



SCP News



Miss Laurel's Corner

February is such a fun time of the year. This month with love in the air, we will be focusing on how to be a good friend, showing kindness and respect to those around us, and how to get along well with others.

The ability to get along in a group and be a friend are very important skills that are best developed in preschool. Kindergarten teachers will teach the academics, the letters and the numbers, etc. That is their job. It is the job of early education, i.e. preschool, to help children learn to work and play with others. Luckily, this is exactly what preschoolers want to do and learn. Everyone wants and needs a friend. The youngest child will play next to others, but as he or she matures the child will naturally want and begin to seek out playmates. As natural as this process is, it is not easy to learn the ins and outs of making friends and getting along. It takes a lot of practice to be able to wait your turn, share the Legos, or to enter and exit a play situation gracefully. The desire to have friends and be a friend may be inborn; the skills needed to execute this desire are learned and take time to master.

My role in the classroom, and yours as a parent helper will be to model the behavior we want, give them the words to express what they want or need, and help them find resolution. We can say "how will we solve this so everyone can be happy?" We can reframe a problem by saying something like "two kids want to use the same ball, what are we going to do?"

As challenging as all this sounds, it will be exciting and rewarding to watch as your child grasps and develops these skills that are necessary for a happy life.

Lots of love,
Miss Laurel



Upcoming Dates



- Feb 10 Board Meeting
- Feb 4 Classroom Cleaning
- Feb 7 Teacher In-Service
- Feb 11 Sweethearts Bazaar
- Feb 17 No School-Mid Winter Break
- Feb 20 No School-Presidents Day



Field Trip to the Post Office!

All classes will be taking a trip to the Stellacoom Post Office.

The purpose of the trip is to buy a stamp and mail a Valentine to your home. In class the children will each make a valentine for Mom and Dad. Families will need to bring a self-addressed, (made out to mom and dad) business size envelope to school.

On the day of the trip we will have regular class, but will leave about 40 minutes before the end of class to go to the post office.

***Parents- Please bring money for your child to purchase a stamp.**

This is a very enjoyable trip for the children.

Field Trip Dates:

Red/Blue Class- Thursday, Feb 9th

Yellow Class- Friday, Feb 10th

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Valentine's Party

Party Dates:

Yellow- Mon, Feb 13

Red/Blue- Tues, Feb 14



Your child may exchange valentines with the children in his/her class. Each child will make a special valentine "mail box" during class a few days prior to the party. It is fine to bring treats to class if you wish, keep in mind allergies of the kids in your respective class. We will be doing a snack center as part of the party.

Shape-Heart

Color-Pink

Nursey Rhyme- The Queen of Hearts



Auction/Bunko Night!

Plan to join us on March 18 at 6:00 pm and bring a friend (or two or three!) for a great and fun night out.

Packets containing pertinent information about our biggest fundraiser of the year will be coming soon!

We are actively seeking donations for our auction to make this event a huge success. Please help us by spreading the word to local and small business owners you may know or frequent (all donors will receive a tax deductible receipt). Any outside donations that your family procures counts toward the \$50 donation amount requested of each family. We want to have as many creative and fun items up for auction as we can!

The goal is not to take money out of our families' pockets, but to work together to receive donations of all kinds. We are happy to place brochures/business cards by auction items at our event.

If you'd like a copy of our request letter, have questions or need some ideas, please contact:

stellacoomcoopfundraiser@gmail.com

Nature's Corner

Often our Northwest weather can seem quite dreary, especially in February. This month take time to remind your child to look up! Often the sky is not just a flat gray. Help your child look for shapes in the clouds or make believe they are flying in the clouds. Make up stories about what they see and feel. Try to get outside, it will be good for everyone's mental and physical health.

Thank you to our auction donors!!

- Local Artist-Jesse Link
- Cheese Cake Factory
- Local Artists- The Recess Monkeys
- Wyland Worldwide LLC
- Stampin Up



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Literacy is an important part of all of our lives. As adults we take for granted how much literacy is a part of our lives and how it became real to us when we were children. There are so many things our children are learning and doing that we sometimes lose sight of how they are working on literacy skills all of the time. Author Rae Pica, known for her books about children and movement developed the following "10 Reasons to Promote Emergent Literacy through Movement & Active Learning".

- 1. Children learn best through active involvement.** Prepositions, for example, are very much a part of physical experiences. As children move over, under, around, through, beside, and near objects (under the monkey bars, through the tunnel, over the balance beam), these words take on greater meaning and significance.
- 2. Spatial orientation is necessary for letter identification and the orientation of symbols on a page.** The only difference between a small "d" and a small "b," for example, is the direction in which the curvy line faces at the bottom of the straight line. When children form the straight and curving lines of letters by using their bodies and body parts, rather than simply attempting to copy them from a chart on the wall, this experience enhances their sense of directionality and spatial orientation. When children move within a room or within a space from left-to-right or top-to-bottom, they become comfortable with these important directions.
- 3. Actively experiencing the rhythm of words and sentences helps children find the rhythm necessary for reading and writing.** Whether children are clapping or tapping out the beat of a finger play or moving to the cadence of a poem, they hear and feel the rhythm of words.
- 4. When children demonstrate the meaning of words physically, their understanding of the words is immediate and long-lasting.** For instance, when children depict such action words as stomp, pounce, stalk, or slither—or such descriptive words as smooth, strong, gentle, or enormous—the words have much more relevance than they would as part of a vocabulary or spelling list.
- 5. Adverbs and adjectives become much more than abstract concepts.** When children perform a "slow walk" or "skip lightly," they learn the meaning in both their bodies and their minds.
- 6. Playing together provides opportunities for children to speak and listen to one another!** When children invent games and rules for games, they are using and expanding their vocabularies and learning important lessons in communication. Talking about experiences, depicting them through actions, and then discussing the actions contribute to language development by requiring children to make essential connections among their cognitive, social/emotional, and physical domains. We know that when young children learn something in one domain, it has a positive impact on the others.
- 7. Stringing actions together to form sequences is similar to linking words to form sentences (and eventually paragraphs).** In other words, whether children are making up their own dances or stories, they must choose components that flow naturally. Both require breathing room (a pause in the action, or a comma) and, finally, an ending (a full stop, or a period).
- 8. When children act out the words of a poem, the plot of a story, or the lyrics of a song, they must ponder the meanings of the words.** And because those words are important to them—and such activities are fun—the poems, stories, and songs take on greater relevance. The children are also using multiple senses, which means more is learned and retained.
- 9. Movement activities provide opportunities to cross the body's midline. Doing so requires the left and right hemispheres of the brain to communicate across the corpus callosum.** This integration of the brain's hemispheres is essential to the ability to read and write.
- 10. Confucius said it best: "What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I know."** When young children experience emergent literacy concepts with their bodies they are moving in leaps and bounds toward becoming capable listeners, speakers, readers, and writers!

I look forward to seeing you at Parent Shares this month so check your calendars. I will be discussing Kindergarten readiness and discussing other questions you may have about parenting.

Diana Stone, Child Studies Instructor
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