



St. Andrew's Preschool News

Well, we did it. We have completed our first few weeks of preschool. The hum of busy learning is back and it is one of my favorite sounds. It's the sound where children are engaged and teachers are coaching from the side creating the perfect balance of knowing when to assist and knowing when to stand back and allow the children to just be and do it themselves. Our classrooms are busy, vibrant, safe places for children to explore and discover.

We can't thank you enough for your help with the Kiss and Ride. The first few weeks can be a little frustrating and I appreciate your patience and positive attitude. Opening a preschool amidst a pandemic has its challenges but our teachers continue to be creative thinkers who have changed and adjusted their program so children can do what they do best-play.

Our Food For Friends community outreach program is back. September's donation sign up had a short turn around time so we used September as a training time for all of our new volunteers. From October-May, you will receive a sign up genius at the beginning of the month for the items we need. We will collect those items at the Kiss and Ride. Once the volunteers organize the donations, the 150 bags of food will be packed and delivered to a local elementary school to help families who are food insecure.

Lunch Bunch classes will begin in October. Lunch Bunches are offered 4 times a month. Children who attend Lunch Bunch must be fully potty trained. That means they need to come to school in underwear and tell us when they need to use the bathroom instead of us telling them. If your child is not ready to stay, it is a wonderful incentive for moving forward in the potty training process. If there is a question about whether your child is ready to stay for Lunch Bunch, please ask your teachers. Lunch Bunch extends the day to 1:15 PM for a charge of \$12.00 per class. When your child stays for Lunch Bunch, pack both a nut free snack and lunch and place a label on the snack. Thank you.

Enrichment classes also begin in October and are for our students who will enter Kindergarten the following year. These classes expose our Pre-K students to activities and groupings they will see in a Kindergarten classroom. Enrichment classes are offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week and extend the school day until 2:15 PM for a charge of \$25.00 per class. Pre-K students may also stay for Lunch Bunches but it tends to be younger children for Lunch Bunch and older students for Enrichment. When your child stays for Lunch Bunch, pack both a nut free snack and lunch and place a label on the snack. Thank you.

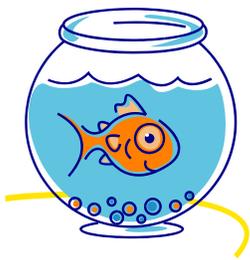
You may sign up for Lunch Bunch or Enrichment through Sign Up Genius. Celene will send you the link through the weekly newsletter. We need at least 6 children to sign up for each Lunch Bunch or Enrichment class in order for it to take place. You will be billed for those classes at the end of each month. If you sign up for a Lunch Bunch or Enrichment through Sign Up Genius and your plans change where you do not attend, you will still be billed for the class. If you sign up for a Lunch Bunch or Enrichment and the class is cancelled due to weather, not meeting the minimum requirement of 6 students, or a staffing issue, you will not be billed for the class.

As we move into fall, thank you in advance for staying vigilant about keeping each other safe and healthy so we can continue our adventure!

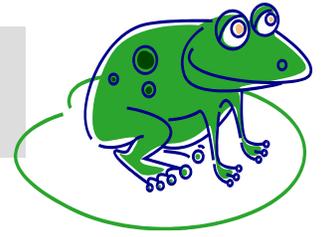
We are grateful for the opportunity to be with you and your children each day!

Warm regards,
Tami





The Fish and Frog Class



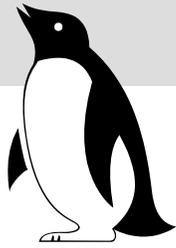
What an awesome start to the school year! All the Fish and Frogs have adjusted nicely to school. We are very proud of them! We have been learning about making new friends, keeping each other safe and classroom procedures. The students enjoyed reading How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? and D.W Goes to Preschool, both books are great models of the preschool experience. We have talked about our favorite colors. The children are busy making dot marker fish and frogs. It was great to see them use their fine motor skills while coloring, cutting and holding a pencil. In addition to colors, the kids have been creating self-portraits. We will compare/contrast the children's pictures at the end of the year. It's a remarkable transformation. They have been reviewing shapes. We used Mat Man to discuss the shapes. The Fish class created Mat Man collages with fall foliage and acorns. In both classes, students practiced spelling their names and identified the first letter of their names. The Fish identified the letters F and E. Both classes are so eager to learn and that makes us happy!

