



PreK 4/5s Newsletter November 2022

Dear PreK 4/5s Parents

It is so hard to believe the month of November is zooming along. Time truly does fly when you are having fun! This newsletter will give you a little glimpse of some of our November activities.

All Saints Day

Did you see a little halo shining brightly at your house? We celebrated All Saints Day in Preschool. The children learned all about St. Joseph, sang the song "God Chose Me and God Chose You", listened to the story [Saints Like Me](#) and [My Favorite Saints](#), as well as practiced being a saint—which is every day of course!

On the Farm/Barn Animals

The children listened to a variety of stories during our farm unit. Several of the books were very educational, while others were for pure enjoyment. 😊 Our favorite book for the theme was titled [Mrs. Wishy Washy's Farm](#). It is an adorable book with rhyming and repeating words in the text. The children learned fingerplays, too. Many different learning opportunities were incorporated during our farm unit.

Our sensory table contained corn with farm toys and recently was changed to a bean/pasta mix with various pouring/measuring containers. The dramatic play area became a grocery store-- which is a favorite for all. The children played with farm animals, barns, farm flannel stories, a farm magnetic game, explore with weighing/balancing at the science table and created farm pictures at our maker table and more. The children continue to love using their hands with play dough and themed cookie cutter shapes. They even had the opportunity to husk real farm corn. The main project during our farm theme was painting a big red barn with added details. The barn art is currently hanging in our lobby and will be sent home soon.

Our Election Results

Did you hear about our election last week? All the Preschool children participated in a voting activity. Which farm animal is your favorite: brown cow, pink pig, black goat, grey horse, or orange/white goose? The PreK 4/5s class tallied the results on Thursday afternoon. 😊 Here are the results:

Goat: 5 Goose: 7 Cow: 10 Horse: 18 Pig: 19

Thank you, God

It is a wonderful time of the year to discuss the gifts God has bestowed on us. The gifts of family, friends, and the world are incorporated as we praise God for everything. A few weeks ago, the children created a turkey feather and expressed a thankful message. This is proudly displayed in our classroom.

This week our theme is titled: "Thank you, God". The very first Thanksgiving will be simply taught through stories, flannel board pieces, authentic pictures of the first settlers, music and books. I am hoping the children will be able to share with you all about the first Thanksgiving in an age-appropriate way.

The children already learned a new prayer and created a placemat for our special Thanksgiving feast together. In preparation for our feast, the preschoolers will be baking cornbread muffins and making homemade applesauce this week. They are so excited.

Our Thanksgiving celebration will be this Thursday. We will play a few games, visit the chapel to say a "thank you, God" prayer, listen to a favorite story, [Turkey for Thanksgiving](#), play turkey bingo and enjoy our special meal together.

Thank you to the families who have graciously volunteered to send in items from our wish list. We are so grateful!

Learning by Doing

We continue to work on our fine motor skills by cutting with scissors, coloring, painting, and gluing projects which relate to our themes. Some projects are simple, while others require more detailed instructions, but each one has a specific skill in mind. The children are learning to become good listeners and follow directions. They truly enjoy the project/activities of the day. By looking at the smiles on their faces-- it is apparent they are proud of what they have accomplished!

November Concepts

Alphabet: O, B, G Past Letters: H, F, C, E Numeral Writing: 1-6 Counting: 1-20+ Shape: Square
Name and scissors practice, too.

It is important to reinforce all the concepts the children are being exposed in Preschool. Thank you for your support.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is completed through the district you reside in and is currently mandatory for all children. Be sure to make an appointment for the screening earlier rather than waiting until your child is closer to the Kindergarten year. It is a very valuable tool for both St. Joseph's teachers and your family. I am highly encouraging you to make the appointment now. It is easy to put it off. The screening dates can sometimes be six weeks out. Thank you so very much.

Snacks

It has been wonderful having healthy and nutritious snacks for the children. Pre-cut and washed fruit is always a hit. I know this takes time and effort on your part to do this for us—but know it is appreciated.

Reminders & Suggestions

*Label all clothing—hat, coat, mittens, etc. Hint: mittens are so much easier for the children at this age level as they work on being independent getting dressed to go outside. Your child can certainly have gloves at Preschool—if it is something they can put on independently. Thank you.

*Try to have your little one use the bathroom before arriving at Preschool.

*It is helpful to have a bag (Ziploc works well) of extra clothes in your child's backpack.

*It helps immensely to have the sleeves of coats, sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts **not inside out** after arriving to school. It is difficult for the children to get on these items efficiently when we get ready to go outside. Please help your little one take off their coats, jackets, sweatshirts without being inside out. This skill will be taught at school, too. In time, it will be easier to do.... thus progress!! Thanks.

Mark Your Calendar

**Lifetouch Photo Retakes* are on Tuesday, November 15th in the Great Room. If you have any questions, please call the main school office at 457-8550.

**Friday Fun Afternoon* for our PreK4s and PreK4/5s: Friday, December 9th. We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon together. Space is limited, so register soon. More details in the coming weeks.

*The *Preschool Christmas Program* will be on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 pm in the church.

All are WELCOME! More details will be sent home in December.

Many Blessings

The month of November is a beautiful time of the year to say how thankful and blessed we are to have such wonderful preschool families. Your children bring laughter, joy and delight to our staff each day. It has been such a pleasure teaching the children. They are amazing!!

With sincere gratitude,

Peg Dierberger
pedierberger@stjosephwsp.org

