

## Creative Arts

### **Children will assume elaborate roles in dramatic play.**

Developing these types of games is a major focus for this class. Nearly every day, the children make plans to create a story line. They take turns assuming roles and work collaboratively to make sure the story makes sense. This work often involves costumes, sometimes created by them. They also gather props, some of which are realistic looking and some of which are created using small manipulatives. While there are themes that recur over time, they are also open to expanding the types of roles and scenarios. This work occurs outdoors as well as in the classroom.

## Early Mathematical Discovery

### **Children will identify and describe a variety of 2-dimensional shapes with mathematical names.**

There are many materials within the classroom that allow for this work. As the children build with small manipulatives they often search for particular shapes, talking about their discoveries as they work. In addition we have several board games which call specifically for this skill. The buildings they create with blocks require planning connected to geometric shapes.

## Early Scientific Inquiry

### **Children will observe, record and note patterns regarding weather and the effects on the immediate environment.**

Our daily job chart includes the Weather Reporter. The child with this task is asked to check the weather by looking out the window and then placing the arrow on the picture which most closely matches what's happening outside. In addition this winter we added a thermometer outdoors and had the children use it to determine whether it was above or below freezing. When making this judgment, we encourage them to take into account the effects they can observe on the environment. For instance if the snow is hard it is below freezing.

## Social Studies

### **Children will demonstrate an understanding of the past, present and future as it relates to one's self.**

One of the ways we support this is through the children's preschool journals. This record of what they have been doing at school helps them to reflect on how they have changed as well as the variety of things they have been interested in throughout the year. As we observe them gain skills, we work to help them recognize their own growth.

## Upcoming Events

We continue with our exploration of the neighborhood. Our most recent trip was to Dunkin Donuts and we will be going to the library next. The format for these trips includes spending time choosing the destination, developing a set of questions we want to ask the folks who work there and then taking the actual trip. The process of developing the questions can be a challenging one for young children. It calls on them to recall what they already know about the location and then use their imagination to wonder what else they would like to learn. We use the questions to guide our observations when we visit the location. We then follow up each trip with a record of what we saw and what we learned. Some of these records will include the children's drawings and some will have photographs from the sites.

Our overall goal with this study remains building the children's understanding of the way our community works. We will continue working through the sites that we initially identified on our maps.

The "What's Happening?" question for this month is "What is something that your child is learning to do at home that we could follow up on at school?" Feel free to email answers or let us know at dropoff.

Parent Conferences will be held at the end of March/beginning of April. I look forward to meeting with each of you

As always if you have any questions or concerns about your child, please let me know.