Everyone is enjoying all the activities in the classroom as well as the times we spend on the playground. The children are sitting at circle with their masks on, choosing their jobs, transitioning to different activities, using the restroom, lining up, and enjoying snack with their friends. Transitions can be challenging for the children, especially those new to preschool. They are handling it fabulously!

We will begin with a new unit "The Season of Fall and Apples". The children will be studying pumpkins, life on the farm and activities to reflect the season. Students will be making colorful stained-glass leaves to display in our windows. Fall is such a great time of year and we look forward to sharing the season with the children. Later in the month, we will have fun crafting Halloween projects

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for all your support and letting us spend time with your fantastic children.

We look forward to a wonderful year!
Lisa Winand and Nandita Rebello



The Penguin Class

The Penguin Class has had a wonderful start to the school year! All the students are coming into the room each morning excited to do their morning job, learn, and spend time with their new friends. We have spent time in morning circle discussing class rules to keep each other safe and happy, and talking about ourselves and our families. We have drawn self-portraits, glued name mosaics, and made kissing hands for the people we love. We've also learned many new songs. Your child can teach you songs about important things like how to wash your hands thoroughly, what to do when you have to cough or sneeze to minimize the spread of germs, and how to remember the days of the week. We have also been reviewing the alphabet, counting, and learning the letter A.

New friendships have formed during our class time, as the children play with playdough, sort items in our digging bin, make free art, play games, or "cook" together in our kitchen. These activities incorporate matching, color recognition, alphabet recognition, counting, and the ability to take turns in a larger group activity. Some favorite toys among the children that you might be hearing about are Magna-tiles (magnetic building tiles) and Alpha-Bots (letters that transform into 26 cool robots).

Snack time is going well in the class. When the weather is nice, we eat outside at the picnic tables on the playground. Whether inside or out, the children are doing a great job cleaning up their individual places and washing their hands afterwards.

During our playground time each day, the children have been busy climbing, sliding, pulling wagons, walking the balance beam, "mowing" with our toy lawn mowers, and playing ball. We also have many exciting things to do in our indoor playground when we have rainy days. Some favorites are scooters, bucket walkers, hoppity horses and our indoor obstacle course, which changes each day.

We have recently started a unit on apples. We are learning about Johnny Appleseed, different types of apples and how apples grow. We have many great books to read about apples and are planning to make some wonderful apple and apple tree art to decorate our room.

We will begin "Show and Tell" in October. Each week, the children can share **one** favorite toy or item (or tell about an experience) with their new friends. It's a great opportunity for them to learn to show respect for each other by listening when it is someone else's turn to talk. The Penguin's Show and Tell day is Thursday. Show and Tell will be at the very beginning of class. Our first day will be Thursday, October 7.

October will be a full month finishing the apple unit, learning about fall and pumpkins, and ending the month with Halloween. We will continue working on handwriting using our name cards and spending time with letter recognition and cutting practice.

Wishing you a beautiful fall!

Tashia MacArthur and Kris Kockler



The Lion Class



It has been a wonderful first month of school in the Lion class! We are so amazed by the resilience and adaptability of your children. Our Lions are starting to bond and meld together as a class. I always love watching this happen. They start out a little timid, but very quickly come into their own. We spend the month of September going over routines and rules to keep our Lions safe. Each Lion does their job for the week and then it will switch, so each Lion will get a chance to do all of our jobs. Some of our jobs are not working well, so Mrs. Jacobs and I are brainstorming other options. In the morning, our Lions have started doing table activities while we wait for everyone to arrive. These can be a fine motor activity, puzzles, sorting games, alphabet matching, counting or anything else I come up with. As well, we have been finding this is a great time to have our Lions work on more simple projects that don't need a lot of instruction.

