



La Verne Parent Participation Preschool

NOVEMBER 2009

Autumn Brings an Opportunity for Nature Lessons

Bonnie Heller, Director

As autumn arrives, I always recall my childhood. Fall was my favorite season of the year. I loved the cool, crisp air and the oranges, golds and reds of the leaves. Although the changes are subtle here in Southern California, I still tried to share my favorite season with the children. Some of my fondest memories are of being outside together and taking walks to admire the trees, and collecting leaves, acorns and other treasures.

We'd talk, not only about the colors of the leaves, but also the sizes, shapes, and parts of the leaves. Sometimes we'd make "autumn collages," press the best leaves into the phone book, or rake leaves and jump into the piles!

Autumn gives us a wonderful opportunity to share nature with children. By exposing children to nature, we're giving them a gift of a faithful, life-long friend. Nature has a therapeutic quality—it is calming and often offers a sense of peace.

How we relate to nature can give us lessons about how we relate to each other. Nature develops an understanding of oneself and it brings out the best in children. At preschool, we are looking for signs of autumn, raking leaves into piles to jump in them, and watching our "resident" squirrel watch us. Our time experiencing nature is strengthened through art activities, cooking, music and books. Have fun sharing nature with your children and showing them the wonders of autumn.

A Few Reminders for Our Working Parents

Stephanie Coombs, President

Please be attentive to arrive in the classroom ready to assist your teacher at 8:45 a.m. I know this may sound rigid, but the teachers only have those 15 minutes to do last minute preparations for the day and they count on

our help. If you are late, your teacher will submit a fine to be put on your next tuition bill. Let's do our part and not make this awkward for anybody. In addition, we are expected to stay until 12:15 p.m. Some of us clean quickly, which is great, but out of fairness

and respect, please do not leave early without permission from your teacher (or Director for the housekeeper). There is always plenty to do and they may see something you missed. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events to Remember

Teacher Conferences: Nov. 23rd/24th
Make sure you sign up for a date and time. Please do not bring your child to the conference; this is a time to share things regarding your child, which is best done without them present. If childcare is an issue, please sign up with another parent and take turns watching each other's kids on the playground.

Winter Program: Dec. 14th/15th
With December fast approaching, the teachers will begin to prepare for the winter program. The programs are on

Monday, Dec. 14 for MWF families and Tuesday, Dec. 15 for TTH families. Each program begins at 7 p.m. The attire for the children is pajamas. While the program is not a professional production, it is always a cute and entertaining time. The program is held in the church's sanctuary. Although it is not a very big venue, feel free to invite family to attend. Following the program we have dessert and healthy snacks to share. As the date gets closer, more information will come, as well as a sign-up sheet to bring desserts.

Important Dates to Remember

November

Work Day (11/14)
Holiday Portraits (11/19-11/21)
Parent/Teacher Conferences
(11/23, 11/24)
Thanksgiving Break (11/26-11/29)

December

Room 3 Christmas Is...(12/3,12/4)
Winter Program (12/14, 12/15)
Class Celebrations (12/17, 12/18)
Winter Break (12/21-1/3)

January

Work Day (1/9)
No School (1/18)
Pajama Day (1/21,1/22)



Happy Fall to All of My Friends!

Tanya Bartholomew, Room 1

Room 1 is having a blast!!! Potty training is going GREAT and we have two more friends in underwear.

From now to the end of the year, we will have very busy days ahead! The holidays are approaching, and we are going to keep busy by making gifts, learning new songs, and hopefully sharing family traditions with our friends.

I would like to remind everyone to

please do your best to be on time when you are the working parent. We will have crafts to prep and we help set up the yard in the morning. We only have those 15 minutes to prepare for the day and we need every minute. Also: if you are not a working parent, please wait until 9 to drop off your little one; we need that time to prepare and be ready for the day's activities.

I would like to thank all the parents that have helped out extra, both in the

class and out. I really appreciate the extra cleaning, as well as the donation of books, supplies and toys! Thank you! I would also like to add that I am very proud of our little ones. They have learned the routine of the class, they are participating more, and they are forming lots of special friendships.

Please remember to regularly check your cubbies to make sure your child has extra clothes and underwear/diapers/pull-ups. Thank you, Mrs. B

Lots of Fun in Store for Our Friends in Room 2!

Jackie Rheingans, Room 2



The time is flying by in Room 2. We had so much fun in October, talking about pumpkins and then picking our own pumpkins during our trip to the pumpkin patch.

