

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

CALENDAR REVIEW

- **October 7, Wednesday – FCNS is OPEN (Framingham Public Schools are NOT OPEN)**
- **October 12, Monday** - School closed - Columbus Day
- **October 14, Wednesday** – PTO Morning Meeting, **9:15am**
- **October 17, Saturday** - FCNS Open House for prospective families, **11:00am - 1:30pm**
- **October 19, Monday** - Yankee Candle Orders due
- **October 21-22, Wednesday-Thursday** - School Pictures
- **November 11, Wednesday** - School closed - Veterans' Day
- **November 11, Wednesday** – Silly Willy the Clown Family Event, **10:30am-12pm**
- **November 18, Wednesday** - Family Night and Book Fair, **6-7:30pm**
- **November 24, Tuesday** - School closes at end of day for Thanksgiving holiday. School reopens Mon., Nov. 30

HALLOWEEN is certainly in the air!

- At FCNS we celebrate this holiday in a very low-key way. Halloween is incorporated into our fall and harvest curriculum of changing leaves, cooler weather and ripe apples and pumpkins. We discuss bats, witches and the more scary things of Halloween so that we can learn what is real and what is pretend at this time of the year (skeletons, for example, are the same as the bones in our own bodies). We also read stories, use lots of orange and black and talk about not eating treats until a parent says it's OK. One thing we do not do at FCNS is to wear our costumes to school. We do talk about what we will be and listen to our friends talk about their plans for Halloween evening.
- Each classroom will be having a special Halloween snack and there will be sign-up lists outside of the classroom doors if you would like to contribute something (there are many other opportunities to help out during the school year – the children would enjoy special healthy snacks on other days, too!). **NO candy, peanuts or tree nuts please, or goodie bags and only one person per sign-up category.** Please check with your child's teachers to see whether or not there are food allergies that you need to be aware of because there are some serious ones this year. We also want to encourage healthy eating at school. Thank you in advance for your help and your consideration.

FAMILY NIGHTS and BOOK FAIR

- Our annual Family Night and Book Fair will be from 6:00 - 7:30pm on Wednesday, November 18. This is a chance for your child to share his/her school and for the whole family to visit our classrooms to see what fun we have at FCNS! The more, the merrier!!
- We will sell books from Scholastic Books that evening in the Music and Entry Rooms. There will also be Book Fair hours during the daytime – look for more information to be sent home with the children in the next few weeks. FCNS will benefit from this fundraising event in the form of wonderful books for our classrooms and library and funds for classroom and playground needs.

SHARING CELEBRATIONS

We would like to honor important family traditions for our October – November bulletin board in tribute to FCNS' status as a global village and the richness of our diversity and also as a way to get to know each other better.

We invite you to share your family's most meaningful "together time" with us, holiday or not no matter when it occurs during the year, by way of a photograph, a story, a poem, a symbolic object or anything else you can think of. A song on CD or tape recording might even be played during music classes; a game or dance could be taught at gym.

Things to be shared for the bulletin board can be given to me any time. We promise to take good care of your treasures and to return them to you in early December. Thank you for sharing your special festive occasions!

DO YOU KNOW? – RESPONDING TO CHILDREN'S ART

Would you like to say something more than "That's beautiful!" about your child's drawings/paintings/collages? Specific responses to the art will aid creativity, thinking skills and language development. Suggestions: "Would you like to tell me about your picture?" "Did you use a favorite color?" "I like the color(s) you used." Name a specific color or ask the child to tell you the other color(s) used. "Look at that long blue line you made. I like the way it goes from here to here ... all over the paper like this." (point or trace) "I like the way you put all these things together."

Symbolic representation of an object by drawing or painting is a developmental milestone that occurs as your child's cognitive and fine motor abilities grow. And, of course, once those abilities develop your child may not choose to always represent an object in a standard way that you recognize. Think of Picasso and cubism or Jackson Pollock and his spatters and drips. It is your child's own ideas that are important.

Expression of creativity requires learning the limits of any medium, which can be done only by "mucking around" with it for some time. The end result you see in the portfolio of your child's work may have no clues as to what materials were available or of the beauty of the earlier stages of creation. Clay may have undergone several transformations from the initial "snowman" to the final "volcano", or there may have never been a representational intention on the child's part at all. The important thing is that all art comes from the artist's unique vision and cannot be either right or wrong. Children use their imagination and creative ability to explore things adults can no longer see!

