

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE NURSERY SCHOOL
24 Vernon Street 508-875-8260
November 2009
www.fcnsma.org

CALENDAR REVIEW

November 11, Wednesday - School closed - Veterans' Day - Silly Willy Family Event 10:30 am - 12:00 pm in Scott Hall
November 18, Wednesday - Family Night and Scholastic Book Fair from 6 pm - 7:30 pm
November 24, Tuesday - School closes at end of day for Thanksgiving holiday. School reopens Mon., Nov. 30
December 22, Tuesday - December Recess begins at end of day. School reopens Monday, January 4

FAMILY NIGHT and SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR – Wednesday, November 18 from 6-7:30 pm

Please join us at school on the evening of November 18. This is a terrific opportunity for your child to share his or her classroom and school. Parents, brothers/sisters, grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins – everyone is invited to join the fun and to come and go as you please. The classrooms will be decorated with children's work, snacks will be available and the book fair will be open for browsing and sales (more information will be available shortly).

2009 – 2010 SCHOOL YEAR OPENINGS

We still have space available in some AM, the PM and all extended hours classes for new students, so please let your friends, relations and neighbors with preschool age children know about us. Currently enrolled children may also wish to enroll for extended hours.

If you need extra care on occasion for your child we can also accommodate drop-ins in some AM, the PM and all extended hours classes. Please check with the office to be sure that a particular day has not been booked.

2010 – 2011 SCHOOL YEAR OPENINGS

It's hard to believe that we must begin to think about enrollment for next year! In addition to continuing the toddler program for children 2.00 – 2.08, we are also considering adding Spanish as a special part of the 4-hour classes as well as adding an additional Pre-K 4-hour class.

During November we will be sending an application home with every child eligible to return to FCNS next September. If you have any doubts/concerns about your child going on to Kindergarten in September, it would be safer to enroll him/her now and finalize your decision in the late spring or during the summer. If you have a younger child who will be at least 2.0 in September, he/she will also need to have an application. **The application with a \$100 registration fee should be returned as soon as possible (by Fri., 12/11, at the latest) to retain your priority status. Available space is filled on a first come, first served basis.** The maximum registration fee for a family with more than two children enrolled is \$225. Because tuition rates for 2010-11 will not be available until early December, we will hold all registration checks until you have the tuition information and confirm with us your wish to enroll your child.

During the first week of December we will also be mailing registration materials to any families who have been in to visit us during the fall. If you know of anyone who is interested in the FCNS program for their child, please have them contact the office soon to schedule a tour.

HOLIDAY SHARING

In the spirit of the holidays we also want to think of others. We are suggesting that any families wishing to "give" would help us to remember some of the less fortunate children in our community. This is a wonderful time and way to teach our children about sharing with others. Beginning Friday, 11/6, we will put a "SHARING BOX" in the entry room. We would like to collect hats, mittens socks, underwear and tights for toddler and preschool-aged children. The items should be NEW and unwrapped. We will deliver the gifts to the Framingham Resource Center by 3pm on Monday, 11/30. Please help us help others to have a happier holiday season. Thank you!

DO YOU KNOW? PLAY AND THE PROCESS OF PROCESS v. PRODUCT

Play is what has always been most important in a child's experience at FCNS along with respecting individuals and nurturing each child's particular needs. Young children are like scientists – they want to find out how things work by handling an item, trying different ways of using it and determining limitations and possibilities. Gradually over time and with lots of first-hand doing, the child is able to create a concept from the information gained from this intensive "study". Generalizing from the specific is a very mature cognitive skill that results from freedom to learn through play.

Learning through exploration and synthesizing concepts is also the heart of the process oriented curriculum. Teachers take their cues from the children's level of development, questions, interests and ideas and then structure the learning opportunities by the books they read to the class, the discussions they initiate, the way they set up different areas of

the room, the activities they plan and the choices they present to the children. This means that the children and the teachers are working as a team determining how the class proceeds. Children's ages, developmental levels and previous experiences will be crucial to shaping the appropriate endpoint, but the goal is for each child to benefit, take the next step in learning and to have many opportunities to represent what he or she knows with open ended materials.

