

Little Panthers Preschool Newsletter

We are the "first step" of District OR-1 Public
Schools

Fire Safety Week Highlights

What lucky preschool teachers we are! We have a friendly and generous Bennet Fire Department willing to come visit us together with a father of one of our morning students who is involved in the fire prevention field. Both of our "sources" generously agreed to lend their time and expertise to the preschool as we celebrated Fire Safety Week at October 5 -8.

Jessie Theiler is a fireman with Lincoln Fire and Rescue. He came to visit October 6 in both the morning and afternoon sessions. Jessie presented some preschool appropriate lessons and information to help our students learn about staying safe. Fireman Jessie as we call him at preschool showed the students how he puts on all his gear piece by piece and transforms from Alina's dad to a fireman. Fireman Jessie talked about Stop Drop and Roll, touching a door before opening it and other safety tips. Finally he put on his mask and talked through it with the air tanks going so the students could hear how it distorts his voice, this was to help the students understand how a fireman would sound and why a child shouldn't hide but instead call out to a fireman if they are ever in a fire. This was a great hands on lesson for our students about fire safety and we want to thank Mr. Theiler for donating his time and talent on his day off to help us!

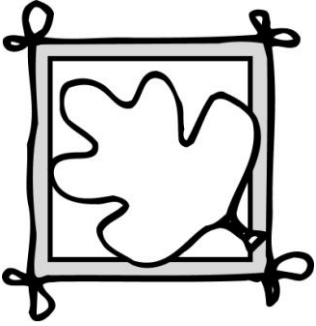
The **Bennet Fire and Rescue Volunteer Department** hosted their Open House last Saturday, and those of you that took advantage of the invite we handed out about that event were treated to not only a wonderful breakfast but also a look inside our local fire barn and a chance to see the outstanding resources we have there in our Bennet community. The Bennet Firemen are always willing to bring a truck to the preschool for both sessions and this year the students got an extra treat when they were allowed to get in the fire truck and pretend to drive it! We heard the sirens, looked at all the gear a fire truck carries, and talked to the firemen that came to visit. Check out the pictures of this exciting visit on the website in the preschool article about Fire Safety Week. (www.districtor1.org) We want to thank the Bennet Firemen for their generous gift of Fire Safety goodie bags for our students and their gift of time away from their jobs to help our students learn more about fire safety.

We have several great preschool level books on fire safety, rescue vehicles and firemen that we will be reading. Your child will be made a fireman stick puppet and learned a little counting song about firemen. A Dalmatian fire dog counting poster with the correct dots to match the number on the dog's fire helmet provided some great counting practice this week also. Don't be surprised to see your child practicing "Stop Drop & Roll" at home either.

Our approach is NEVER to scare your child, but instead to help them see firemen as our friends and as people that we can trust to help us. **We could not do this without the help of all the local volunteers that generously gave us their time, so a BIG preschool thank you goes out to everyone that make Fire Safety Week such a success!**



**A VERY BIG
Thank You to our
Firemen Friends
from your
Little Panthers
Preschool Friends!**



We are enjoying our crisp fall weather and the chance to be outside. PLEASE send a jacket EVERYDAY!
Thanks!

October Calendars

Your October calendar was handed out last week. If you need an extra copy there are always of the monthly and yearly calendars in the **Parent Information Center** on the wall above the coat hooks. Help yourself anytime, and grab an extra for babysitters, grandparents or anyone that needs to know what is happening at preschool.

A date to take special note of is **Thursday, October 22**. We will not have preschool that day. As a grant funded preschool we are required to do extensive assessments and reports and then submit these to the Department of Early Childhood Education at the Nebraska Department of Education. That day is a workday for us to compile and submit all the required information for our first reporting deadline.

Another date to note is **Thursday, October 29**. That is the day that we will have a little Halloween celebration. **See the article in this newsletter for more information.**

Preschool fees are due the first of each month. If you have not paid your October fee yet please give your check

Fun Tuesdays

You have noticed by now that Tuesdays are color/special days at preschool. We indicate the color/theme of the day on the monthly calendar. This is an OPTIONAL way to help our preschool friends become more aware of colors and other things. We also use this as an opportunity for your child to tell his/her friends about what he/she is wearing. This oral language experience is a valuable part of the development of your child.

