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September 2005

The Cobbler

a newsletter of the Cobb Meadow School

What's New

MICHAELMAS

September 29

10:30am - noon

Drop off for children is at 10:30, but if you need your child to come earlier, please do bring them and they can help me and Ivy set up. We will celebrate by digging up our potato bed and onion patch, making wreaths, watching a puppet show together, and sharing a potluck lunch. Please have a snack at home before you come so that your children will not be feeling peckish and longing for food right away.

New Student

This week we welcome Isabelle Peters and her mom Unique Peters to our school. Isabelle is 4 ½ years old.

Can You Sew ???

Next week I will need a few people to do a rather simple sewing job, but there will be 22 of them to do!! Let me know if you can take home a handful of silks to turn to capes.

I have material to make two cooking aprons for children- let me know if this is a job for you.

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Dear Parents,

We have just finished our first five day week- and it was great fun. Drop off was remarkably tear free most days. However, even the children who come to school and participate actively and laughingly are adjusting to not being home with parents and siblings. All the children are joining in with circle, all are now lying somewhat still at our short morning rest, and I think that everyone is eating snack. This tells me that they are enjoying school. We can help comfort them with the assurance, spoken or not, that we know Cobb Meadow is a safe and loving place for them.

Kindergarteners live in their senses, in their physical activity and in their actions. Their sense of time is different than ours. Yesterday, an hour, or this week are very irrelevant terms to most children under 7 years old. Often a kindergartener can tell you nothing about their morning at school, and while this is frustrating, for parents, it is good for them!! I will try and help fill the gaps for you. I am more than happy to speak with you in the evenings about your own children; I love to talk about them. Feel free to call me at home after 7:30pm and as late as 9pm. I try to arrive at school by 7:30am, and I usually answer the phone before 8am. I will be able to tell you what Ivy and I see through the day, but we can not tell you how your child perceives the day. They are such brand new little beings; they are so full of wonder and so wonderful.

Here is an example that our children may understand what we show them, or say to them differently than we expect. Our circle the first week was about Hans Michael who lived in a sunny, sunny lane. Hans Michael made beautiful instruments, and in circle we all played a violin, a bass drum, a silver flute and castanets. After several days of this circle, one child said to me quietly, at lunch time, "Anne, what is a 'lane'?" I wonder what picture he had had growing in his head because he did not know that a lane is a street.

This week we spent time felting full moon shapes in muffin tins. We will have full moon finger puppets for the harvest moon. This was very soapy work that we did outdoors. After rubbing the little moons in muffin tins, we took them out and held them flat in our hands to rub them. We took off our shoes several times for sand play, and inside for corn tubbing. We had our first beeswax morning on Friday. The children loved how soft the wax already was, thanks to our pie baking and warm room, and they all took turns smelling the honey smell of the wax. We made several shapes: we saw bowls, flowers, snakes, snake tongues, fish, butterflies and more. Outdoors we have been very busy leveling out our sand pile. A sand pile is so much fun!

Ivy has had several helpers with table setting, millet roll making, almond chopping, water pouring, dish washing and sweeping up. One day I thought I had quite a bit of corn to clean up- but in the end, the children who had been playing, scooping and burying their hands and feet, were the ones to sweep, scoop and clean up the corn.

We had our first school birthday celebration of Friday, September 16th, for Rhys whose fourth birthday was on the first of September.

Thank you, Parents for all your love and support. We truly have had a lovely start to the year.

Gun Play

There were some instances of children shooting close to or at another student last week. We do not allow gun play indoors at school. A hunter only brings his gun indoors to clean it, but not to shoot. Outdoors, children will often set up a game where one is chased, dies, a doctor comes, and then the dead person recovers. We do not allow any children to chase someone who is not choosing to play thus. If your children bring up guns, or gunplay at school, it will help them if you know what we expect at school.

Play dates

I encourage you all to try and find time to get together with some of your new friends on a small group basis. This would be lovely for returning as well as new Cobb Meadow children.

Substitutes

Some parents have told me that they would love to come in for a morning. - Please remind me who you are!! Also, I need to build a list of possible substitutes, please let me know if you are available for subbing.

Home Visits

Thank you to everyone for welcoming me into your homes for the visits I am making. Seeing where your child lives, sleeps and plays is so special. I feel so lucky to have this opportunity. I am still visiting and will get to you soon if I've not already.

A Nursery Rhyme for Harvest Moon

Girls and Boys come out to play, the moon doth shine as bright as day,
Leave your supper and leave your sleep, and come wight your playfellows
into the street.

Come with a whoop. come wight a call,
Come with a good will or not at all.

Up the ladder and down the wall, a half penny roll will serve us all.

You find the milk and I'll find the flour,
and we'll have pudding in half an hour.

Wish List

- ❖ Child sized garden leaf rakes (5)
- ❖ Child sized brooms (3)
- ❖ Silk sponsors for Cobb Meadow silks
- ❖ Cherry Pit sponsors
- ❖ Wooden animals to add to our collection
- ❖ Sturdy sand pile pots or pans.
- ❖ Sturdy spoons or scoops for sand pile.

September 29th

*Third Annual
International Puppetry
for Peace Day.*

You can check : www.cobbmeadowsschool.org for info and downloads.