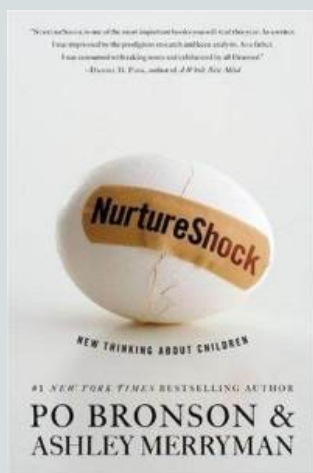




SCHOOL FOR FRIENDS

Director's Report



SUMMER READING – Parent Heather Hostetter brought to my attention the book Nurture Shock: New Thinking About Children by Po Bronson & Ashley Merryman. As the blurb on the back says – “With impeccable storytelling and razor-sharp analysis, the authors demonstrate that many of modern society’s strategies for nurturing children are in fact backfiring – because key twists in the science have been overlooked.” It is not a parenting manual. I have finished the first three chapters:

- 1. THE INVERSE POWER OF PRAISE** – Having high self-esteem doesn’t improve grades or career achievement.
- 2. THE LOST HOUR** – Around the world, children get an hour less sleep than they did thirty years ago. The cost: IQ points, emotional well-being, ADHD, and obesity.
- 3. WHY WHITE PARENTS DON’T TALK ABOUT RACE** – Kids are developmentally prone to in-group favoritism. It is during the period of our children’s lives when we imagine it’s most important to not talk about race that is the very developmental period when children’s minds are forming their first conclusions about race. Mere sending your child to a diverse school is no guarantee they’ll have better racial attitudes than children at homogeneous schools.

ACCREDITATION – We are beginning the process to renew our accreditation this summer and fall with an expected validation visit sometime between February and July of next year. The first step is to ask parents to fill out a survey. You received both a paper and an email version. Please, only one response per family. We would very much like to get 100%.

STAFF NEWS

- I attended a gathering of heads of Friends elementary schools and preschools from May 1st to 3rd at Chestnut Hill Meeting in



Accredited by the NAEYC
Academy for Early
Childhood Program
Accreditation

THANKS TO:

Monica Bussolati for ordering and installing the big blue Sff sign on the Playground. It’s beautiful! One of these days we will finish decorating the playground. Antje Wood has been working on our plantings.

All the parents who worked on Saturday May 7: Clean-up crew – Cynthia & Lance Potter (chairs), Jennifer Cass, Jesse Hamilton, Garrett Heenan, & Lan Tran. Earlier in the day, the Building and Grounds Committee has worked to seal the playground equipment – Harvie Haun, Jon Hamilton, Tom Lester, Michael Wolosin, Lance Potter, Elijah Wood, & Mark Cookson.

CHILDREN’S FAIR

We weren’t sure about the weather until the last minute, but chairs Steve Hansen & Alessandra Bradley-Burns made a great call on keeping

Philadelphia. As you might expect, the theme was leadership.

