



# P-3 NEWS



St. Thomas the  
Apostle School  
Worship in Spirit  
and Truth  
October 2011

## 3 Year Old Preschool October Newsletter

### Thematic Units in October

We are off to a great start in P-3! Our lessons in cooperative play from September have positively affected our class! We're hearing comments like, "Come play with me!" "Can I join in, too?" "I need a friend to go on the teeter totter with me!" Team building and team work will continue to be a focus in October. Please encourage and practice these skills at home as well!

Thank you for being so prompt with drop off and pick-ups! Also- thank you for all of the great things you donated from our Wish Flowers in the hall as well as snacks. Our kids are so fortunate to have such supportive parents!!!

Our Home & School Association of which you are a part, is looking for someone to host all of our P-3 families at their house for an evening of fun and fellowship. Although we see each other at drop off and pick up, it is nice to have a chance to socialize and have an evening out! Your children will be going through school for possibly 11 years together!! These Parent Gatherings are always a lot of fun! If you could be this year's host, please contact Lisa Mullen, our Home & School President, at 940-2324.

This year, we will again host a Harvest Hoe Down for all children in the school, parish, or neighborhood between the ages of 2 and 5. See separate note next week for details! It will be Sunday, Oct. 30, in the Ministry Center. You are invited to attend!

#### Liam and Evan doing Cooperative Block Building!



The five senses finished out our first month of lessons. We will continue to incorporate the five senses in all of our units. Smell matching jars, tastes of sweet, sour, and salty, feel and guess games, and listening center will be used with our apple and pumpkin units. Our kids are sharpening their senses every day!

Colors are another focus this month, especially as the fall colors descend upon us! We will reinforce colors in every unit as well!

Finally, our field trip to Koetsier's Green house will culminate our units! Kids can pick their own apples and pumpkins!

#### Reminders:

-Remember to **dress your child for the weather**. We will go outside every class if possible. Even if it's raining, we will play under the overhang of the ministry center (sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, etc.)

-The "**cutting box**" will be coming to your house soon! Please continue to encourage your child to practice these fine motor skills at home. More info. to follow on correct pencil grip and scissor grip.

-Keep an **extra change of clothing** (including socks!) in a plastic bag in your child's backpack. We will always let you know if an accident occurs, they got wet on the playground, doing art projects, playing in sand, etc. Extra gloves would be great!

-Field trip to **Koetsier's Greenhouse** is on **Thurs., Oct. 20**. We will ride the bus from school! Parents are invited to attend! Fun, fun, fun! (Rain or Shine!) (8:45-10:45am)

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd /Montessori

Our kids are doing some great work in the atrium! We always start with a lesson each week, followed by work time and then, prayer. It is beautiful to watch them working with the Good Shepherd work - talking to the sheep, hiding the lost sheep, etc. This month, we will discuss liturgical colors, altar I (chalice, paten, candles, altar cloth), the land of Israel, and the sign of the cross. Mrs. Koorndyk and I will try to get some pictures so that you can see them working and praying. It is beautiful!



Josie Huyser cuts the lawn! Outdoor play is a big part of preschool!

### Zoophonics

Our Zoophonics program starts this month! We will be introducing a new "animal/letter" each class along with its sound. In Zoophonics, we do not name the letter, we only say its sound. Each animal letter has a motion that goes with it. A sheet with each animal letter and motion will be sent home so that you can reinforce the sounds and motions. I will try to teach these in the hall as well! It is a wonderful program! You will be surprised at how quickly kids can learn their letter sounds in this way! In P-4 and in Kindergarten, the teachers will expand what we do in P-3!

## Contact Info.

If your child is sick, please call the school office before 8:30am. 458-4228 ext.300

Mary Ann Bridge School: 458-4228 ext.340  
ext.318 (rings in room)

Home: 235-2645/Cell 272-0368 (text,too)  
E-mail: [mbridge@stthomasgr.org](mailto:mbridge@stthomasgr.org)

If you signed up to receive the newsletter by E-mail and have not received it, please let me know!

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- \*See Oct. Calendar for color days!
- Oct. 16 - Happy Birthday Maguire Perdue!
- Oct. 20 - Field trip to Koetsier's Greenhouse - Hay ride/Fun!
- Oct. 21- Happy Birthday Grant Hillary!
- Oct. 27 - Fall Fun Day - Wear a costume! (No weapons please!!)☺
- Oct. 30- Harvest Hoe Down!
- Ministry Center - Games, treats!

### Handwriting w/o Tears

Handwriting Without Tears is another great program that we use! It teaches pre-writing skills through advanced writing skills. This includes strengthening hand muscles for writing, correct pencil/scissor grips, directionality of strokes beginning with basic shapes, and finally forming letters. In P-3, it's all about strengthening those hand muscles so they can be successful in drawing/writing! Playdough, tweezers (sunflower seeds, corn cobs,etc.), pliers (golf tees in the pumpkins) are all helping to do this. More info. to follow!