



The Nursery News

A Publication of The Nursery at Our Lady of Sorrows School

Volume 1 Issue 3

October 22, 2009

Calendar

- October 30-Halloween Celebration
- November 25-The Nursery Closes at Noon
- November 26-27-The Nursery is Closed for Thanksgiving
- December 8-OLS School and offices are closed, The Nursery is open
- December 24-25-The Nursery is closed for Christmas
- December 31-The Nursery closes at 3:00
- January 1-The Nursery is closed
- January 18-The Nursery Closed for Teacher In-service training

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New Friends, New Caregivers

The Nursery continues to grow with new children joining us each week. Recently we welcomed two new friends to our toddler room.

Ava and Max are settling into the routines and fun of being at The Nursery and the "old" friends are enjoying having more children to play with.

In the infant room we welcomed Samantha last week and Melanie joined us this week. Our Caregivers are learning the new friends' schedules and habits while the friends adjust to a new environment and new people.

With all of the new children starting soon, we are expanding our staff. On Monday October 19th, Miss Shanequa and Miss Pat joined the infant team. Both

come with a background and experience in child care. Miss Jenn (Infant room) will be adding more hours to her schedule as well.

Miss Shanequa has worked in both the health care and early education fields. She has worked as a teacher and assistant teacher as well as running her own in home daycare for four and a half years. We are so excited to welcome Miss Shanequa.

Miss Pat is a resident of South Orange and worked at the elementary school last year. Due to a lower enrollment in the after-school program her position was eliminated. We are happy that we are able to bring Pat back to OLS as a Caregiver.

As we continue to expand, new Caregivers will be joining us periodically. Each Caregiver will have orientation time when they are not in the rooms with the children as well as spending time with the present Caregivers to learn about each and every child.

Please join me in welcoming our new Caregivers, our new children and their families. We look forward to partnering in the care of our precious little ones



What Will You Find at The ProCare Check-in Station?

Have you stopped to look at all the handouts and information available at the check-in station? This is where you can find the snack menu, the lunch order menu, medication administration forms, alternate pick up forms, T-shirt order forms, etc. We also use this area to put out brochures and pamphlets about hot topics and items of interest. Right now there are pamphlets about the flu. We receive copies of magazines

which you are welcome to take a free copy. There is even a file for coupon exchanges-Give some or take some!

On the wall above the computer we will post different things-pictures from an exciting event, important flyers, and other items that we think may be of interest to families.

Although it is a very small area in the center, the check-in station is a very informative area!





“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”



Meet Miss Aisha

Hello Parents!

My name is Aisha Harper and I am an Infant room Caregiver at The Nursery at OLS. I am very excited to be teaching and caring for your children. I am an avid crafter as I take photographs and make scrap-books frequently. I love to get creative with different art mediums, so look forward to lots of memories as your children learn through sensory experiences!

I have three and a half years of experience working at the Diane Lindner Child-

care Institute in Hempstead, NY, working much of that time in the Infant and toddler classrooms. I also worked at The Holy Innocence Daycare in Uniondale, NY for a year. There I worked with children from infancy to twelve years old. More recently I worked for over two years at the Richard Blake Children's Center in Cedar Knolls as a Group Teacher.

Presently, I work full time for Children's Home Society housed in a Hudson County DYFS office. I am pursuing a Post Bachelor's Certificate

from Montclair State University as well as a Master's Degree from Seton Hall. I am adequately qualified and well prepared to make sure that your children have a safe and fun time at The Nursery. I look forward to each day with the children!!



Infant Insider

The infant room has been a very busy place! The children have been experiencing art using crayons to create rainbows. Each little one approached coloring in their own unique way. After the children realized that the crayons are not for eating, they then tried their hands at making marks on the paper (well, most of the time it was on the paper!). You can view the wonderful rainbows our infants created in the infant room.

We had a fun time playing with the stuffed fruits and vegetables and hearing the names and colors of each one. This language and sensorial experience was a favorite and repeated often throughout the month.

Scarf play is another favorite activity. The children love to have the scarves sail down in the air and land on them. They practiced their throwing skills with the scarves as well. It is so much fun to play

peek-a-boo with the scarves. And how we laughed when the Caregivers put the scarves on their heads and then shook them off!

Our older infants are working on their self-help skills such as feeding themselves. The "waddlers" are eating more table food and much of it is finger food that they can feed themselves-how proud they are when they can do it all by themselves!"

The beautiful fall days were a great time to get outside and go for a walk in the 4 seater stroller. Now that the playground is complete the waddlers will be able to spend time on the playground. We just need to wait for this cold snap to end.

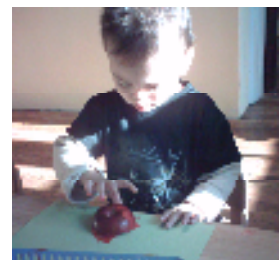
Next for the infants is more new friends, (Melanie starts the 19th and Julie starts the 1st) and new Caregivers (Miss Shanequa and Miss Pat both are starting on October 19th)

From The Nurses Desk-Choking

We all have the fear of our children choking on food or a foreign object (toys, coins, etc.) Every child is at risk of choking. To reduce this risk, parents and Caregivers can do a few simple things:

- Keep a close eye on your children when they are playing or eating
- Keep all cleaning supplies and caustic materials locked in a cabinet
- When giving "whole foods" make sure it is the size that your child can swallow easily
- Hot dogs need to be split down the middle lengthwise and the cut into small pieces. (The diameter of a hot dog is the same as the wind-pipe)
- Grapes should be cut in half and if large, cut in quarters
- Do not give a child under three popcorn, it is very dry and will stick in the throat.
- Do not give children under three hard candy, it can get lodged in the throat.
- Coins can easily be swallowed and also lodge in the throat.
- Toys- check all toys for small parts and pieces. If a toy or its parts can fall through a toilet paper tube then it is too small for a child under three. Be aware of parts or pieces that may come loose from a toy such as eyes.