Once all of our friends arrive, we jump into circle time. Usually, we complete many of our jobs during our morning circle, but sometimes I break up the activities if I want to spend more time working on one topic or another. We greet each student using different songs or chants. We learn one-to-one correspondence as we count the days on the Calendar. I am in love with the linear calendar I introduced this year! I think it really helps with learning the number line and the passing of time. One of our Lions even noticed that we had a birthday coming up based on the calendar. We still use the traditional calendar to write the date and so our Lions see it every day. The Lions are introduced to ten frames when we add up how many days we have been to school. A ten frame is a horizontal frame of ten squares used to teach number sense within the context of ten. It also teaches one-to-one correspondence for counting. As the year progresses, we will also start counting by tens and we will celebrate reaching 100 days of school! The kids love this every year and they have such a sense of accomplishment by reaching 100. Our weather reporter graphs the weather and we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

During circle time we have introduced the "lingo" of the Handwriting Without Tears program and have started practicing many games that help make learning to write fun. Our letter lover/word wizard helps us air write the letter and word of the week. We make sentences using the sight word of the week. This year I am mixing up the activities so we do something different with our letter and word every day. We ask many questions during circle time and it is always fun to see what our Lions will say. Circle time is a great time for introducing and reinforcing new ideas and concepts. Some ideas may be beneath some and beyond others, but we teach to every ability in our class and always try to make it fun. The Lions eat up the new information and it is done in a short amount of time since the average attention span of a 4-year-old is 16 minutes. We have been working on making AB patterns and will move on to others soon. We have been sorting by color and will move on to sorting by shape.

After circle time, we jump into center time. We have four groups of three-four kids each and they rotate between four centers each day. We rotate the activities to introduce new things to our Lions each week. This way, every Lion gets to play with everything and play with different kids every day. Each center has several options of things to do or play with so there is something for everyone. I pull kids to work with me at the "teacher table" depending on what projects need to be completed. Once a week we work on our fine motor journals. This is a chance for me to work with a small group on handwriting, cutting, punching holes and shapes and other activities to strengthen our hands for writing.

On the first week of school, we read the story "the Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn and talked about how even our families miss us while we are in school. We made our own kissing hands to show you how much they love and missed you! As part of our "All about me" unit, we read the book "Chrysanthemum" and talked about some of our differences and similarities and how each of us is special. We graphed many different aspects of ourselves (ie hair and eye color) and we discussed that a graph or chart is an easy and quick way to find out information. A lot of time during the month of September was spent learning our names. When we practice writing we work on the proper pencil grip. Some children are born ready to hold a pencil and a crayon and some need extra help. We will work a lot on fine motor activities during the year to help develop this skill. If you need any tips for home, please ask. We are a team and any practice at home will help us at school! Following our "all about me" unit we moved to a unit on our families. We talked about siblings, parents, grand-parents and how many people we have in our family. We made a family glyph of who lives in our house. A glyph is a pictorial form of collecting data and helps students start to understand how to decode information. We talked about the family that lives with us and the family that may live far away. The Lions also drew a family portrait.

We will make many class books during the year. This is an important age for children to be introduced to pre-reading skills and they always love books about or made by themselves. We have started talking about the parts of a book, how to hold a book and introducing them to quiet (or as quiet as we can) reading time every day to help them prepare for Kindergarten next year. Many of the projects our Lions work on often become class books. Many of the projects we work on (especially in the month of September) become class books. This month we made our All About Me book, Our Birthday Book, Our Favorite Color Book, and The First Letter of My Name book, and I'm Happy to Be Me Book.

At end the month we will start our unit on apples. This is the perfect topic for the beginning of fall. Our apple unit will continue into October with many more fun projects. In the month of October, we look forward to more fall fun with pumpkins, scarecrows and Halloween.