Developmentally based activities for fall include:

- Sorting, categorizing, counting, identifying and labeling acorns and other items collected on a nature walk may result in no product to take home. If a leaf collage does come home, can you find the rule (i.e. matching by color, shape or size) that your child used when choosing leaves to collect and glue with? Did he/she use more than one rule?
- Fall is a time for seeds – why do plants make seeds? If you take a walk outside with an old sock over your shoe, what will stick to the sock? When the sock is kept moist, what may happen to some of the things that stuck to it? What can you see when you look at a growing seed with a magnifying glass? What happens if you plant some of those acorns that were collected? What about the seeds in the fruits we eat? What happens to change the state of matter when you cook apples or pumpkins? Again, there is much information being acquired while the children are engaged in activities that stretch their minds but may result in no products to take home.
- Or maybe children pretend in the house corner to be animals gathering food for the coming winter. In the process they cooperate with each other and compromise as they use language and their imaginations in social play.
- What is the benefit for a child of having time and access to collected objects and basic art materials? Maybe those materials become a mixed media collage that can express in each child's uniquely creative way the integrated learning from other fall related activities. Here is a product that is the fruit of your child's thought process.

There will always be a time and a place for less open-ended and/or skill-based projects. We want to be sure, though, that they are developmentally appropriate and are balanced by many other choices.

STORMY WEATHER AND FCNS CLOSURE

The Nursery School is always closed for inclement weather when Framingham Public Schools are closed. "No School" announcements are made on the major Boston TV and radio stations. PLEASE listen for these announcements from 5-9am. We will be closed for the day even if the weather and/or roads clear up by noon. If a storm develops during the school day and public schools close early, we will do the same. Please keep your "Green Sheet" up to date, especially your own daytime numbers, as well as the best person(s) to reach in case of any type of emergency.

REMINDERS (For more information, Policies and Procedures and the Parent Handbook are posted at www.fcnsma.org.)

- It is often difficult to talk at the beginning and end of the school day. If you have a concern, information to share, or would just like to touch base with your child's teacher, please call the school office at 508-875-8260 to leave a message or you can email us at kay.bryam@fcnsma.org. Teachers will be happy to return your call or email at their earliest opportunity. Teachers have also been setting up "transitioning into school" conferences for any interested parents. A detailed explanation of how FCNS assesses children, conferences with parents and sets goals for children will be sent to you shortly.
- Replace your child's extra set of clothing with warmer, more seasonal (**and labeled!**) items. Socks, too!
- For those families who are new to New England, snow pants and leggings are easy to find now, but once stocks are sold out soon after the first snow there will be no more available until next winter. Snow pants are necessary for comfortable outdoor play for your child during our very cold winters whether there's much snowfall or not. Please send mittens and not gloves with your child for outdoor play once the weather becomes colder. Striving for independence can sometimes be frustrating because many children are not yet able to successfully master gloves on their own. Dress your child for outdoor play EVERY day - we do play outdoors every day unless it is below 20°F, very slippery, or very wet. **Please mark ALL outdoor clothing with your child's name or initials.**
- In general, keep independence in mind when you dress your child for a day at school. Managing straps, buttons, hooks, tiny zippers, etc. by him/herself can sometimes be a real task for a child.
- Please keep your child home when he/she has a fresh cold or a cough or other illness. Remember that H1N1 may present first as a cold. When other children and teachers are exposed, they are likely to get sick also. Let us know when your child has a contagious disease such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, etc. because we must inform other parents about exposure.
- Good hand washing is important in keeping everyone well. It is especially important after using the toilet and before eating (ask your child to sing "Happy Birthday" twice, the ABC song or count to 20 before washing the soap off in running water; away from home teach your child to dry off his/her hands with a paper towel and then cover the faucet with the towel to turn the water off). Also very effective in preventing the spread of infections is asking children to sneeze and/or cough into their arm or elbow area instead of into their hand(s) and to keep their hands away from their faces.