We never want you to feel you must buy something new for that color/theme, a little tiny bit of a specific color on a shirt or even a shoe is just fine. *If your child (or you) forget some Tuesday don't worry about it, we just do this for fun.*

Roca Berry Farm Field Trip Fun

We had a wonderful time on our recent field trip! There is an article and pictures on the website (www.districtor1.org) that will give you a great visual recounting of our day. If you want to checkout a CD overnight with the pictures from our trip on it please see Mrs. Cheney, you can borrow it and make some prints of your child and other shots if you want to.

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and family members that were able to go along. We REALLY appreciate all your help!

Puppets Puppets Puppets

You have a ladybug puppet, an apple puppet, a firemen puppet, a squirrel puppet and we can promise you we will keep adding to the collection in the weeks and months ahead. Why do we make puppets and what does your child learn from it?

- **Fine motor skills like scissor grip, control, and cutting:** It is harder than you might think to learn how to hold and operate scissors with those little fingers. We spend a lot of time readjusting grips and helping those little hands learn to cut.
- **Fine motor skills like coloring:** Learning the correct way to grip and hold a pencil for writing begins with gripping and holding a crayon. Like cutting, this is harder than you think.. Working at a table with your child on these projects gives the teachers a perfect opportunity to see your child's grip, adjust it as needed, and encourage the fine motor control it takes to try and stay in the lines.
- **Language Skills:** We use our puppets to "act out" our finger plays and songs, all of which promote and increase your child's language skills. This also helps your child's listening skills, auditory comprehension, and ability to follow along, and use expressive voice. It is a lot of fun to sing, and even more fun when there is a puppet to act the song out with!

How can you help your child at home? When a puppet comes home ask your child if they learned a song to go with

it? Now the chances are good when trying to do it all by themselves that your child will not know ALL the words or even the tune that well. That does not matter! Be a good audience and be delighted with any version you get, applaud, and ask for another performance. Your encouragement and excitement goes a VERY long way toward building your child's developing language skills and their self-confidence. **ENJOY!**

Pumpkin Days are Coming..

We will be celebrating pumpkins in many different ways the week of October 19. Measuring, weighing, estimation, comparing, cooking, art, reading about, singing about... the list goes on. We will be immersing ourselves in all things pumpkin that week.

If you would like to donate a pumpkin or pumpkins to the cause we would appreciate that. We need the smaller pumpkins and medium sized pumpkins. The teachers will be bringing in a mini pumpkin for each child. Remember this is optional, when we ask for donated items of any kind we never want you to feel you have to, we understand circumstances are different for each family.

We appreciate any help you can give anytime you are able! If you can, please bring them Monday, October 19 or drop them off the Thursday before that.

Halloween @ Preschool

We will be observing Halloween in preschool on Thursday, October 29. Our guidelines are listed below, if you have any questions after reading these just ask us!

- We will NOT be dressing up in Halloween costumes at preschool. We will let each family choose to do that at home in the way that they want on the actual Halloween.
- We will be celebrating by coming to preschool that day dressed as a "crayon" in your child's favorite color. This simply means dress from head to toe in a color of your child's choice.
- Please don't feel you have to go buy any special clothes, just dress in whatever you have in one color, prints or patterns are OK also. For example: Red sweatpants, a red shirt, red socks, and whatever shoes you already have would be great.
- We will be making crayon head bands to "top" off our outfits that day.
- We will be taking some group pictures of our "boxes of crayons" and we will make these available to you.
- **We ask that you not do face paint or hair color that day. Just clothes. We will be adding face color to each child here to help us all look alike!**

We will be asking some of you to provide special treats that day. If you are interested in helping with treats for our holiday parties this year please let one of us know, we will have you sign up and contact you for a specific party during the year.