Please remember as the weather changes to update the extra clothes in your child's school bag. As well, as the days get chillier please make sure you send a warmer coat with your child. We will learn and practice the preschool flip, which helps our Lions put on their coats independently. As always, if you have any questions about your child or our routine, please do not hesitate to let us know. We appreciate your patience to make our preschool experience this year amazing as we follow all the guidelines to keep everyone safe.

With love and a roar, Mrs. Nyman and Mrs. Jacobs



The Puppy and Kitten Class



The Puppies and Kittens have been learning our classroom routine and they are already doing a wonderful job transitioning from one activity to the next. They are making new friends and we've enjoyed watching them interact with each other, especially on the playground. The bus on the playground has been a lot of fun. When we play on the bus we will sing "The Wheels on the Bus". They also really enjoy playing in the sand box, climbing and sliding too!

The Puppies and Kittens are starting to learn responsibility from doing their classroom jobs, such as line leader, weather watcher, calendar helper and flag helper. We take turns with the jobs so everyone can have a chance to do each one.

In September, we are learning about "All About Me" and all the wonderful things our bodies can do. We also have been talking about "The Five Senses". Several of our classroom toys have reflected this theme, including the dress up people magnets. We are enjoying playing with the baby dolls and the kitchen in the Dramatic Play area. We have several puzzles including one where we can practice zipping, snapping and buttoning. All of these activities help with our fine motor skills.

We've enjoyed reading books together. The first week of school we read "Pete the Kitty's First Day of School" by Kimberly and James Dean. We also read "Mouse's First Day of School" by Lauren Thompson. One of our favorite books about our bodies is "Eyes, Nose, Fingers and Toes" by Judy Hindley. We had fun acting out all the motions in the book, like clapping our hands and stomping our feet.

At the art table, we have had fun making a variety of arts and crafts. We have been busy working on projects relating to "All About Me" and "The Five Senses" we painted hands and made handprints on paper using different color paint and decorating each hand print in their own way. These projects celebrated each child's uniqueness and also helped us get to know each of them a little better. Both classes completed another craft which involved making a collage gluing different textures relating to "The Five Senses", this project truly challenged their fine motor skills, as they had to pick up each item and carefully glue it on. This is helping them learn about our sense of touch.

For the month of October, we'll shift our focus to learning about the farm and animals and people who live there. We'll also talk about apples, pumpkins, and Halloween, and do some classroom activities related to the season. We're looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing with the Puppies and Kittens!

Mrs. Kroeger & Kristin Stites



The Discovery Room

"Where no discovery is too small"



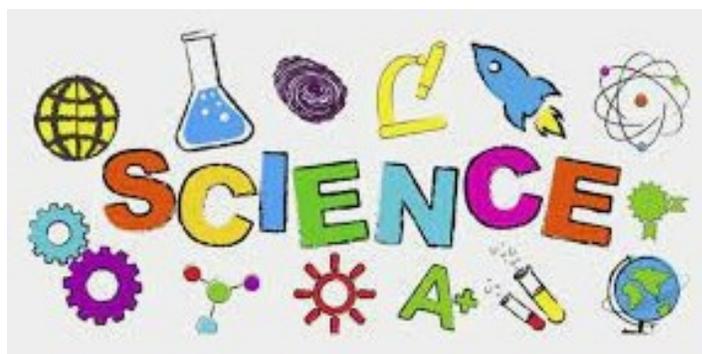
What color is the wind? Blew! 'Colors' is one of the two topics we focused on this month. It is so wonderful to begin this year with all the classes coming into the Discovery Room each day. First, we learned class rules with an emphasis on safety. Students are already becoming more comfortable with the routine by staying at a chosen center for a designated time period and disinfecting their hands when the timer dings before transitioning to a new station. We reviewed Covid safety procedures and I performed a hand washing demonstration. Favorite reads included A Germ's Journey and Germs vs. Soap. We learned about scientist parts (such as the scientist's nose to smell and other senses); utilized scientific tools (pipette, microscope, beaker, magnifying glass, balance scale, etc.), and I introduced the experimental process. We read a book about Einstein and really enjoyed conducting our own experiment titled "gloves and glitter" to demonstrate how easily glitter germs spread with gloved handshakes between students.