It is time to start thinking about conferences. Conferences are optional. You may sign up on either Monday 11/23 or Tuesday 11/24. Please do not bring your child with you unless you have arranged childcare. I won't be

comfortable talking about your child if they are in the room. This is a great time to bring up any concerns you might have, so come prepared with your own questions or comments.

I want to let everyone know that we will be having a book exchange in December. Everyone will bring a wrapped book to exchange at the Holiday celebration. We usually ask that the book not cost over \$5. Great books can be found in the Scholastic book orders or keep an eye out for

books on sale. Please, no "Golden Books" or color/activity books.

I would like to thank everyone that has worked in Room 2. I appreciate all your extra effort and I know that it means a lot to your children to have you working in class. Last, I would like to remind everyone that we go outside first thing in the morning. We stick to our schedule, even in cold weather. The only time we stay in is if it is really wet outside. Be sure and send your child with a jacket. Thanks! Mrs. R

What Our Room 3 Friends Are Thankful For...

Bonnie Heller, Room 3

We have been enjoying autumn by painting leaves and acorns, cracking nuts and sharing them with our animal friends, and talking about what it means to be thankful or grateful. The children have given a wide variety of answers to the question, "What are you thankful for?" Our MWF children are thankful for paints, cats, pumpkins, pets, dogs, Disneyland and Star Wars, and airplanes. They are thankful for families, including grandparents who take them to the train station and Grandpas who know how to fix beds. For Mommies who drive to the airport, school, Disneyland and friend's houses. For Daddies, who take them to Awana and tickle them. They are also thankful for their teacher, who reads books to them in the loft and lets them pick out of the treasure chest. Our TTH children are thankful for families, cars, Spiderman, doggies, every superhero in the whole entire world and ScoobyDoo. What a list!

Here is my list: I am thankful for Nathan, who has an incredible imagination; for Tucker, who has the greatest dance moves; for AnaSofia and the sweet joy she gets from art; for Keira, who gives the longest, most interesting

answers to simple questions; and to Santiago, who is very safety conscious and always lets me know if something looks dangerous. I am thankful for the kind and nurturing ways Brodie looks out for all the two-year olds on the playground, for Kate, who loves school so much that she gets very sad if she has to go home a few minutes early, and for Ronan who makes sure I don't forget anyone when I go around and ask questions. I am thankful for Arturo, who always knows the day of the week and month when I just can't remember, and for Payton and Sophia, who like to make me food in our play kitchen when they think I am hungry. I am thankful for Jack, who tells me all about the Ireland I have loved all my life and long to visit, and for Dylan, who can take over as teacher for me and read to the other children when I am just too tired!

I am thankful for Sean, who is always happy and makes me happy, too; for Natalia, who teaches me all about princesses; for Avery for her willingness to try anything; for John and Audrey for their incredible enthusiasm about EVERYTHING, and for Emma for making me laugh every single day! I am so thankful that you have all entrusted your children to me. They all give me joy every day!

Raffles, Pumpkins and Restaurants...

Lisa Oler, Donations Coordinator



I want to give a BIG thank you to all the vendors who offered their products/services for our Halloween Raffle and another BIG thank you to the families and friends who bought tickets. We would also

like to thank Cal Poly for all the pumpkins! With your help, we were able to raise \$245 from the raffle and a little over \$100 from the pumpkins. Our next raffle will be in December and just wait until you see what awesome items we have for that! Start saving your dollars now! Raffle tickets will be sold the

week before the holiday program.

We will begin hosting restaurant nights soon. We are planning a night at Casa Del Rey in San Dimas, hopefully in November. We will also plan a night at Chuck E. Cheese for January. Please look for a note in your mailboxes with details. I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving!

Thanks to Our Tuesday/Thursday Families

Jennifer Hinojos, TTH Scheduler

I would like to thank all the wonderful Tuesday/Thursday families for helping me with the classroom scheduling! You guys have been awesome! So far, everything has been running smoothly, and I hope everyone is happy. I appreciate those of

you who let me know when you have special circumstances. I am more than happy to work with you!

I have really enjoyed meeting all of our families, and I look forward to getting to know you all better as the school year progresses. An extra-special thanks goes out to our Room 3 parents. I sure appreciate

your understanding with the scheduling situation, since there are fewer children in Room 3 this year. Please make sure you tell your 4-5 year old friends to join your children and become students here at LVPPP! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns with the scheduling.

