



News and Notes

Blankets and pillows

Please remember to take home your child's bedding at least every other week to be laundered. Before bringing them back to The Nursery check that the items are labeled and the name is still legible.

Immunizations

Reminder that all children from 6 months to five years of age are required by the State of New Jersey to have a flu shot if they are in a group care setting by December 31. Please make sure to give proof to Nurse Sharon that your child has had his/her flu shot. Also, when your child has a check up and receives new immunizations make sure to update Nurse Sharon so she can add them to the child's record here at The Nursery.

Illness Prevention at The Nursery

We are entering the time of year when colds and illnesses become widespread. At The Nursery we want to do everything possible to prevent the spread of illness. We ask that any adult entering our classrooms wash their hands before playing with the children or the touching the toys or surfaces. We will be installing hand sanitizer dispensers at each classroom door and ask that adults only use the sanitizer prior to entering the rooms. There will also be a dispenser at the Procure check-in station to use prior to signing your child in or out.

For the health of everyone at the Nursery, please keep your child home if they are not feeling well. This keeps the other children and the Caregivers healthier.

Breakfast with Santa

All families at The Nursery have been invited to join with Our Lady of Sorrows School at their annual Breakfast with Santa on December 6th. This is a fun event for the whole family. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

TESTIMONIALS

Often when we do tours, prospective families ask for references or testimonials from our families. I would like to include some testimonials on our website as well as create a book about The Nursery and include in it pictures and letters from parents. If you would be willing to add to the book we would really appreciate your kind words!

Family Referral Credit

Would you like to earn credit toward your child's tuition? If you refer a family to The Nursery and they enroll, your family receives a \$100 credit toward a week's tuition, after the new family has attended

for 60 days.

Ask the family that you refer to us to mention your referral at the time they send in their Pre-enrollment form. Then after 60 days we will let

you know to deduct \$100 dollars off your next tuition payment. The only limit to this offer is the number of spaces The Nursery has available, so send your friends, family and co-workers to visit us.

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Calendar

- November 25-close at Noon
- November 26 & 27-The Nursery closed for Thanksgiving
- December 6- Breakfast with Santa
- December 24 & 25-The Nursery closed for Christmas
- December 31-The Nursery closes at 3:00
- January 1-The Nursery closed for New Year's Day

Meet Miss Johanna



Miss Johanna is one of the afternoon caregivers in our toddler room, as well as being a substitute caregiver during the rest of the day. Miss Johanna often comes to the

rescue very early in the morning when one of her fellow Caregivers calls out sick.

Johanna is a resident of South Orange, a parishioner of Our Lady of Sorrows and a graduate of OLS school. Johanna attended Seton Hall University and received a degree in art education in 2007 with a minor in Applied Music for Vocal Performance.

When not working at The Nursery, Johanna substitutes in

many of the local elementary schools including OLSS, South Orange/Maplewood and Milburn districts.

Johanna has been a summer camp counselor at The Baird center for 10 years. She is the oldest of 3 siblings and was the first girl out of 23 grandchildren.

In her spare time Johanna likes to spend time with her cousins, going to the movies, concerts, working out going to the beach and most importantly shopping!

Toddler Tidbits

The toddler room welcomed a new caregiver this month. Miss Kathy has joined the group and will be with the children from late morning until mid-afternoon.

The children have also been welcoming the infants who will be moving up after Thanksgiving. Samantha "Sammy" and Alexandra "Alex" will be joining the toddlers full time as of November 30th. Their friend Luke will be moving up later in December or early in January.

This month the toddlers have been working on a unit about family which will lead into Thanksgiving. The children have

had circle times, story times and fingerplay/ movement times all revolving around this central theme.

Turkeys have prevailed as the number one art subject in the room. Handprint turkeys, feathered turkeys and even turkeys using an outline of our feet have been cropping up all over the room.

The toddlers also learned new songs about Native Americans and made "native" headdresses to celebrate the help and kindness of the first Thanksgiving.

Pilgrims hats will be next for our friends to create.



The children continued their "study" of colors, numbers and letters. They are still having so much fun with the *Hungry, Hungry Caterpillar* felt board pieces.

The staff and children of the toddler room wish all of you a very Happy Turkey Day! GOBBLE-GOBBLE

Infant Insider

The infants have been busy this month getting to know new friends and new Caregivers. The little ones have also been creating many art projects and experiencing new art mediums.

By using their handprints, each infant created a funny Eency Weensy Spider for Halloween. Orange paint and paper plates set the stage for the creation of our "spooky" jack-o-lanterns. Then it was on to Thanksgiving. Each infant had their hand traced and then were given a multitude of colors of crayons to create a turkey picture. Watercolor paint

helped us to make our Cornucopias of Colors.

To work on the fine muscles needed to begin writing and controlling a pencil, Play dough was introduced to the children. With very close monitoring to avoid any eating of the play dough, each infant gets to roll, pound and their most favorite, squish the play dough in their hands.

The children have been listening to and dancing to many new songs this month. Along with the all time favorites such as Eency Weensy

Spider, The Wheels on The Bus, and Five Little Monkeys; the new songs included Five Little Pumpkins, Black Cat, Black Cat, Turkey Dinner and The Turkey is a Funny Bird.

The infants are getting ready to see two of their friends off to the toddler room after Thanksgiving, Alex and Sammy will be moving up-they grow up so fast!!

The Infant class and their Caregivers all want to send out warm wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Setting the Stage for School Readiness in Infants and Toddlers

In the current social climate of "earlier is better", it is not unusual for parents to begin thinking about school readiness with even the youngest children. While we all know that an "academic push" is not appropriate with infants and toddlers, at the same time, developmentally appropriate early interactions with young children are really setting the stage for school readiness. Some examples follow:

Building Skills for Language and Reading

o It has been found that around 18 months of age, a toddler adds a new word to his/her spoken vocabulary about every 2 hours. That is an amazing rate of vocabulary growth! And the words they understand grow even more rapidly. Children flourish in environments where adults model and expand on what they say. (The toddler points to a father carrying an infant and says "Baby!" and the teacher responds with "Yes – That Daddy is getting ready to give his baby a bottle.")

o Repetition counts. The synapses between brain neurons that are activated most frequently are the ones that tend to become permanent. It is not only important to introduce new words, but to reinforce the ones a child already knows through conversation and reading. Toddlers LOVE and benefit from hearing the same story (whether read or told), song, or rhyme, over and over and over.

Building Skills for Writing

o Children become interested in writing instruments around one year of age. Provide children with writing tools like fat crayons and chalk. Painting with water on the sidewalk or creating open-ended creations with play dough builds the small muscle control needed later for writing.

Building Skills for Math

o Mathematical language should be a part of how we talk to even the youngest children. "You just ate 2 Cheerios." "I am going to cut

your banana in half so it is easier to manage."

o Using the early language of measurement ("Let's see which one is bigger"); of volume ("the big cup holds more milk"); and one to one correspondence ("You get one pretzel and I get one pretzel") helps children build mathematical thinking from the earliest years.

Building Skills for Science

o The roots of scientific inquiry start early. Responding to the many, many, many questions children ask as their language emerges can be tiring at times, but helps children make sense of the world. When you don't know an answer, introducing even very young children to the idea of research, ("I don't know, but let's see where we can find that answer") helps set a life-long attitude and appreciation of the quest for knowledge.

To read more: Wolfe, P & Nevills, P. (2004). *Building the Reading Brain*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.