

## Truro Central School Preschool February 2010 Newsletter

Last month's theme 'All Kinds of Families' proved to be very engaging to children. Our discussions and play about families was focused by the questions 'Who is in the family?', 'What do families do?', and 'Where do families live?' As you can imagine, children offered a wide array of interesting and exciting ideas related to this theme. They enjoyed songs and dances about people in the family. A favorite activity was making a family for the dollhouse and carrying out the family's plan for the day. We also learned about the diversity of homes for people and animals and enjoyed making animal homes using shavings and wood pieces in the water table.

Another notable accomplishment in our classroom has been the increasing skills children have demonstrated with our morning message. The Morning Message is an important Responsive Classroom tool used by each TCS teacher. In preschool it is a simple repetitive message on the chalk easel using some written words and some pictures and familiar icons. At the beginning of the year the message was read by the teacher using a pointer. The greeting of each message is the first line of one of our morning songs and varied from day to day. Very quickly it became apparent that children were recognizing the song we would sing by reading the board. They continued to glean more and more information from the board by reading the icons and pictures, sight reading names of students in the class and days of the week and other frequently used words like 'see' and 'we' and using their knowledge of letter sounds to predict words. I direct their attention to the board by asking, 'What do you notice about the Morning Message today?' Perhaps they might share some of their

observations with you on your way to the playground some morning.

## February Themes

This month we will begin a study of *Water*. Of course we will also be thinking about *Friendship and Family Love* around Valentine's Day.

The following are some ways we may explore our themes.

### Songs-

I Want to Be a Friend of Yours

Turn Off the Water

Magic Penny

### Books-

Water

Sink and Float

Love You Forever

### Art Activities-

Valentines and Valentine bags

Water color painting

Water collage

### Other activities-

Sink and float sorting

Absorb/repel sorting

Tubes and funnels in the water table

Making bubbles

## Calendar

February 2, Thursday -Early Dismissal for preschool only. This is one of our monthly preschool early dismissal days. They will occur on the first Thursday of the month and will be used for professional development for preschool staff. Preschool children will all be dismissed at 12:00 on this day and no lunch will be served.

February 13, Wednesday, 2:50-4:30, (*note: different time*) Media Awareness for Families, Cindy Horgan from the Children's Place. Cindy will present this special topic for kindergarten and preschool families. Lynne Ready and Ariana Bradford, kindergarten teacher will attend. Childcare will be provided. This will take the place of our regular CPC meeting.

February 20-24, No School, Winter Break.

## Announcements and Reminders

We will recognize Valentine's Day by reading stories throughout the week about friendship and family love, filling the collage box with Valentine makings, and celebrating on Tuesday and Wednesday with a Valentine exchange and special snack. We would welcome a family member to help with the snack on both days; your recipe or ours! Children are not required to bring Valentines to school, but if you choose to have your child do so, we ask that you send a Valentine for each child to help us avoid hurt feelings. Bring Valentines in a bag with your child's name on the outside and we will help him/her distribute them during the day. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a current list of first names of children in our class to help you in your endeavor. We also ask that you help us keep this tradition age appropriate by redirecting talk of boyfriends or girlfriends to focus on preschool friendships and family love.

Transitions can be tricky, especially for young children. Our schedule is structured to make arrival and departure time predictable and comfortable for children. Arriving late (after 8:20) for a day of preschool is often uncomfortable for the child and distracting for the rest of the class. It also limits the child's opportunities to smoothly greet and connect with friends and teachers and causes him/her to miss curriculum (yes, playground time is curriculum!) At 12:00 or 2:50 our school day is over and your child is prepared to reunite with and depart with you. Even a wait of only 5 minutes can feel like a very long time to a child who has worked and played long and hard for a school day. Think of this as a very important appointment you have made with your child and please be on time to pick up your patient preschooler.