

Little Panthers Preschool Newsletter

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

What a Fantastic Start to Our Year!

We are very happy to introduce you to our new preschool friends! Each session is full and the twelve eager little faces that appear at 8:00 and 12:00 are learning many new things and have made many new friends.

Thirteen of our preschool students are returning from last year. It was wonderful to see these "experienced" children come in and pick up our routines and procedures just like they had never been gone for the summer. Their peer modeling for our eleven new students made our start a very smooth one.

We read the books listed here on our first two days, these books address making friends, feeling scared about a new place and new people and what preschool is going to be all about.

Franklin's New Friend

First Day

Wemibly Worried

Bear's First Day

Our favorite back- to- school book was The Kissing Hand. This sweet story is about a little raccoon that is afraid to go to night school in the big tree with his forest friends. His mom shows him how her kiss on the palm of his hand will stay with him all day long and remind him of her love always being with him. We have two raccoon puppets to help the story jump off the pages and come to life. We made traced handprints with a "kiss" on the palm to take home.

Ladybug Ladybug

Along came a ladybug that landed on me.
She crawled on my finger and it tickled, you see!
Then all of a sudden she just flew away,
And I called to her, "come back some other day!"

A ladybug stick puppet and lots of practice learning the poem above kept us talking and participating during circle time that first week. We also learned a lot about ladybugs. Did you know that a ladybug goes through the same cycle of metamorphosis that a butterfly does? The ladybug must lay her eggs on a plant where there are already aphids so the newly hatched larva has a food source, then a small pupa forms and the whole process produces a new ladybug!

We Just Went Buggy!

Preschool was a pretty creepy crawly place for two weeks. We learned about insects and spiders and how to tell the difference. Children caught and brought a variety of insects and spiders during the unit, they loved showing and telling the class about what each container held.

We were very excited to have a big black and yellow garden spider make her egg sack one night while we were gone! We learned that there are over 1000 eggs in each egg sack! A big thanks to all the parents that "helped" catch the little creatures that came to preschool!

What is tall, yellow and green?

We read about, tasted, drew, painted, and harvested our own sunflower. Last year a student brought in a large sunflower from her yard and we observed it dry and then we harvest the seeds and fed our squirrels in our yard. One of the seeds took root in our planter and grew to over 5 feet tall this summer. We harvested the head and will use it to feed squirrels again this winter.

Reading the book The Sunflower House and other books about seeds and how plants grow helped us understand just how that happened last summer. We also snacked on shelled and unshelled seeds, made a sequencing story on the long stem of a paper sunflower and glued seeds to the middle of it to make it look real.

Scampering Squirrels

If you had a chattering scampering little squirrel at your house last week you can blame it on us! We had such fun making our squirrel hats, puppets and singing our songs. We read books like The Nutty Nut Chase and Nuts to You along with several non-fiction titles that taught us more about the bushy tailed friends we feed in our yard each winter. Our stories helped us learn some great new words like scamper, skitter, chatter, acorn, and more.

Picture Day

You will be getting your packets of pictures sometime in October if you ordered. The students went over to the elementary to have their picture taken. There is a retake day if for some reason you are not satisfied with the pictures when they come. We will let you know more about that when the information is available to us.

Apples Apples Apples

We want to thank our friend Mrs. Patty Sterns for her kind offer to share the bountiful harvest on her apple tree with us. We were able to walk down there with our wagon several weeks ago and pick juicy red apples right off the tree. We have been enjoying these apples several times a week for snack since then. It is very nice of Mrs. Sterns to think of us, and it is a lot of fun to pick our own snack.

This last week of September is Apple Week at preschool. We have many activities planned, songs to learn and wonderful books to read as we learn all about apples. We will study the life cycle of an apple tree, the sequence of how a whole apple gets to be a core, who Johnny Appleseed was, and much much more. We have a Scholastic news about apples that will be coming home this week also.

Check That Backpack!

We send many things home in your child's backpack during the week. If you pick up your child we try to just hand you things, but if your child goes to day care or is picked up by someone else then we put items to go home in the backpack. Check it out so you don't miss anything!