The next unit we covered was "Colors." Students were excited to mix colors using three primary color pipettes and colored water within ice cube tray compartments to create other colors on the spectrum. Pipetting is a fabulous way to develop pincher grip skills and I will include more experiments developing this skill throughout the year. Students sorted color balls into different test tubes, created tie-dye paper towel sheets, and used scratchers to create pictures on black paper. We read Mix it Up! and everyone reviewed their color knowledge using colored overlays. The students learned ROYGBV by drawing their own rainbows within their scientific journals. We also created color wheels and learned more in-depth color terminology including: shades, tints, and complementary colors.

Next month we will dive into magnet study and the pumpkin life cycle. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with your children. It is so much fun!

Yours in discovery,

Karolina Smith



Music



It is great to be back in the music classroom at St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool! When I returned to the classroom in August the music room received a renovation with a new coat of paint, new bins for instruments, and new art for the walls. The music room was ready for all the students to arrive!

The first week of school brought learning of new names, procedures and music. The students learned the names of all their fingers using the Thumb-kin Nursery Rhyme. We then practiced using those fingers using castanets, egg shakers and jingle bells. In the song Finger Family we identified different body parts using our individual fingers. We concluded the week with hand clapping songs and dances.

The second week brought food to the music room. Songs about apples, peanut butter, pizza, bananas, lasagna and spaghetti could be heard through out the halls. I introduced new instruments- wood blocks and maracas. We used a bubble gum chant to learn the musical term of *accelerando*, which means to gradually get faster. Farmer Brown Had Five Green Apples taught the kids to count down from 5 to 1 and also to share!

The final week of September brought farm animals to the music room. Students danced and sang to songs about cows, horses, dogs and cats. New instruments of drums and triangles were introduced. I used the large and small triangles to teach the students the different between low and high sounding instruments. The students now know the bigger the instrument the lower it will sound and the smaller the instrument the higher it will sound!

I am looking forward to October! The students will be introduced to parts of a song (verse, chorus and bridge) and the musical terms *forte* and *piano* using Halloween themed songs.

Mrs. Bailey





St. Andrew's Preschool Chapel News

I have been so enjoying introducing the kids to chapel and welcoming them back to our sacred space and telling our stories in the church chapel, with its beautiful stained glass windows and candles and altar. It is such a lovely place to hear the stories of God! We talked this month about Creation and all of God's gifts and in October we will learn about the Good Shepherd, Noah and his ark and hear stories about God's people. We always end our chapel time with Wondering Questions, so feel free to ask your child about their favorite part of the stories they hear on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You can also ask them what part of the story was about them - this is a good way to dig deeper into what they heard and learned. Feel free to email me at amy@standrews.net if you have any chapel questions.

Mrs. Dutton



Chapel Schedule

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	STORY SEQUENCE
10/5	10/7	Noah's Ark
10/12	10/14	Abram & Sarai
10/19	10/21	Exodus
10/26	10/28	The 10 Best Ways

St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool



6509 Sydenstricker Rd.
Burke, Virginia 22015

phone: 703-455-8458
fax: 703-455-2927

preschool@standrews.net
preschooladmin@standrews.net

www.standrews.net

Absent or Tardy?

Thank you for letting either your child's teacher or us in the office know, when your child won't be at school or has an appointment. It is much appreciated!

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH:

Blessing of the Animals

All creatures great and small are invited to St. Andrew's on Saturday, October 2nd, for our annual Blessing of the Animals! We will gather at 1:00 p.m. in the front parking lot. If it rains, we will meet in the Multi-purpose Room (masks are required if we are inside). Invite your friends and neighbors and their pets to join us.

Contact: Emily Nein (emily@standrews.net)