These are just a few suggestions to keep your child safe.



Toddler Tidbits

The toddlers have been very busy so far this month. Both our mornings and afternoons now have a rhythm to them. Miss MaryBeth and Miss Johanna come to spend time with the children in the afternoon. From Miss Marybeth the children have been learning so many new songs like *The Hokey Pokey*, *I' a Little Teapot*, *If You're Happy and You Know It* and *Where is Thumbkin*. Not only are the children learning the words, they are already experts at most of the actions that go along with each song. Watching them is a real joy. The children have a grand ol' time dancing and singing in a circle.

Another favorite afternoon activity is reading. The children and Caregivers spend so much time in the Book Corner. Everyone loves to read books from our library. The children have requested many books over and over that many of the stories have been memorized. One

of the books that is read all the time is *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss. The children know almost every word!

With the playground completed the toddlers have been going outside every day the weather has cooperated. They are working on their throwing and catching skills with the funny, colorful balls. We are hoping the weather stays nice for a very long time to come.

The toddlers are continuing their journey through the rainbow and "studying" each and every color through books, art and activities.

The sand table is another new favorite activity of the children. Playing in the sand helps the friends transition into their day and is a great social activity. Listening to the children converse while playing here is very enjoyable.

It is amazing in just the six weeks that we have been open how the children have already grown. They are so much more verbal and social. How rewarding it is to watch them grow!

"The children have requested so many books over and over that many of the stories have been memorized."



Recycle Your Plastic Grocery Bags

We reuse plastic grocery bags to dispose of soiled diapers. We are required to place any soiled diaper in a bag and tie it closed before placing it in the trash can. Instead of using new bags, we have decided to do our part for the environment and reuse those plastic grocery bags that take over your house.

Please save them for us and place them in the wicker receptacle in the front foyer.

Daily Experience Sheets

Please make sure to complete the top portion of your child's Daily Experience Sheet every morning. This information is very important to the Caregivers to assure that your child receives the best care.

Halloween at The Nursery

At The Nursery we do not have a huge celebration for Halloween due to the young age of the children. If your child has a costume you may send it in with them on Friday Oct. 30th. The children will put on their costumes and then go outside to watch the Halloween parade for the Elementary School.

We will then return inside and after taking off our costumes we will enjoy pizza for lunch (provided by The Nursery) and a special afternoon treat.



Tuition Payments

Many families have asked about using automatic bill for your tuition payments. Many banks have this as a service of their online banking. You would need to set it up. We do not have actual account numbers, your last names are your account number in the Procure system. Feel free to use any number you wish. Our address is 162 Academy Street South Orange, NJ 07079. You can also have it sent to the Parish office at 217 Prospect Street (their mail delivery is more reliable than ours). When setting up automatic bill pay please set it up so that your payments reach us on Friday.

Reminder-tuition is due on Fridays and the late fee will be applied after close of business on Monday.

Why Read To Your Little One?

If you want your child to become a good reader you need to start reading to your child when s/he is young. According to Jim Trelease, author of "The Read Aloud Handbook", when you read aloud to your child you accomplish four main things:

- Your child associates reading with pleasure.
- Background knowledge is gained.
- Vocabulary is built.
- You provide a reading role model.

Reading to children should be pleasurable Often as children enter school reading becomes a chore that they are required to accomplish. By reading to your child when they are young they associate reading with pleasure. While reading your child gets to snuggle on your lap and receive one-on-one time.

Books contain a wealth of information As your child reads a book new worlds are opened up to them. They can learn about Ancient Egypt by reading a story that is set in Egypt or a non-fiction book on the subject. Every time a child reads a story they gain something new. Even if the story has been read numerous times they are still learning about books work and associating words with pictures.

Books contain words that are not found in everyday speech The conversational vocabulary of most people consists of only 5,000 words. With about another 5,000 words used occasionally. As a child hears new words in books it helps increase their "rare words" vocabulary ? an indication for importance of reading to child. There are so many ways to say "big" like "huge, enormous, large, humongous, gigantic, monstrous, vast, spacious, or immense." Yet most people just say "big." It is within a book that children will learn other ways to say "big". A child who has never heard the word "humongous" will never use it and will have a harder time reading it. As a child's listening vocabulary increases so does their speaking, reading, and writing vocabulary.

Children need reading role models Just like parents need to role model the behavior that they want their child to exhibit they need to role model reading. By reading to child and by ourselves we show our children that we value reading. We are not just telling our children that reading is important we are living it. Children typically grow up to exhibit behaviors that they saw in their parents. So if we want our children to be readers we need to read to them. It is especially important for fathers to read with their sons, since reading is often seen as a more feminine activity and shunned by boys. By seeing their dad read and being read to be dad boys realize that reading is important for them too.