We will be reading Halloween books during the week leading up to our celebration, and we will be making some fun Halloween crafts and projects. There will be a few surprises tucked into our day on the 29th as well. **Our approach to Halloween will not include ANY scary things or things that may frighten your child.** Again, if you have any questions at all just ask us!

Book Orders

We will be sending a book order home again this month. Remember they are optional, we never tell the kids what they are or that one is going home so if you don't wish to order that is fine.

It is a great way to get good literature at a much better price than you can in a store. A few of you ask for the order to be kept secret from your child, we are always happy to do that. "Santa" can shop through the book orders all he wants and his "elves" will never tell!

Runny Noses and Sick Kids

We have had several absent students recently with colds, sore throats and other seasonal ailments. We greatly appreciate your understanding that when your child is ill home is the place to be! We also appreciate how prompt you have been about calling us and letting us know that your child won't be at preschool. A quick review list of our policy regarding sick kids would be a good idea.

- If your child has a fever (100 or higher) he/she cannot be in school.
- Your child must be fever free (without the aid of Tylenol/medication) for 24 hours before returning.
- Nasal/mucus discharge that is colored and thick should not be present.
- Persistent cough... please keep your child home.
- Diarrhea... please keep your child home.
- Vomiting... you child should not return to school if he/she has vomited in the last 24 hours.

We will call you if your child becomes ill at school or if the above symptoms are a concern to us, we would that you or someone you contact arrive as quickly as possible to pick up your child after we

call. We do our best to isolate the sick child from the other students but it is difficult in our classroom to do that.

You might wonder why when you do call your child in sick we ask what exactly is wrong with your child. We do this so we can track what illness is present, what the children may have been exposed to, and what symptoms we need to be on the look out for with other children.

If your child is diagnosed with a strain of Influenza or H1N1 at your doctor's office please call and let us know as soon as you can. This would apply to strep throat or any other contagious illness as well. This knowledge helps us be vigilant for additional cases.

Rest assured that we do everything we can to keep our preschool environment sanitary. We disinfect surfaces, toilets and other things throughout the day. Our restroom is scrubbed down each night. We wash hands frequently through out the day and we also use frequent squirts of hand sanitizer even after we wash our hands. We talk about covering our mouths, using tissues, and other good health habits. We want your child in school so do everything we can to keep him/her healthy while here.

Who Is That?

Mrs. Goodrich is a friendly face we see each day in our preschool classroom. She is also a face you see at the elementary school. Her job title is Preschool-Elementary Resource Teacher. Mrs. Goodrich comes with her basket of activities several times a day and works with some of our preschool students. She is a willing audience for any preschool activity or project we are engaged in and a welcome sight each time she appears at our door.

Mrs. Goodrich and Mrs. Cheney have worked together for many years and Mrs. Cheney greatly values the expertise and experiences that Mrs. Goodrich brings to the whole experience of what happens here at Little Panthers Preschool. She is a wealth of good ideas and we are happy she is on our team!

Preschool Pictures

We will be taking class group pictures on Wednesday, October 28. You will be given an envelope you can order with if you want to. These are optional for you, and there are different pricing options. We will go as a class to the elementary for our pictures during preschool that day.

Apple Week Was a Tasty Success

A quick look at a few of the "a-peel-ing" apple activities that took place at preschool last week...

- Sink or Float Science Experiment: Did you know that apples float due to the air pockets found inside each one. Comparing apples to what else floated or sunk was fun and wet activity.

- Sequencing Stories: How does a whole apple get to be an apple core? We sequenced the pictures to show how it happens and made our own posters.
- Apple Prints: We painted at our art center and used apples for the brush, messy but fun!
- A Taste Test: Comparing apple sauce, apple juice, apple cereal, and apple jelly and filling out our tasting chart to show what we liked and didn't like was fun.
- Thanks to everyone that sent in apples to eat for snack, they were delicious!

Wrapping in all up...

Well we have given you quite a lot of information here, if you have any questions please just ask. Preschool is a very busy place as you can see!



**Mrs. Cheney
And
Mrs. Poe**