- During May, we hired two new teacher's aides for the Green Room and Rainbow Room. Their names are Alice Akinyeke (who has a degree in early childhood education and is now a graduate student) & Jasmine Hayward (a student at Howard in early childhood education and former assistant in the Earl Learning Program).
- May 10 – Maria Woodford attended training on Child Abuse and Neglect and shared the information with the staff.
- Sabina Zeffler & Makai Kellogg attended the Early Childhood Educators in Friends Schools gathering at Friends School Baltimore May 16-17. They have brought back lots of good ideas.
- Switch days – Some of our teachers switched places in May in order to get to know another group of children. Sabina & Jackie Whiting switched places on May 19 and LaJuan Celey & Maria switched places on May 26.
- Sabina and I attended a talk by Ellen Galinsky on her book Mind in the Making on May 24.
- Sabina has a well deserved five-week sabbatical this summer. She will be traveling to observe model preschools in Germany and will combine this with a vacation there, visiting her family. All in all, she will be gone June 20-August 18. We have hired Kelly Hanson to teach in the QH classroom. She has a Masters of Teaching in Elementary Education, certified in early childhood education, and most recently has been teaching in the Preschool at the University of South Carolina Child Development Center, an NAEYC accredited school. She studied and worked in Alaska and served in the Peace Corps in Mongolia.
- This summer we will be using two regular substitute teachers for when teachers are on vacation. They are Carly Clark and Lucy Dunning. Carly is a former SfF student and now studying education at University of Maryland. Lucy has been working for us during the summer for three years (as has Carly) and is a student in education at North Carolina State.
- All the teachers have about three weeks of well deserved vacation scheduled for the summer. Here's the schedule of vacations during the summer program:
 - Elsy Blanco – 7/25-8/12
 - Shaundra Brown – 6/24, 7/5-11, & 8/1-5
 - LaJuan Celey – 6/24, 6/27, 6/30-7/5, & 8/18-23
 - Jim Clay – 6/24, 7/1-8, & 7/14-25
 - Margaret Edwards – 7/13-15
 - Lela Ivankovic – 8/8-19
 - April Johnson – 6/22-23, 7/8-11, 7/22-25, & 8/10-16
 - Makai Kellogg – 7/8, 7/29, & 8/1-5
 - Jackie Whiting – 7/5, 7/22, 7/28-29, 8/15-19
 - Maria Woodford – 6/30-7/1, 7/12-13, 7/25-26, & 8/12
 - Sabina Zeffler – 6/20-8/12 (includes sabbatical)

Like the shiny new floors in the classrooms? We took advantage of the fact that we had the furniture out for the lead abatement to get all the

the fair on for Saturday the 14th. We had a good turnout of current and former families, plus some walk-ins from the neighborhood! The Moonbounce was new this year and very popular. It was also great that the firetruck was able to stay for so long. You'll see lots of the tie-dyed shirts around the school made by Michael Wolosin & Gisele Grayson. Thanks to the co-chairs and all the volunteers.

GOOD-BYE

Emily McBride has left for the summer in anticipation of her starting at Maret School in the fall.

Clara Bonfili left June 10 – to move with her family to Botswana, where her mother will be the U.S. Ambassador.

Quaker House Newsletter

Transitioning your child to a new school can be a big decision. After having found the right school (private, public, or charter school.) going from one social atmosphere to another can sometimes cause some anxiety for the whole family. Here are some tips and tools to know for the upcoming transition into a new environment.

1. Say goodbye to friends and classmates. Ask if the child can have a goodbye party at school.
2. Visit the new school. Play on the playground, walk or drive the route to help your child become comfortable traveling to the new school.
3. Talk about the school and what they can expect. Keep communication flowing so your child feels supported and knows that they can talk about anything that comes up at school.
4. It is good to make the transition an adventure. If you are excited, chances are they will be more excited.
5. Make sure that your child is aware that there are more opportunities to make friends in a larger school setting. Emphasizing that all children are new to the school and everyone had to make new friends.
6. Make sure you implement any changes to the new schedule ahead of time.
7. When you transition into the other school, you may want to involve yourself in their school. If possible volunteer at the school so that you will be a familiar and an available presence as your child transitions into their new surroundings.
8. Remember that keeping touch with old friends via email or phone and having play dates can help your child realize that old friends are still available and gives a sense of security.
9. Last but not least make sure your child gets enough sleep

After making new friends and getting used to the new environment your child will soon feel as comfortable at their new school as they did at their old school.

For this month you can expect to see lots of fun activities. The Summer Program begins June 20th and we are all excited!

We will be saying our goodbyes to some of our friends this month, and welcome 'old' faces, who will join us for the summer.

Sabina will be on her sabbatical until August 15th, and we are very happy to welcome Kelly Hanson who will be teaching in her place.

Please be sure to check the calendar every day so your child will be prepared and look forward to the activities!

Farewell and good luck to all the families who are leaving us in the next few weeks, you will be missed!

