

Southminster Nursery School News



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From Michele

Well, after just two months of school we can already see the wonderful adjustments are children have made. They have conquered the scary good-bye at the classroom door. They have started making new friends and have become re-acquainted with some old friends. They are enjoying being in school. Each one of our children is ready to move on to new things and to take on new challenges. Of course, as they are ready to take on more challenges we too should be ready for what these changes may be and how it will impact our lives. We watch our children go through many different stages and phases throughout their lives. Sometimes they pass through these phases with very little difficulty while other times us, as parents feel that we may not survive. Just as we successfully navigate through one phase, we are already being put through another change. Change often is a difficult time in our lives and in the lives of our children. Change can cause a lot of stress in our lives. Change can be big, like a move or the birth of a baby, while other changes can be small and occur almost daily. One thing we know for sure is that change is a process that is the ending of one thing and the beginning of something different. How we manage these changes is what will determine how successful the outcomes will be.

When dealing with our children and their ever changing needs and personalities, we need to realize that the way we did things before or even last week may not work the same way: we may need to step out of our comfort zone and explore different solutions. We as parents need to grow and change right along with our children.

What I am saying here is that when raising children we are constantly going through change, sometimes more quickly than others. As our children grow they need us for many things, but they also begin doing things for themselves. Just when we figure out how to cope with our preschooler we find ourselves with a grade school student, who requires much less help and a little less supervision as they become more independent and begin to move out into the bigger world without us. What we need to remember is that ultimately what we want for our children is for them to grow into independent, decision making adults.

In order this to happen we need to step back and allow our children to make choices throughout their lives. Sometime we need to allow them to make mistakes and learn from these mistakes. If we always try to control our children so they won't feel disappointment, we are not showing them that we trust them to make good choices. Allowing our children to make choices lets them know that we trust them and believe in them. Not that this is easy. When I look back at all the times I had to bite my tongue and not interfere, when I had to step very far out of my comfort zone and let them decide things for themselves, it was all for the greater good. It prepared them to leave home for college, get jobs and live on their own. So although I was not prepared for this next stage of my life, they were very well prepared for theirs.

I think it's in our nature as parents to always want to look out for our children and to protect them. Except the problem with that way of thinking is that someday the time will come when you have to let them go off on their own, without you, and you have to trust that you have done your job and prepared them for their journey. You have to know that you raised them to be independent so that when this day comes, they will be ready for it.

If the ultimate goal of raising children is to raise independent, self-sufficient adults then we must remember that raising them is a process ultimately leading to this goal. Supporting them throughout their lives, advising them when we can and stepping away when we need to is an important and at times very difficult process. There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to raising our children. Children need to be loved, respected and nurtured. Allow them the privilege to make choices along the way and step back and watch them grow. They are sure to amaze you.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to all!

Michele

FUNDRAISER!

Hello Ladies & Gentleman of Southminster!!!!

Southminster Childcare & Nursery School is happy to have had the opportunity to build a new playground for the students. The new playground is providing the children and families of the community a safe, fun and accessible place to play. It now includes new surfacing, embedded slides on the hillside, water play with a continuous pump, dirt area, and a special space for the tots and 2's!! Amazing! The previous playground was built 10 years ago but the amount of work needed to repair the equipment and surface put Southminster into this next phase of building a newer, better built, better able to meet the needs of all the children especially the littlest ones.

Now that the playground is completed, the goal is to fill the financial responsibility and is looking for support from our community. To accomplish this we are going to have a fundraiser and hope that you can join us at Caliente on Nov. 4th from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. It will be a special date night out for the parents, so get yourselves a babysitter and come have fun while supporting a good cause. And if that is not possible, we hope to see at least one of you so we can hang out somewhere other than the school hallway.

We have gathered up an amazing array of raffle prizes from supporting businesses (which are still rolling in) willing to donate to our purpose. Arm's length for \$20 and 5 tickets for \$10 gets you a lucky shot at some awesome prizes.

Tickets are \$40 per person & will include food and unlimited soft drinks for the evening and donation to the fundraiser. You can purchase tickets from Michele in the school or by PayPal using the links at our [web site](#). The incredible display of crafts, drafts and wine that Caliente has to offer will be cash bar based on individual consumption.

There will be Live Entertainment with a collaboration of talented powerhouse of musicians who have played in such bands as Vivid Grey, The Buddy Brown Show, Voodoo Babies and Max House & The Perkulators.

It was the goal of the Board of Directors to bring a new playground to Southminster School in time for the 2017/2018 school year and that's just what they did! Let's come together and help fund the initiative and have fun doing it!!!

