



SCHOOL FOR FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & FRIENDS

Director's Report

March 2009

STAFF NEWS

- Jackie Whiting & Maire Prabhakar switched places on February 4.
- I attended a halfday workshop on Emergency Preparedness provided by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education on February 5th.
- Shaundra Brown & Mignon Harrell exchanged places on February 11.
- On February 25, Maire & Lela Ivankovic switched places.

VOLUNTEERS

Former SfF pupil, and current student at Holy Trinity, Lucy Beuchert has been volunteering at QH as she has done for the past couple of years. Tate Sweeney volunteered for a week during her winter break from school.

THANKS

- to Robynne Chutkan for providing an excellent workshop for parents on nutrition.
- To all the parents and grandparent who worked during our Saturday clean-up day on February 7 – Gisele Grayson (chair), Jon Hamilton, Sarah Bryer, Michael McBride, Nikki Mosely, John Swain, Jon Youngdahl, Joe Weber, Vic Fernandez, Fariha Haque, Garrett Heenan, Marie-Laure Parke (chair), Nicole Guitteny, Jennifer Philis, John Doty, Jacqueline Ajala, & Beatrice Aluoch

FUND FOR FRIENDS UPDATE

What a pleasure it was to speak with so many of our families during our Fund for Friends phonathon. A big thank you to Jon Youngdahl, Jennifer Wynter-Philis, and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for so kindly hosting our event at their offices!

The Fund for Friends co-chairs and committee wish to extend their sincere gratitude to all of those who pledged a donation to School for Friends as a result of our February 26th phonathon. A special thank you to those who pledged at the leadership level, gifts of \$1,000 or more, as gifts of this size account for half of the total raised in the campaign. We really enjoyed the opportunity to reach out to our generous parent community and garner support for the annual fund, so vital to our school. The 2008-2009 Fund for Friends Campaign closes on May 1st, 2009 so that we might adequately acknowledge all of our generous donors. We truly appreciate your gifts as we seek to honor our school by achieving 100% support from our current families.

Enjoy our happy progress toward spring!

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TAXES

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Quaker House March News '09

At Quaker House, March always seems like it is the perfect timing to begin the introduction of letters and their pronounciations; this year proved to be no exception. Although we have noticed the children's growth physically, we have defiinatly witnessed their overall development. The Quaker House children recognize their first names; the majority of them can recognize one or more of their peers' name in print, and some of them are familiar with sight words that are repetitive in books and throughout the class.

Over the last month we have been studying the alphabet. We began with identifying letters and the sound of the children's first name. We touched on and engaged in each area of development. Activities focused on cognitive, fine / gross, motor social / emotional and self help skills. Just to give you a small review these were some of the activities offered. Personal books were made by each child; for every letter in their first name there was a page with a picture drawn and a word given by the child that began with the letter. Some of them were so enthusiastic that they even told a story and had a teacher write it. Children were paired in groups; they were given magazines and written letters on paper to cut out to form names, words or letters of their choice to make collages together. Musical letters was also played. Letters were placed in the chairs and whatever letter you sat on, you had to tell a teacher a word that began with the letter to add on the word list. Bakers's clay was made and whatever letter their name started with they had to form the letter with the clay, it was interesting how they figured out how to manipulate they clay to make the letters. We will continue working with letters and sounds throughout March.

As teachers there is nothing more rewarding than witnessing the progress of our students. Quaker House kids are now writing letters and words by choice, and they are very proud of themselves. Playhouse has turned into the Quaker House Café. The menu was written by the children and they have become waiters, waitresses, chefs and customers. When role playing the waiter or waitress, they come over and ask how to spell the actual orders.

Many preschoolers are learning to:

- name and write the alphabet
- hear rhymes and sounds in words
- spell simple words
- learn new words from stories, work and play
- listen to stories for meaning

Parents

- Thanks, so much for the donations to supplement our snacks; we really appreciate it.