EXTRA TIME AT SCHOOL

When you need a bit of flexibility we offer all of these opportunities for extra time on a drop-in basis, given available space for any particular date:

- Early Arrival is always available on M-F from 8:00 – 9:00 at a cost of \$9.50/day (\$4.75 for 8:30 – 9:00). No advance sign-up necessary.
- Lunch Bunch is available on MWF from 11:45 – 1:00 at a cost of \$12/day. There is limited space on TTh.
- Stay Day is available M-F from 11:45 – 2:45 at a cost of \$25/day.
- Extended Day is always available M-F from 2:45 or 3:00 – 5:30 at a cost of \$9.50 (to 4:00), \$19 (to 5:00) or \$23.75/day (to 5:30). No advance sign-up necessary.
- AM/PM Class drop-in is available in some classes that are not filled on all days at a cost of \$27/day.

MISCELLANEOUS for those of you who missed the parent orientation night

- Please send your child to school in **safe, comfortable shoes**. No Crocs or other sandals are permitted at school. Playground pebbles and mulch get inside them. Dress shoes are slippery inside and out on the playground. Sneakers are necessary on gym days (Monday and Tuesday).
- Label everything in large letters, on the outside of lunch boxes and backpacks – it will help us help your child. Within a couple of weeks we will begin to label with indelible marker any items that you have not labeled. Check spare clothes frequently – we always need to have a child's own clothes (that is usually a child's preference instead of wearing ours) that both fit and are seasonal. Please send just 1 set of clothes – more is hard for children to manage.

FYI

- **Please be cautious and let only those you recognize as FCNS parents into the building as you exit.** This is a time of year when many visitors are taking tours of the school as they think about enrollment for next year. It is a good thing for them to see that the entire FCNS community is serious about security.
- Monthly Framingham Family Calendars are posted on the following link to the Framingham Public Schools website www.framingham.k12.ma.us/framinghamfamily.htm.
- Cash was dropped in the parking lot the week of 9/22. Please check with the office if you think it's yours.

BEGINNINGS, ENDINGS and SAFETY

Organizing logistics for an environment serving 109 children so that it runs smoothly is a challenge to do without seeming to be rigid or inhospitable. In fact, we often tell the children that there are different ways of doing things and different rules for different places. As you read the requests below, please remember that we have the children's best interests at heart because that is what drives every decision we make. Thank you for your cooperation!

Beginnings

- *You can help us better organize the busy time just before school starts by waiting in the entry room until a minute or two before your child's class starts. It is very hectic getting children who have been with Mrs. O'Bryan and Mrs. Weinberg in the Early Arrival class to their morning classes at 8:55 when the halls are filled with parents and children who are already waiting outside their classroom doors.*
- *We love seeing you when you drop your child off, but we may need to shoo you out of the room very quickly at the beginning of your child's class. The beginning of the school year is a time of transition for all children, but particularly those who are younger or for whom this is a brand new experience.*

- *Classes come together as unique groupings of personalities, interests and chemistries, and the added complication of our small space means that children frequently cannot get into the important part of the morning or afternoon in the presence of parents and siblings. Children may also feel sad if another parent lingers, but their parent does not.*
- *With a 2 hour and 45 minute class time, we often feel rushed for time and may need to start our day before you are really ready to say good-bye. One possible solution to your understandable desire to be part of what goes on would be to set a time with your child's teacher to come in and visit – you're welcome to play, read a book or anything else you'd like to do. And once the children settle into the school year, then you are welcome at any time.*

Endings

- *Going home transitions at the other end the day are extremely stressful times for waiting and tired children. When class is over, teachers also need to either immediately leave their classroom to assume responsibility for another group of children or they have only a very short time to prepare for another class and take a quick lunch break. For these reasons, prompt pick up and departure with your child by 11:45, 2:45, 3:00 or 5:30 is appreciated.*

Safety

- *We also thank you for remembering that the church buildings, inside and out, and the grounds are full of things that require your supervision when your children are near. It is easy to be distracted when in conversation with other parents, but allowing your child to play anywhere except in the front courtyard is dangerous. Even there, children need close monitoring. We appreciate your help in keeping everybody safe!*
- *The courtyard is a wonderful outside space where families can visit and children can play. The hill above the playground is not a good place to play or talk – at the beginning of classes it may delay children going out onto the playground if the parent from whom they had a tough separation is standing right there in plain sight. Nearing pickup time it stops productive play on the playground when children see the sibs playing on the hillside or parents chatting.*