

First Presbyterian Weekday School Newsletter

Fall 2015

Dear Parents,

The Weekday School has had a fun fall start to the school year! The children are thriving as they enjoy their art projects, play with friends, and grow in so many ways each day. Our teachers constantly amaze me with their creativity, patience, and dedication to your children and our school. We are very blessed.

Family Pizza Night in September and Muffins with Mom in October were great family fun and a chance to get to know friends in the classroom better! Moms and Dads enjoyed meeting each other and just being together as a Weekday School family. November brought the Three's Thanksgiving program and feast. December saw LIVE NATIVITY with all of Athens invited, as well as our Pre-K Christmas program and Cookie Swap! Thanks so much for your participation and support of the things we do to bring families together outside the classroom.

As we look forward to our **Registration for next year, beginning on January 13th**, we are excited about offering our EARLY FIVE'S CLASS again. This is such a fabulous opportunity to give your child an extra year to mature should they need it. Mrs. Norton has a full Houghton Mifflin Kindergarten Curriculum and weaves that in beautifully with our exploring and art based Creative Curriculum. Our youngest class in the Weekday School begins at just 3 months. Spread the news in the community, as I feel there are many this could serve well.

Thank you for your continued support! Please know that I would love for you to come by to visit me at any time! We welcome input, praise, and ideas that can help our children and school thrive!

Blessings,

Elaine Johnson

Weekday School Director

News from the Classes

Infants:

Mrs. Fields/Mrs. Nichols/Mrs. Dekle:

We are having so much fun in our infant room! Each day is a happy day with our Infants. We share many **smiles** and **giggles** during the day and each day is a new adventure! In our room we enjoy **tumbling** on our infant gym mat, **singing**, **clapping** hands, **reading** and playing with our **mirrored activity table**. We also enjoy playing in the indoor playroom. Snack time is always fun and by naptime everyone is ready for a rest!

Toddlers:

Ms. Grant/Mrs. Fletcher:

We have had such a great start to our school year! The children have adjusted so well. These little toddlers definitely love their routine! You mention snack, and they all run to the door to line up! Once we get ready for our buggy ride, they all start chanting for their bananas. It is so funny! ☺

We love all the children's little personalities. They all love blowing and chasing the bubbles in class.

Early 2's:

Mrs.Soc/Mrs. Beall:

We have had a great start to the 2015-2016 school year. As the year began, we started to explore many different activities working with fine and gross motor skills. In art, our student's favorite activity is to paint. The students also enjoy playing with their friends on the playground. By far, our students love circle time the most! We sing songs, read books with the flannel board, do finger plays, and talk about the weather. We have also started learning our colors and counting to five. Some of the most popular songs, and finger plays, we do are "Baby's Nap," "5 Little Monkeys" and "Teddy Bear." This Christmas season we have been singing "Jingle Bells." They have bells of their own to ring. Mrs. Beall and I are so proud of our students. Your children have come so far this school year. We cannot wait to see what 2016 brings. Merry Christmas and have a safe and Happy New Year!

2's:

Mrs. Cummings/Mrs. Bowles:

What a great start to a fun 2 year old class! We quickly learned each other's names using our "Friend Book", while singing our "Hello" song to each new friend. We learned our class blessing quickly, which we sing daily before snack. We had great fun "Down On The Farm" painting muddy pigs, art with oatmeal, sheep with cotton balls, painting chickens with feathers and making black and white cows. Our "Bears" unit was a great success making Corduroy and we worked very hard on our beautiful "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" books~we hope you liked them! Our Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear poem was a lot of fun and we especially LOVED "Going on a Bear Hunt" every day. It was a special treat to bring our favorite stuffed animal to school for our teddy bear picnic as well. Painting with apples and leaves and lots of pumpkin art took up most of October! "Leaves are Falling" and "5 Little Pumpkins" were sang throughout the entire month. November was the time for furry gray squirrels and feathery owls, and we loved singing "Gray Squirrel" and reading "Owl Babies." We painted with broccoli and cauliflower during "Healthy Foods" week, and even enjoyed trying them at snack time. We loved making our Thanksgiving crafts, and are thankful for our friends at school, our families, and toys☺. December brings us closer to Jesus's birthday as we prepare our parent gifts and exciting Holiday art. We love dancing, especially to our favorite song, "Shake our Sillies Out". We enjoy visits from "Little Mouse" on Wednesdays and use our senses to guess what's in the "Surprise Sack" on Fridays. Thank you so much for the healthy snacks that have been sent in this year~they are a real treat! Have a safe and Happy Holiday!

Mrs. Ashmore/ Mrs. Lewis:

What a wonderful beginning to our school year! We have enjoyed making new friends and learning many new things. Our friend, **Spot**, welcomed us into our classroom. It was fun going down on the **farm** with our muddy pigs and big red barns. Bringing our own special teddy bears and having our special **Bear Picnic** was so exciting. As autumn leaves fall to the ground, pumpkins, squirrels and acorns remind us that fall is here. We loved singing *Gray Squirrel*. With fall comes **Halloween**, spiders and bats. We loved painting our little pumpkins and singing "**Five Pumpkins sitting on a Gate.**" November reminds us of all we have to be thankful for. We loved looking at pictures of pets! It was so much fun meeting Carter's dog. **Thanksgiving** is a time to talk about healthy foods and turkeys. "*Turkey and Dressing*" and "*The Turkey is a Funny Bird*" were two of our favorite songs. With Christmas in the air we

were busy making Christmas trees, silver bells, stockings and wreaths. We had a lot of fun making our special gifts for our parents. Thanks to the parents for the parties and we are looking forward to lots of activity in our room getting ready for **Christmas**.