MWF: Off to a Great Start

Dina Corthell, MWF Scheduler

We are off to a great start! Thank you for your cooperation with the November/December schedule being combined into one. If you have a special request pertaining to the schedule, I will need it in writing.

Just a few reminders: please remember that if you are a working parent you need to arrive 15 minutes early or (at the teacher's discretion) you can be fined. Also, if you are the housekeeper, please do not forget to

clean the church restrooms. It is our responsibility to maintain the facilities. Make sure you sweep, clean the sink, wipe the toilet seat, mop the floor, empty the trash, and refill the toiletries. The church allows us to use the restrooms and this is part of the deal that LVPPP has made with them.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to talk to me. I am more than willing to clear up any confusion there may be. Once again, thank you!

A Message from RACC

The Treasure Box is a great way to reach out to our local community and provide food for all! There are no income qualifications—the program is open to everyone. For \$30, you receive a box of frozen food worth \$75-\$100. The high-quality food includes chicken, turkey, vegeta-



bles, and more. Each month has a new menu; each menu is posted the previous month. If you like the menu, you can order at the church office or online (www.thetreasurebox.org). The boxes are delivered to the church. Spread the word, and don't forget to order one for yourself!

Featured Snack: Holiday Rolls

- 1 package of Bridgford rolls
- Melted butter or margarine
- Powdered or granular sugar
- Dried fruit, nuts, cinnamon, coconut, sprinkles, etc.

Defrost the rolls in the bag so that the rolls do not develop a tough skin. Once the rolls are defrosted, allow your child to roll the dough into balls and make a flat shape. (The edges of the rolls should touch slightly.) Easy shapes can be a wreath, tree, or snowman. They can then brush the rolls with melted butter, dust with sugar, and decorate. Allow the rolls to raise for 30 minutes before baking in a 350° oven for 20 minutes, or until firm to the touch and golden brown.

Cookies and Candies: An Update on Fundraising

Amanda Baumunk, Fundraising
Monica Ramos, Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the fundraisers so far. It has been a tremendous help! For Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough, we sold \$3,800, which earned us a profit of \$1,500. Our top sellers for the cookie dough fundraiser were: the A. Garcia family, selling \$435;

the Oler family, selling \$390; the Tovar and Coss families, both selling \$300. Great job!

The cookie dough will be delivered to school on Wednesday, November 18th, and you will need to pick up your order between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Remember: the dough is frozen, so it needs to be picked up as soon as possible!

Our next fundraisers coming up are See's Candies (November 16th through December 4th) and the Tri-Marc Family Photos (November 19th to the 21st). For more information on the family portraits or to schedule your family's appointment, please see the school's website.

And don't forget to keep bringing in your plastic bottles for recycling!

Holiday Recipe: Pumpkin Energy Bars

From the *Best 50 Energy Bar Cookies*
These are high in vitamin C and fiber, and are very moist.

1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin puree
½ cup egg whites (3-4)
¾ cup unsweetened applesauce
¾ cup brown sugar
1 ¼ cups whole wheat flour
½ cup old fashioned oat meal

¼ cup wheat germ
1 TB Pumpkin Pie Spice
½ tsp baking soda
1 cup dried cranberries
½ cup chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 350°. Spray a 9x13 pan with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, thoroughly mix the pumpkin, egg whites, applesauce

and brown sugar. Stir in flour, oats, wheat germ, spice, baking soda, cranberries and walnuts. Mix well for 2 minutes. Pour into prepared baking pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely on a wire rack in the pan. Remove from pan and cut into bars.

Makes 18-24 bars.

Free, Local Holiday Activities for the Family

Holiday Lights: Each year, the city of Glendora gives awards to houses with the best displays of holiday lights and animatronics. There are several streets that children would really enjoy visiting. The best holiday walk is Payson St. to S. Glencroft to Renwick Rd. (The bottom, left circle.) All of the homes on the street are decorated to the hilt, including one home with lights set to music. It can be strolled within an hour. It becomes more crowded as Christmas draws near, so visit early. Several of the streets around Gladstone have beautifully decorated homes too, but are better driven because fewer homes decorate. Glencroft (the top circle) has two spectacular homes that win animation awards every year.

Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express: Saturday, December 19th, at 7 p.m., Metrolink's Annual Holiday Train will come to Claremont's Metrolink Station. Employees put on a short show with music, but the best part for the kids is the engine covered in Christmas lights pulling cars with animatronic characters. Firefighters are on hand to collect new toys for the Spark of Love Toy Drive.