Reminders

- Sign in in the morning and have your child sign in too!
- Sign up for Family Circle

Thanks,
Quaker House Teachers

March 2009 Rainbow Room Newsletter



Happy March Everyone! For the month of February, the Rainbows learned a lot about Safety and Community Helpers. We talked about the many different community helpers and what their roles and duties are to help the community. We did many exciting activities



such as making Traffic Lights, learning how to Stop Drop and Roll, making water hoses to put out fire, and pretending to be community helpers such as Mail Carriers, Teachers, Vets, Doctors, Nurses, and even food market helpers. Coming up in March, we will start learning about Animals. We will talk about Domestic Pets (which will lead us into the beginning process of our Community Service Project for the classroom) Farm Animals, and Zoo Animals!! Also in March, we will have Family of the Week for Kate, Delaney, Alex, and Nicole.



A few announcements and reminders:

- Remember to check your child's art cubby at least once a week.
- Please check the schedule for the updated "Family of the Week."
- Please be sure you remember to bring/take sleeping things at the beginning and end of each week
- Remember to label your child's clothing as well as toys.



Family of the Week	
Week of:	Child's Name:
03/02/09	Kate
03/16/09	Delaney
03/23/09	Alex
03/30/09	Nicole
04/06/09	Miguel
04/13/09	Cassandra
04/20/09	Andrej
04/27/09	Mateo
05/04/09	Charlie
05/11/09	Chloe
05/18/09	Eli
05/25/09	Sydney
06/01/09	Ian
06/08/09	Petra

Green Room Newsletter

March 2009

Spring is in the air! What an exciting time for everyone at School for Friends. This past month has been very busy for all of us in the Green Room. We have been learning about shapes, friendship and love, and dinosaurs. During our theme on shapes, we enjoyed bringing in a different shape every day from home. This helped us to understand that shapes are all around us. We discovered that a napkin is a square, a DVD case is a rectangle, and a plate is a circle. It was so much fun doing different shape activities and games. After Valentine's Day, we talked about friendship and love. During this theme we made necklaces for our friends and a friendship chain. We talked a lot about how to be a good friend, and show people you love them. Finally, we got to our exciting dinosaur theme! Everyone in the Green Room loves dinosaurs and had a great time learning more about them. For our dinosaur theme we pretended to be dinosaurs and marched to "We are the Dinosaurs" more times than we could count! We also had a dinosaur snack where we ate leafy greens and tuna fish. One day we even pretended to be archeologists and we discovered dinosaur bones! Last month was so much fun!

This month we are discussing feelings and emotions. We are learning about how to deal with our own emotions and how to help our friends with their emotions. So far we have learned a lot about sadness in the Green Room. We talked about how it is ok to cry and how we can comfort each other. It was exciting to learn the words for facial expressions and how it can be a reflection on our face of how we are feeling on the inside. We are looking forward to learning more about feelings and emotions over the next few weeks.

All of us in the Green Room hope that you enjoy this month in anticipation of spring!

Thanks, Green Room Teachers,
Jackie and Cherish



Blue Room Newsletter: March 2009

What happened in February?

The Blue Room children are rolling along great this new year. In February, we celebrated holidays and worked on some exciting projects. We had Sophie's Family week, a librarian visit, Valentine's "party" and some of us went through the fastest and most successful potty training in toddler history.

In the first week of February, through books, discussion and dramatic play we learned about our bodies and healthy food. For art and craft projects,

we dressed ourselves, made fruit, and vegetable collages, and talked about why it is important for our bodies to eat healthy. Valentines Day was a sweet treat for our children. They made cards for their friends and family. We learned to sing, "I love you" and ended the holiday with a party where we exchanged cards and enjoyed many sugar free oatmeal cookies. During Sophie's family week, her grandma, who is a librarian visited our class. She read books to our children, introduced new instruments to them, and taught them new songs. The children loved her instruments and dance performances. We invited her to come again! At the end of February, we learned about Black history month. We made hand wreath and peace doves, which are now displayed in our classroom, and read many books about love and peace.

What will happen in March?

For the month of March, our themes will be Colors and the Spring Season. For the first two weeks, we will be working on color recognition by making numerous color collages and wearing particular a color for the day. We will start with the five major colors, and then we will mix them to produce other new colors. We will be welcoming Spring this month. We will be talking about and observing plants and trees as they begin to bloom. Children will be planting and watching their own seeds grow as they learn about the things their plant will need to grow and survive. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17. We will introduce to children Irish folktales. They will make three or four leaf clovers using paper and watercolor. They will also paint clover shapes and wear green and yellow on March 17.

