



October 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Peace				1 Tuition Due	2	3 October Godly Play:
The letters T, Q, P	5	6	7 Children's Chapel	8 Curriculum Nights 6:30 pm	9	10 Jesus and Zacchaeus
4 Quilts						
Pumpkins						
11 Creatures of the Night	12 No School Columbus day	13	14	15	16	17 Parable of the Good Samaritan
18 Fire Safety	19	20	21	22	23	24 Joseph's Early Life
Triangles						
25 The color Orange	26 Trees and Leaves	27	28	29 Halloween Parties	30 Halloween Parties	31 Joseph's Later Life



Blessings News

October 2009

(630) 904-9898 www.littleblessings.org



From the Director.....

On October 7 and 8 we will be holding "Curriculum Night" for all Little Blessings parents. During this short evening meeting (see inside this newsletter for all the details) teachers will explain **what** they do in their classrooms, and **why** they do it. The word curriculum is used frequently, and there are many definitions of the term. One that applies well to an early childhood setting is this: "Curriculum stems from the Latin word for race course, referring to the course of deeds and experiences through which children grow to become mature adults." (Wikipedia, September 17, 2009). This definition emphasizes "deeds" and "experiences" which implies active, hands-on learning; the very best way for young children to learn!

The information provided during Curriculum Night will help you better understand a "typical" day at Little Blessings. The teachers will explain how they weave together the Illinois Early Learning Standards with our seasonal themes. For example, in September we blended the seasonal theme "apples" with the Learning Standards by counting and graphing real apples by color (Mathematics), describing the taste of different apples (Language Arts), and painting an apple tree (Fine Arts). This approach is used for all of the themes.

There will also be time to ask your child's teacher any general questions that you may have, now that we have been in school for one month. Telephone calls, email, a separate meeting, or conferences (to be held in November) are the best ways to specifically discuss your child's progress. Some of our October themes are: trees and leaves, pumpkins, and "creatures of the night". These themes will provide more opportunities for active, fun learning.

Happy Fall!!!

~ Ms. Stephanie



HALLOWEEN AT LITTLE BLESSINGS



Halloween is the perfect time for pretend play and using our imaginations! Children and their teachers come to school in their costumes. We start out with pictures and our costume parade (parents are invited to stay for this portion of the day). Later in the day we will enjoy refreshments and a party game provided by our parent volunteers, and a walk through the pumpkin room. Dress your child in a comfortable costume, with clothing underneath. Children usually like to change at some point in the day. Please remember that young children have very active imaginations, so do not dress your child in a costume that is scary or threatening.

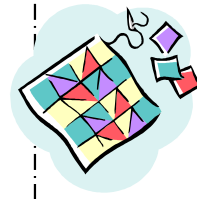


- Make tuition payments easier; sign up for electronic funds transfer!
- Children's Chapel begins October 6 and 7. Parents are welcome.
- Openings still exist in several of our great Enrichment Explorer classes. Contact the preschool office for more information.
- Keep saving Box Tops!!

Kindergarten Friday Book Club

Our teacher for this class is Ms. Jill. She holds a Master of Arts in Reading, and is beginning her fifth year at Little Blessings! There is a morning and an afternoon session.

The goal is to increase a child's love for literature, while enriching language arts, math, social studies, and science skills. Each month we focus on a different author, and each week we explore one story by that author. We make predictions, learn new vocabulary words, look for descriptive words, and apply a variety of literary strategies to develop reading, writing, and oral expression skills. Contact the preschool office for more information.



Learning About Peace...

During the month of October we learn the meaning of "peace" in our classrooms, in our hearts, and in our world. Teaching pre-schoolers how to work out differences without using aggression will reap benefits now and in later years. Children will be expressing peace on a square of muslin this month, and with the help of parent quilters, these squares will be sewn into a class "peace quilt." These beautiful creations will be raffled off at The End of the Year Celebrations, with proceeds going to help a cause that supports children.

We count on you to help us make these quilts. Please let us know in the preschool office if you (or someone you know) can help with this project. We welcome Grandmothers, neighbors, and friends of Little Blessings families to join with us in making this a success!

What you need to know about Curriculum Night

October 7 6:30 pm

2 day and 5 day classes

Kindergarten

October 8 6:30 pm

3 day and 4 day classes

- Meet in your child's classroom
- Preschool and Kindergarten only, there will be a separate evening for Enrichment classes
- This is a parent event



Ms. Tracy's Kindergarten Corner:

(While many great things are happening in ALL of our Little Blessings classrooms, Kindergarten is new this year. We want you to learn what is happening Monday through Friday afternoons in Room 224!)

We are off to a great start to our Kindergarten year! Here is a look at some of the learning activities that we are working on: Using the Everyday Math program, we are practicing number recognition, creating/recognizing patterns, solving story problems, and learning one-to-one correspondence between numbers and what they represent. We are becoming readers! Important skills such as learning rhyme and sight words, and concepts such as character, plot, and sequence are developed as a part of our Language Arts program. We recently took a book home and we read to our families!