WTPP to provide each child, according to their own temperament and needs, with supervised play and social and emotional learning experiences with children their own age. The children will have the opportunity to learn to respect and accept the rights and also the differences of others. They will be presented with art, music, books and creative projects that are geared to their age level. Through various activities, the child will learn about the world around him and develop a feeling of belonging and security. It is the goal of WTPP to develop a child who is ready for primary school education, and complement, not replace, early learning between parent and child.

WTPP offers children a program based on the following sound education principles:

1. **Individual acceptance:** It is important for each child to be accepted as they are. Each child is helped to develop their own capabilities at their own rate of progress.
2. **Freedom within limits:** Children need to know that there are limits beyond which they cannot go. They need order to their day. They also need freedom to play – their imagination and curiosity need room to wander.
3. **A child-sized world:** Children need to find themselves in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where they can explore, share, and play and communicate with others their own age.
4. **Parent participation:** Parents come to school regularly, not merely to visit, but to participate and to observe. The parents learn about their own children in a broader perspective. The parent can observe other adults and other methods. Through close association with professionally trained teachers, parents acquire specialized skills and greater understanding of their children and their children's peer group.
5. **Three-way sharing:** In a cooperative preschool, one finds fellowship. Child-parent-teacher sharing furthers the adult's understanding of children and facilitates the children's adjustment to their first school experience. The parents are also working together to provide the best possible preschool experience for their children at a minimum cost.

A Loving Teacher

Shared by Kerin Webb

Things our grown-up mind defies
Appear as giants in children's eyes.
A gentle touch upon her head
A simple word when kindly said.
Complete attention when she calls.
Her knowing you have given all.
Correcting in a loving way.
Instilling trust in what you say.

Making her believe unique
The tiny flaw upon her cheek.
Admiring old and faded dresses.
Reminding her we all make messes.
Words of comfort you've softly spoken
A promise you've made she knows won't be
broken.

Your knowing her doll that was lost today
Is just as important as bills you can't pay
Helping make her plans and schemes
Giving her hope and building her dreams.
All of this and so much more
Is in her mind forever stored.
They who touch her life awhile
Can either make or break that child.
Education is important, true,

But so much more, her faith in you.
You've weathered through the storm and strife;
You helped to build a small girl's life.
You're truly one to be admired.
For you gave more than was required.

-- Pat McClain