Thank you in advance, your help is very much appreciated!

Kelly Nash, Coordinator & the Southminster Nursery School Board of Directors



Two Day Three's/Three Day Three's

What a tremendous month of October for the 3's!

Starting the month with our first shape of the circle and color orange for the crazy caterpillar project. Next they mixed yellow and red to paint orange pumpkins that grew on the vine made of crepe paper. The children delighted in crafting a tissue paper pumpkin flower and tiny pumpkin bud complete with hand cut paper leaf for a wonderful display that was the background for the festive Halloween parties. The children used tape, paper plates and dot markers to create a tractor and towed the hayride to visit their own farm right inside the classroom. There were gourds to trade and sell and a pumpkin carving to see the inside of the pumpkin and plenty of slippery seeds to try and pick up! We added Yoga and Science to our list of special classes. We are looking forward to November and December when we will introduce the shape of the square, triangle and new colors: brown and green. We will move onto the study of Trees and take the time to discuss why it is important to give thanks.

Kindest Regards,



Mrs. Szigethy, Mrs. Tischuk, and Mrs. Santos

Parent/Tot

October has been a month of new experiences for the tots. First, some new toys were introduced and they turned out to be a big hit. Second, the tots are exploring with paint. Some prefer finger paint but most prefer painting with a brush. Playdough and the small cars always seem to be the most popular in this group! In November/December we will be using markers, objects from nature, paint, cotton balls, and pieces of fabric for more explorations into art.

Mrs. Byrne



Three Day Three's

Wow did October fly! We had so much fun on the farm, picking pumpkins and playing in the field. I was thrilled so many families could join. We learned all about farms in October, discussing animals that live on farms and the crops farmers grow and harvest. We played in corn sensory bins, compared the color/shape/texture of different gourds, and harvested "pumpkins and crops" on the playground. A favorite activity was caving our classroom pumpkin and feeling the slimy inside.

In November we will be studying trees! Look around on your way to school for anything your child finds from trees to share with the class. We will also focus on the color brown and the square shape. Brown day is November 1st so don't forget to have you child wear something brown and bring something small and brown to glue onto our project.

Mrs. Drizos & Mrs. Hannan



Important Dates in November:

November 1 and 2	Speech and Hearing Screenings
November 8, 9 & 10	Parent/Teacher conferences for 3's, 4's and Pre-K classes
November 13/14	Science with Mrs. Verna McGinley
November 22-27	No School-Happy Thanksgiving

Important Dates in December:

December 7	APAT Cookies with Santa 6:30-8:00
December 11 and 12	Science with Mrs. Verna McGinley
December 13 and 14	Holiday Sing with Mrs. Kline
December 18-Jan 1	No School-Happy Holidays

Two Day Two's

What a wonderful October we've had in the Two's! The children are doing beautifully. They are learning the routine, playing and interacting more with each other, and welcoming new experiences such as Music with Mrs. Klein. It is a delight to see them learn and grow.

In November, we will spend time talking and reading about family since many of us will be with family during the upcoming holidays. We will also continue to focus on learning each other's names and practicing skills such as taking turns with toys and asking for what they want. The children are beginning to interact more and do small kindnesses for one another, which is beautiful to see.

Even as the days grow cooler, we like to spend as many days as we can outside on the playground. Please dress your child for the chillier weather so that they are comfortable spending about fifteen minutes outside.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving, we are thankful to have such supportive parents and grateful that you trust us with your precious children.

Lori Guenther & Nicole Gilberg



Three Day Four's

October was full of farm fun. During this month the children constructed a cardboard barn to use in the classroom, created popsicle stick barns, and painted googly eyed pumpkins using baking soda/ vinegar paint. We spent time discussing what different farms do and what farm animals we like the best. We are ending our study with a farmer's market in the dramatic play area. The children are buying/selling real pumpkins and gourds! October ends with our carving of our class pumpkin and Halloween party.

In November/December our study will be Trees. This month also brings our special Thanksgiving Feast in which both Fours classes eat together. More information and donation list will be in mailboxes soon.

Happy Fall,

Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Frederick



Building Security:

Every family has received their Fob card; please remember to use your Fob when entering the building. The staff on the second floor has to stop what they are doing to answer the door. This is very disruptive if it happens a lot. Please help us help them by using your Fob every time you need to enter the building.

Drop Off:

Please be sure to read the drop off section of the family handbook. This will help our drop off program run extra smoothly.

EPL:

Please do not include EPL payments in your tuition payment. Instead, write a separate check and place it in the envelope on the EPL bulletin board. Thank you.

