From the Desk of the Director
by Dr. Mandy Medvin (email: medvinm@westminster.edu)

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! We are sharing with you in this newsletter our academic and behavioral expectations for the MWF and TTH classes for the coming year. Our goal is that by the end of the school year, your child is able to demonstrate the age appropriate skills for their particular class.

For our curriculum, on a day-to-day basis children learn about many fun themes for each class. Across all activities, we have a framework of skills and expectations that we nurture in your child. This framework comes from the accreditation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), as well as the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards, which stem from research on the best ways for young children to learn. For example, social play is included on this list as studies have shown that children with a strong social and emotional foundation do better in school. We would be happy to discuss any of these standards with you in more detail.

Finally, our preschool advisory board for the year will be on Thursday, October 19 at 12:40 in Patterson 328. Our parent representatives—Joanna McClelland for the Tuesday/Thursday class, and Michelle Dudash for the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class will be attending, along with our staff and faculty from the psychology and education programs. Our primary focus will be on discussing what we learned from our successful NAEYC re-accreditation process.

M/W/F Class Head Teacher's Notes
by Debi Roud (email: roudds@westminster.edu)

During the month of September your preschoolers became familiar or "re-familiar" with the daily routines, with separation and with new friendships. The M/W/F class is firmly established at this point in the school year. We observe that your four and five year-olds are becoming much more aware of peer dynamics and are learning to function in a group. Children are encouraged to use their own words to negotiate social situations before intervention from a teacher. The preschoolers themselves work out most episodes very

T/Th Class Teacher's Notes
by Melissa Moore (email: mooreml@westminster.edu)

You should see how your children are adjusting to preschool! The T/Th class is working hard at remembering our preschool rules and routines, learning classmates' names and, in general, adjusting socially. This is a lot for them to do -- especially when most have had little or no previous school/group experiences.

As you observe your children playing in our preschool room, you may be asking

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successfully. This reinforces confidence and independence in your children!

Many of you are taking advantage of the Observation Room and are seeing the classroom routines and activities. These are the expectations the teachers have for four and young five year-old children.

Expectations for the Four & Five Year-Old-Class

Circle Time
- Sitting for 20 minutes on a rug piece, keeping hands to oneself and attending to the activities during Circle Time.
- Raising a hand first to signal to a teacher that he/she would like to talk.
- Listening to others when they are talking.
- Beginning to share words and ask relevant questions about themes or other children.

Self-help skills
- Removing and hanging up coats and back packs by themselves as well as getting ready for going home time by putting papers in own back pack and putting on a coat.
- Using the bathroom facilities by themselves or being able to ask for help.
- Pouring juice, cleaning up snack space and sharing and passing snack food to peers.
- Participating in clean-up time by picking up toys to put them in appropriate spaces.

Transition
- Being able to put play "on hold" to move to an art table, to join music time or to participate at a facilitated center.
- Ending free play to begin to clean up room and prepare for snack time.
- Knowing how to line up to go outside or to walk to a different activity.

Name Writing
- Using marker with a pinch writing grip.
- To begin to make a legible name using upper case and some lower case letters.

Fine Motor
- Using a paintbrush, art supplies, scissors and glue with increasing skill.
- Handling puzzle pieces, blocks, and small toys during play.
- Feeding pets, beginning to use tools at the woodworking table, and zipping coats.

Social Play
- Beginning to use clear verbal interchange between peers and with teachers to share toys, express feelings and communicate needs.
- Beginning to understand friendship dynamics. At four, children are beginning to form "cliques" (i.e. boy or girl play only, "Club" only, etc.). To learn to play with all children and to begin to adapt to and tolerate differences in others.

September was a month of self-awareness. The children enjoyed measuring themselves, making footprints and talking about family rituals, their homes and interests. Your preschoolers are exploring differences between themselves and others and what makes each of us unique. We have enjoyed watching your children's young personalities emerge as they are sharing and becoming familiar with their school and teachers. Our I Am Special booklets are finished and you will receive them soon.

Letter Show and Tell will continue this month for the M/W/F class. We post the letter of the week on the outside bulletin board as well as announce it in the calendar. Thanks for helping your child find something to share for letter day.

The MWF class has begun Star of the Week. This special time is set aside each week during the morning circle when each child in the MWF class will have an opportunity to be the "star" all week. Your child will bring a "star bag" home and should bring it back to school with no more than two things to share with the class. All "star" papers will be posted outside our classroom.