Rainbow Room Newsletter

All of the Rainbows are four years old and below are some of the expectations of four year olds. Please keep in mind that each child develops at their own pace, and may obtain these skills at different times during their development. However, it is anticipated that these skills are mastered by age five:

I. Emotional and Social

- Pays attention and concentrates on a task
- Participates in group activities
- Manages transitions and follows basic routines
- Cooperates and plays with peers

II. Physical

- Gross Motor

- Moves with increased large muscle control and coordination
- Alternates feet up and down steps without holding rails
- Jumps well in place
- Climbs up a ladder
- Is beginning to skip
- Gallops
- Coordinates several movements
- Runs and jumps
- Throws a ball with direction
- Runs, stops, starts and turns without falling
- Hops on one foot
- Moves to catch a ball

- Fine Motor

- Uses eye-hand coordination with refined precision
- Puts together 4-5 piece interlocking puzzles
- Follows a sequence of holes when lacing
- Colors within a defined area
- Holds a pencil or crayon with a tripod grasp
- Has a control of scissors, cuts along straight and curved lines, cuts out circles and squares.

III. Self Help

- Buttons and unbuttons
- Snaps and unsnaps • Initiate and zip a zipper
- Puts shoes on the correct feet
- Puts on and takes off all clothing

IV. Cognitive

- Recognizes printed names
- Verbally expresses their own experiences
- Understands a story and tells what the story is about
- Sequence 4 story pictures
- Predicts what will happen next in a story
- Sorts objects with the same characteristics
- Creates and describes simple AB patterns
- Counts aloud to the number 10
- Understands one-to-one correspondence up to 10
- Identifies some shapes
- Identifies some colors
- Engages in dramatic play with peers

- Draws or constructs objects to represent their own ideas

Reminders:

- Please bring two sets of extra clothes to have in your child's cubby at all times.
- On swimming days please arrive early so that the children can be dressed and have sunscreen applied.

Thank you!

Parents, thanks for supplementing our snack with the fresh fruits and vegetables that you have brought in for the Rainbow Room.

Green Room Newsletter

The sunny, sizzling summer days are here. On June 20th we will officially start our summer schedule which is full of exciting activities. During the month of May we focused on the theme 'Community Helpers'. We also continued our special trips. For the theme 'community Helpers' we learned about the following careers: Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, Carpenters, Plumbers, Firefighters, Construction Workers and Mail Carriers. For our trips we went to the National Museum of National History, the World Bank (Ivan's mom's workplace) and the Bagel Store.

We have already started playing in our waddling pools outdoors because of the hot temperatures. We are also doing other water play activities on the playground.

Reminders:

Parents please check email and the notice boards to see all the special activities, gears and prompts for our summer activities. In addition, please refill clothes cubbies with summer clothes

Birthday(s):

Tommy 6/22

Blue Room Newsletter

What happened in May?

The children enjoyed our "Transportation" theme in May. The Blue Room Class did numerous art projects such as coloring boats, drawing pictures of their favorite vehicles, decorating cars, trucks and airplanes. The books read in May included Trucks, Down by the Station and This Train. At the end of May the children drew pictures for Rolando because he is retiring in July and returning to El Salvador. We spent the last day of May celebrating Leo's birthday by eating delicious homemade cupcakes and singing "Happy Birthday" to Leo.

In The Month Ahead

The teachers in the Blue Room are looking forward to another exciting month with the Blue Room children!! Our theme for June is Ocean Life and we will learn about ocean animals such as fish, sharks, dolphin, whales, and jelly fish. We will learn about these various ocean creatures through art projects, reading books, and discussion in circle time. We will also make an ocean

using the water table where we will put shells and ocean animals. On June 22 the children will start going to the Francis pool every Wednesday at 10am. We will send an email with the pool's information within the next week. In this month, the Blue Room will go on two field trips, to Mitchell Park and to the Diner restaurant, where we will be guests of Liam's father.

Friendly Reminder:

Please, Parents if you have not already signed the sun screen permission forms and given them to Clare, then please do so as soon as possible. It is very hot already and since we are going outside two times per day and stay one hour each time, we need to have permission to apply sunscreen to your child. Also could you please bring sunscreen with your child's name on it.

Updates and Events:

May 30- June3rd Leo's Family Week
June 2 Field Trip
June 7 Field Trip
June 8 - SFF teacher appreciation picnic
June 19- Colette's Birthday
June 24 - Paloma's Birthday

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