Pre-K

We have had an awesome October in the Pre-K class! During our study of farms, we have learned about the types of farms, how they work, and why they are important. The students had the opportunity to be farmers-"planting, caring for, and harvesting" our own produce. They particularly enjoyed buying and selling goods at our Southminster Farmer's Market. Baking pumpkin muffins was another fun farm activity. In November, we will start a study of trees that will continue through December. During that study, we will learn about various types of trees, how they grow, the seasonal changes, and why trees matter so much for us and our planet. We will be doing nature walks to see trees and collect items related to trees for our science center. We look forward to talking with each of you during the upcoming conferences. Until then, enjoy the beautiful fall weather with your children.

Mrs. Kontos and Mrs. Moses



Music

October was a busy month in Music class. We had the opportunity to use rhythm sticks (always a favorite!) and our 4's classes played our gathering drums. (The 3's and 2's will have a chance to play these large floor drums soon!)

We learned some new fall chants and songs, and many Halloween songs. Ghosts, skeletons, pumpkins, jack o' lanterns, and monsters have all made an appearance in the music room.

In November, we will learn a few Thanksgiving songs, play with ribbon streamers, and try out the Octaband with "Stretch Back". In December, we will learn the songs for the Holiday Sing in Fellowship Hall, which will be on December 13 and 14 for our 3's, 4's and Pre-K. Watch for invitations in your child's box and via email.

Below are the words to a favorite new chant. Ask your child to demonstrate!

Mrs. Kline

*I saw a ghost
He saw me too
I waved at him
And he said....Boo!*



Four Day Four's

October in the 4 Day 4s class has been fantastic! During our study of farms, we learned about what farms are, what types there are, how they work and why they are important to all of us. The children especially enjoyed being farmers as they "planted, cared for, and harvested" their own food. They enjoyed playing in the Southminster Farmer's Market buying and selling their goods. We look forward to starting a study of trees in November. This study will continue into December. We will be learning about the types of trees, what happens to them in the changing seasons, how they are used and why they are important to us and our world. We will do several nature walks to observe trees and collect leaves for our science center. We look forward to seeing you at conferences. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather with your children!

Mrs. Kontos and Mrs. Moses



Kindergarten Enrichment

November will take our Enrichment class to South America. We will concentrate on learning about the Amazon Rainforest and how important it is to the earth. The kids will learn about the layers of the rainforest and which animals live in each part. In our hallway we will build a rainforest of our own and make animals to go in their appropriate layer.

Not only will the kids learn about the animals in the rainforest, but also the importance of what is produced from the rainforest. We will then chart how many of those products we have in our homes.

Carnivale in Rio de Janeiro will be our final topic for South America. We will find out about parades and traditions and make Carnivale masks to take home. Frozen Antarctica is our continent for December. The kindergarteners will learn why no one lives permanently on this continent. We will do a science experiment to show how the animals of Antarctica are able to withstand the cold temperatures.

We will learn about icebergs and what caused the Titanic to wreck. The kids will make a frozen landscape in the hall to hang penguins that they create. They will also find out why a penguin and a polar bear will never meet.

Our final science project will be making our own slushies!

These will be busy and fun two months.



Mrs. Haberberger & Mrs. Guenther

Eat + Play = Learn

In October the children have been experimenting with a few STEAM activities that pertain to our Center's farm theme. STEAM is STEM with Art added in and perfect for the preschool set. Some of the problems the children have worked on were counting how many people were in their family and creating their "play" family, building a home their play family could fit in, and building a gate that 5 little pumpkins could sit on. The children can work together or independently. So far, it's been a big hit. We will continue this exploration for as long as the children stay interested with a few fun art projects and games sprinkled in.

Just a reminder that we are a nut free preschool so please check snack packages. If they have been made in a facility with nuts they are not permitted.

Happy Fall,

Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Drizos, and Mrs. Gilberg



Pre-K

The Pre-K program is in full gear! From seeing roots, leaves, and seeds in Science class to relaxation in Yoga we are on track for an excellent month of October. The children completed journal entries about their favorite farm animals, what candy they will eat for Halloween, and if they chose a big pumpkin or little pumpkin at the farm.

They started a bookmaking project all about numbers and completed a Weekly Reader about the parts of the pumpkin. We look forward to the months of November and December when we will start a new study of trees and create a forest from parts of the tree, clay, and cardboard. We will take a few moments to talk about giving thanks and the importance of showing gratitude. We are thankful for the parents and caregivers that provide love and comfort to the children.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs. Szigethy and Mrs. Frederick