A BIG Thank-You from the Preschool!

We want to thank you for your recent generosity! When we send home a book order and you submit orders online to Scholastic the classroom library benefits greatly. For every online order that is placed the preschool receives one coupon valued at up to \$4.00 for a free book. We have eleven coupons to use when we order next to increase our preschool library, which is a HUGE help to us! We read 3-4 books aloud a day during our Circle Times and read many more to small groups of children during Center Time each day. That adds up to a lot of books! I like to purchase books that go along with the different topics we study and Scholastic offers a nice selection of that type of children's book for me to choose from to expand our library. I couldn't do that without your help!

I do want to emphasize that book orders are always just an option for you. I do not expect all our families to order nor do I expect anyone to order each time. If you cannot order online that is OK also, I just wanted to let you know about this new benefit Scholastic is offering for the first time this year. Being a really big lover of children's books I like to make the Scholastic selection available to you because I feel they offer a nice selection of quality literature at reasonable prices.

It is so rewarding to see our students excited about books, to have them ask to read a book again that they loved the first time and just to see them loving the magic found between two covers. Immersing your child in literacy in many forms is a big part of our day; quality children's books play a big part in our ability to do that. Thanks!

Please send a jacket
everyday!

Homework At Preschool?

Young children need many, many experiences as they grow and learn. It is important for children to see the things we do here as important and a part of everyday life. The more repetition children get the sooner they are likely to remember and internalize the concept being worked on.

With that in mind, from time to time I will make available games or other activities that will help your support your child's learning at home. These activities are designed to be short, taking up only about 10-20 minutes. Many are in a game type format and help to build an atmosphere of exploration and fun while being played.

Our first home activity sheet is a patterning skill. It is called Echo Clapping. No materials are needed except your hands a little time. This activity can be done at home, in the car or just about anywhere. Give it a try!

Look for an activity sheet/game idea on the communication center by the door this week. I will provide everything you need to spend some fun time with your preschool child and help reinforce his/her learning process at the same time!

Who is that?

We will introduce you to the people your child comes into contact with during his/her preschool day in our newsletters this year.

Our first featured person is Mrs. Keri Craddock, our speech pathologist. Mrs. Craddock joined our team at Bennet a year ago after working for Lincoln Public Schools. She and her husband have one son. Mrs. Craddock comes out to the preschool multiple times a week to work with children that have been identified with articulation and speech therapy needs. She is a wealth of speech and language development information and one of our preschool team members we depend on for her expertise in her field.

Mrs. Craddock is joined this fall semester by Ms. Rachel Slavens. Ms. Slavens is doing her student teaching as a part of the University of Nebraska's Speech Pathology program. Ms. Slavens joins Mrs. Craddock for the therapy sessions and has already established a wonderful bond with our students.

We are excited to work hand in hand with these two team members to help our preschool friends have the best experience possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5---Fire Safety Week

- A special visit by our own Lincoln Fireman, Jessie Theiler (Alina's Dad) on October 6
- A special visit by the Bennet Rural Fire Department on October 7.

October 13---Autumn Leaves Week

October 19---Pumpkin Week

October 22---No preschool on Thursday, (State of Nebraska Dept. of Education Curriculum Reporting)

October 26---Happy Halloween Week

October 28---Group Pictures the forms will come home later

October 29---Our Halloween Celebration All Preschool friends come dressed in as much of their favorite color as possible, we make our crayon hats, paint our faces, and magically become a big box of crayons! Stay tuned for more information about our preschool celebration in the coming weeks.

Wrapping It Up...

We want to say thanks to our preschool parents for all the help with our first month of school! You have been a tremendous help remembering things, sending things, and most importantly sending us well-rested and eager young children. This group of children is amazing us each day with their questions and enthusiasm to learn more about whatever we are studying. Mrs. Poe and Mrs. Cheney may have to go back to school to stay ahead of them!

Remember, just ask if you have questions and thanks again for all your help already this year, we are off to such a wonderful start!

Mrs. Cheney & Mrs. Poe