

January 30th, 2022



Dearest Nursery parents,

Wishing you a happy Sunday!

Last week, we welcomed Carter (parents, Stephanie and Tony) and Grayson (parents Monica and Alex) into our class. We have also just added one more family into the Nursery and Lucas's family will soon be joining us in February. I am attaching a list of the children in the class and parents' names with the hopes of fostering an opportunity for families to get to know each other. We are at cap for 12 children in the classroom now!

The biggest milestone for the children entering the Nursery is for them to acclimate to coming to school on their own. As the children who have been with us since the fall have beautifully and joyfully fallen into the rhythm of coming to the school, I want to also now take that momentum and bring them to the next step of fostering more developmentally appropriate capacities especially for the children who will be age ready to enter Preschool next year. This will mean Miss. Claudia and I will be stepping back little by little so that the children can put their own shoes and jackets on themselves, unpack their lunches, set the table with their lunch mat and utensils, and the more you can also align your expectations at home, the more comfortable the children will be to take these capacities up on their own at school. You might start to hear complaints from your child about our tighter, warm, loving boundaries and expectations coming from their teachers. If you ever have questions and concerns, I am pleased to sit down and talk with you so please don't hesitate in reaching out.

Now, I hope you were inspired by the video last week from Michael D'Aleo. I am always inspired by hearing about how a very unconventional method of education, without the focus on early academics and technology, is educating and sending forth students who are better equipped to meet the challenges of the future through their interdisciplinary, thinking capacity by the time they are in college. So now let's back up to Early Childhood, in this article called "Math and Science in Kindergarten" by Lisa Gromicko, it states how the Waldorf Early Childhood programs on the surface is not one where you'd expect to hear about an emphasis on math or science when first seen. Although instructional lessons don't start until 1st grade, in Early Childhood, the children are immersed in the biggest science lab - play! Also, by not instructing and just filling children from the beginning with abstract concepts and facts, we nurture children to be active learners, not passive, nurturing the love of exploration and joy of learning. Lisa Gromicko also goes on to describe the importance of learning about the quality of math and numbers instead of just the quantity in the subject matter. Children who have the opportunity to play outside have the opportunity to discover and experience gravity, spatial dimensions, buoyancy, gravity, centrifugal force, friction, balance, cause and effect, classification, order, patterns and sequence through their senses. Please note that the article was written for Preschool and Kindergarten aged children but she also goes into age-appropriate activities for the children in the Nursery. Again, please remember there's no need for the adults to instruct or explain but let your child be immersed in play, go on hikes out in nature to see the same habitat throughout different times of the year, garden and observe how something grows and change over time, cook and bake together, sort and organize together and give the best lesson in math and science in the best age-appropriate science lab. I hope you enjoy the article!

I will see you and your wonderful children tomorrow.
Have a beautiful evening.

With warmest wishes,

Maria Morioka
WSOC Nursery Teacher