3's:

Mrs Smith:

We are having so much fun this year! We began the school year with "All About Me" and enjoyed getting to know our new friends! In September, we sang songs and read books about apples. We especially enjoyed tasting different types of apples and other foods made from apples. We also loved showing off our adorable letter costumes in our letter parade. In October, we learned about all of the changes that fall brings: cooler weather, colorful leaves, and of course, pumpkins! We were excited to wear our costumes to our Halloween party! In November, we had so much fun preparing for our Thanksgiving Feast. We learned about Native Americans and Pilgrims, sang lots of fun turkey songs, and discussed the many reasons we are thankful. Our Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Feast was a special treat as well! Construction Day was exciting as we learned about tools and things that happen on a construction site. December brings gingerbread fun, carols, hot chocolate, reindeer, Santa Clause, and lots more fun as we celebrate Jesus' birthday! We have loved combining with Mrs. Lampp's class for Spanish, Chapel, Music, and Science. Thank you, parents, for sharing your kids with us! We are looking forward to a great second half of the school year!

Ms. Lampp/Mrs. Fabris:

During the first half of our school year, the Four and Five Day Three's have had such an amazing time laughing and learning alongside one another! Throughout the months of August and September, we became acquainted with our classroom and all of our wonderful friends. Our first unit, **All About Me**, certainly helped us with this experience, as we discussed all of our different characteristics, emotions, and families. Then, we took a tour of our **community**. We even made a large map of Athens, complete with roads, traffic signs, people, houses, animals, and plants! This piece is now proudly displayed on our classroom wall; we would love for you to visit and take a peek! Within this unit, we also learned about the many **community helpers** that work in our community and talked about what we would all like to be when we grow up. Our class is filled with future bakers, dentists, and even bakers. With the start of **Autumn**, we began to explore all of the changes that occur outside during this fascinating season. The children loved bringing in **leaves** from their own backyards to do leaf rubbings and share with their classmates. This fall, we also learned about wonderful seasonal fruits--**apples** and **pumpkins**. Each child enjoyed tasting red, green, and yellow apples to discover which was their favorite and making apple volcanoes. With pumpkins, we carved our very own classroom pumpkin and learned how to be a good friend by following Spookley the Square Pumpkin's example. Before we knew it, it was time to prepare for our **Thanksgiving Program and Feast**. The children worked so very hard creating all of their festive crafts that were featured at the Feast and remembering all of the songs and choreography for the Program while still learning about the history of this day. Each and every child did such an amazing job at the Program, and I could not be more proud of our class! Now, as we draw closer and closer to **Christmas** and Winter Break, the children have been learning all about this special holiday and the true reason for the season. We have even traveled the world, from the safety of our classroom of course, to learn how this day is celebrated all over the world. Our class ended our journey around the world by learning of our own family traditions during this time of year. Other memorable moments from the past five months include our **Amazing Alphabet Parade**, the Halloween

celebration, **Superhero Day** complete with a visit from your friendly neighborhood Spiderman, and our observance of **Veterans Day** where we shared photos of relatives who served in our country's armed forces. I am so excited to see what the rest of this school year brings!

Pre-K/Early 5's:

Mrs.Norton/Ms. Thurston:

The Pre-K Class was happy to welcome Ms. Lauren Thurston. It has been a pleasure helping the children feel comfortable in Pre-K. First we played games to get acquainted with each other and sang a favorite song, *Greet Your Neighbor* (Dr. Jean). The children have especially had fun singing our color songs each week. Sharing something they found at home for that color was great oral language practice. They loved giving the class clues for their color item. Through the year we discuss the four seasons. When fall arrived we learned about **Johnny Appleseed**, tasted apples, and made apple prints with paint. Our fall highlight was our field trip to **Washington Farms Pumpkin Patch**. We had fun together and learned all about the life cycle of the pumpkin. For **Halloween** the children had a great time dressing up. Parents provided a nice party. In Pre-K, we enjoy our **Scholastic Weekly Reader** along with a video on the smartboard. The children had fun learning from our Spanish teacher, Sarah Ehlers. November themes have been the Pilgrims, Indians, the **First Thanksgiving** and turkeys. We have enjoyed preparing for Christmas and our **Christmas program**. Thank you to the parents for your planning of the Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. Have a Merry Christmas and see you in 2016!

Looking Ahead:

- Pre K- Christmas Program - December 15
- Christmas Break - Dec. 16- Jan. 5 - (Teachers report for in-service day - Jan. 5)
- Children return to School - January 6
- Registration Begins - January 13
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Closed) - January 18
- Scholastic Book Fair - Feb. 8-12
- Georgia Preschool Conference - February 26