Creative Movement classes will begin for the MWF class at the Old '77 Gym on October 11 and continue until mid-April. We will be walking up to the gym by 11:00 a.m. and will dismiss from the Gym at 11:40 AM on these days. Please dress your children in comfortable clothing for lots of walking and running. If you need directions to the Old '77 Gym, please ask.

Our Halloween party is scheduled for Monday, October 30. The M/W/F class will be parading through the campus to "show off" our costumes. Our parade time begins around 9:30 a.m. and lasts about an hour. After the parade, the parent committee will provide a party and a snack for the children. We will soon be contacting those parents that signed up to help plan this holiday party. The word for the day is SIMPLE. Halloween can be scary for little ones, so we try to keep the day as low-key and fun as possible.
you to what we expect of your three-year-old and the class in general. Below is a list of expectations we hope your children will begin to accomplish within the next several months.

**Expectations for the Three-Year-Old Class:**

**Circle time**
- To sit on a rug piece for about 10 minutes.
- To keep their hands/body parts to themselves while sitting on their rug pieces.
- To begin to raise their hand to signal to the teacher that they would like a turn to talk.
- To begin to listen to a short story, poem or finger play.

**Self-help skills**
- To hang up their coats and backpacks by themselves.
- To wash hands by themselves.
- To feel comfortable using the bathroom and asking a teacher for help.
- To pour their own juice and clean up their snack space at snack time.
- To begin to clean up room at clean up time.

**Transition**
- To transition from one activity to the next (i.e. – to stop playing and come with a teacher when asked to complete an art project or, to move from playtime to clean up time without “falling apart” when the bell is rung).
- To stand in a line (choo choo train line) to transition from inside to outside play.

**Name writing**
- To make scribbles that represent names, words, letters etc.

**Fine motor**
- To begin to hold a marker using a pinch grip.
- To begin to use scissors with their fingers in the correct scissor hole position.
- To begin to glue by squeezing out small amounts of glue onto paper.

**Social Play**
- To begin to realize the toys in our preschool room should be shared with others.
- To begin the transition from parallel play to associative play or more complex cooperative play.
- To begin to **use their words** to interact with peers instead of crying, pushing etc.

Just a reminder, **Show and Tell** is every Thursday at the end of the day. This is a special time for children to bring something from home to show to their group and talk about.

The T/Th class has begun **VIP of the Week**. Every week, one student will be chosen to be the Very Important Person for that week. This is your child’s time to be the “star”. A note and special VIP Poster will be sent home explaining what to do when it is his or her turn to be the VIP. Please complete the VIP poster with your child and send it back to preschool the next day.

Our Halloween party is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31. The Tuesday/Thursday class will be walking through the Hoyt building to “show off” our costumes to faculty, staff, and college students. After, the parent committee will provide a party and snacks for the children. We will soon be contacting those parents that signed up to help plan this holiday party. The word for the day is SIMPLE. Halloween can be scary for little ones, so we try to keep the day as low-key and fun as possible.

Last but not least, we will begin computer and iPad play on a more regular basis for the three-year-old class. Students from the college (usually education or psychology majors) volunteer to come into the class to assist small groups of children with some very basic computer skills. Computer goals and objectives for the Tuesday/Thursday class are: 1) to become comfortable with the computer and learn how to move the mouse, 2) to become familiar with the classroom computer games, 3) to allow small groups to work together to encourage socialization and improve verbal communication, and 4) to have FUN!
**HIGHLIGHTS-M/W/F CLASS:**

**Squirrels**
They are brown or gray, have a bushy tail and love to eat nuts. What are they? Squirrels of course! Look for squirrel art, and lots of “squirrelly” discussion this day!

**Spider Day**
It seems like October is always a great month to study our eight-legged friends. We will be discussing several different types of spiders, observing spiders and making our very own spider headbands.

**Bones**
There have been some interesting discussions about bones and how they work in our bodies. Based on your children’s interests, we decided to talk about our bodies and our bones. Of course, we will couple that with some Halloween skeleton art in honor of the upcoming holiday!

**Fire Safety Week**
We will be learning about fire and how to be safe from fire. Fire truck art, fire hats and lots of pretend play will be highlighted throughout the week. A field trip to Neshannock Fire Department is scheduled for Friday, October 13. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside our classroom door for field trip drivers!

**Owls**
Your children will be learning about owls … where and when they sleep, what they eat and how they sound. Along with creating some ‘hooty’ owl art, our stuffed owl friend from the biology department will pay us a visit.

**Potion Science**
This class will mix, mash, mush, mold, squish and splash! The children’s imaginations will be fired up during this unit of creating potions and concocting new substances. Science skills will abound as we hypothesize and ponder over crazy materials. A walking field trip to the college chemistry department is in the planning stages.

**Friendly Monsters**
As Halloween approaches, we hope to prepare your children for this holiday by talking about good, friendly, funny “monsters.” We will be reading monster-friendly books such as There’s a Monster in My Closet, Where the Wild Things Are, and Go Away Big Green Monster.

**Pumpkin Science/Orange Day**
We love pumpkins! These fun days will be spent investigating pumpkins, learning how a pumpkin grows, and carving a real pumpkin to discover what’s inside. Of course we will make some fun pumpkin art, too!

**Halloween**
Halloween art and dressing up in our Halloween costumes for our campus parade will be at the top of our list for the day! Our Halloween party will follow the campus parade and is scheduled for Monday, October 30.

**HIGHLIGHTS-T/TH CLASS:**

**Happy Harvest**
Fall is here and with it comes many fun learning opportunities. The T/TH class will be using leaves, acorns, pinecones, and more to create fun Fall art. We will talk about the Fall Harvest and what changes we see happening outside.

**Fire Safety**
We will spend a day learning all about fire safety. We will discuss the job of a fireman, how to call 911, and engage in some active fireman play outside on our patio.

**Bats**
Do you know how many bugs a bat eats in one night? We’re going to find out! We will be learning how bats look and sound, too. Keep your eye out for some batty artwork hanging around our classroom.

**Spiders**
Creepy crawly fun! The children will be learning spider facts, looking at pictures, and creating a fun spider to take home.

**Wacky Witches**
Get ready for a wacky day! We will be mixing “potions,” reading some wonderful witch books (Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson/Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman), and creating our very own witches out of shapes. Ask about our “witch broom” snack!

**Pumpkins**
We love pumpkins! These fun days will be spent investigating pumpkins, learning about how a pumpkin grows, and getting to carve out a real pumpkin to discover what’s inside. Of course we will make some fun pumpkin art, too!

**Orange Day**
Orange Day will be Thursday, October 26! Wear your orange to school! Ask your preschooler about “Spookley the Square Pumpkin.”

**Halloween**
Halloween fun and dressing up in our Halloween costumes for our Hoyt walk will be at the top of our list for the day! Our Halloween party will be on Tuesday, October 31.
**Songs We Sing**

**Jack-O-Lantern**
I'm a Jack-O-Lantern (make circle with arms)
With a great big grin. (big grin)
I'm a Jack-O-Lantern (make circle with arms)
With a candle in (tuck hand inside circle).

**Pumpkin**
Pumpkin, pumpkin round and fat
Turn into a jack-o-lantern just like that! (Clap)

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**Recipe of the Month:**
**Cheesy Harvest Time Treats**

4 ounces margarine, softened
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup Rice Krispies cereal

Mix together the softened margarine and grated cheese. Add the flour and cereal and mix well. Roll into gumball-sized balls.

Place the balls on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for ten minutes.

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**Websites for the Month:**
http://allrecipes.com/recipes/189/holidays-and-events/halloween/

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**What's Happening! Bulletin Board**

Please note the bulletin board next to the preschool door. This will be a place to gather information that has anything to do with preschool age children like local programs, swim lessons, entertainment, museum exhibits, etc. We count on you to be contributors so that any parent can share in some interesting activity or children. Tear articles out of papers or magazines, put up recipes or ideas from Pinterest and feel free to tack them up when you visit the preschool.

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**Fall Parent Teacher Conferences for both classes are Friday, November 3rd**

A sign up sheet will be made available a week prior to this date. You will find several time-slots posted. Please take a moment to find a time that works best for you. Thank you!

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**Preschool Advisory Board**

We are pleased to announce our two parent representatives to the Preschool Advisory Board. They are Michelle Dudash (M/W/F class) and Joanna McClelland (T/Th class). Your representatives are the chair people for the Parent Program, members of the board for the 2017-2018 school year and are the liaisons between parent and school. Please feel free to talk to Michelle or Joanna with any comments or concerns you would like to have passed on to the staff.
PICTURE PAGES

Etta and Cate are baking cookies at the play-doh table.

Madison, Mia, and Zachary are cutting apples for snack time.

Jonas and Peyton love playing trains!
PICTURE PAGES

Dylan, Mia, and Carter balancing on the playground!

Eliana, Gigi, Addy, and Jewelise playing Rapunzel in their castle!

Tessa and Eliza just hanging around!