



# Stepping Stones



## Cricket: Big Kids On Campus

The Crickets are the big kids on campus at the preschool, they are Katie, Brooke, Anwen, Eugene, Emma, Nolen, Maeve, Kaelyn, Grace M., Christina and Grace Q and they are all very proud and working very hard!

We are learning all about the season "fall" or the new big word we learned "autumn". We have collected fall items such

as acorns, pine cones, leaves and other items to add to our science center. We counted candy corn in our math center.

We have done art projects that consist of making leaf prints and paintings with fall colors. We have learned what insects and animals do when the cool weather approaches.

We even learned that the earth moves farther from the Sun and that's why the fall season is cooler, just ask Nolen. Hey why don't you ask a Cricket "What do squirrel do in the fall to get ready for winter?" We are all looking forward to a fun and exciting year.



A special thank you to Bob Torr who gave a helping hand by spreading the fresh playground mulch at the preschool. Thank you Bob from the TCDN Board, Administration, Staff and Preschool children.

**THANK YOU**

## Events Calendar

### October

- 5 All Staff & Substitute Fire Safety Training- SASC 6:15pm
- 16 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser- Applebee's Folsom
- 19 ASC Meeting SASC 6:30p-8p
- 22 Preschool Work Day
- 24-28 Preschool/Explorers Conferences
- 25 Board Meeting—NPASC 7:30p
- 27 Original Artworks Order Packets sent home

### November

- 4 Original Artworks orders due to TCDN
- 8 Public Schools Closed-TCDN OPEN SPECIAL REGISTRATION NEEDED for Explorer & ASC CARE
- 17-23 Public Elem. School Conferences, Half day, TCDN OPEN SPECIAL REGISTRATION NEEDED FOR ASC
- 21-23 Middle School Conferences, 11:05 dismissal, SPECIAL REGISTRATION NEEDED FOR OASC 6th graders
- 22 Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser Delivery
- 23 The Kids Place Closed- TCDN OPEN- SPECIAL REGISTRATION NEEDED FOR EXPLORERS
- 24-25 Pubble School Closed- TCDN CLOSED holiday
- 29 Board Meeting- OASC 7:30p

## TCDN Office Contact Information

301 N. Chester Road, Swarthmore, PA 19081  
 Ph: 610-544-4555 Fx: 610-604-9740  
 Director- Cindy Murray x224 cindy@tcdn.org  
 Finance Manager- Maureen Koch x222 maureen@tcdn.org  
 Office Administrator- Michele Corbin x221 michele@tcdn.org



## Sign Up for TCDN's Green Billing

Have tuition bills come directly to you via email.

Contact Maureen Koch for more information at

Maureen@tcdn.org or 610-544-4555 x222

Finance Corner

## NPASC Kids Visit the Creek

NPASC kids love Fridays because they mean play time without homework. This also means that in nice weather, everybody goes outside and we can have extra outdoor fun.

On a very pretty September day, Anna requested a trip to the creek that runs next to the fields at NPE. Everyone thought it was a great idea! We were able to see a lot of different things in nature while we were at the creek. We saw a fallen tree and experimented with the feel of pulling off

bits of bark. Underneath, we found that bugs had made a home in the tree. They were surprised by us!

We found some cool seeds, too, although we weren't quite sure what kind they were. When we got inside, we used the internet to learn that they were hickory seeds. We opened the hickory seeds to find out what was inside. Smashing them open was almost as much fun as learning about them. (Okay, maybe it was even a little more fun.)

We also learned about co-

operation at the creek because kids were helping each other learn to walk over rocks and were showing each other interesting things that they found. We found lots of cool looking rocks.



Anna and David at the creek

## Family Grouping in the Kangaroo Room

September showed many examples of how family grouping works to children's advantage in the Kangaroo Room this month.

Proud Crickets - Katie, Anwen, Eugene and Brooke help Hudson, Anna and Jackson learn the rules of the room. Old Timer/Resident Kangaroos - Minori, Vincent, Jack, Sophie and Julia are making new friends and having fun with their old ones. Ex-Ducklings with great self esteem state "I am a Kanga-

roo now - not a Duckling any more". It always amazes us how easily it all meshes together with a little guidance from teachers...and teacher's helpers.

We ventured on a first field trip to Swarthmore Library and the Tot Lot. Everyone did a great job....held their partners hands, stayed in line and listened to our words. We are looking forward to our next trip.

We have lots of fun activities planned and look forward to a year full of laughter and learning with our wonderful new Kangaroo Group.

Paula, Erin and Bobbie





A reminder from the BSC...Parents are reminded SRS parking lots are for SRS staff.

Thank you



### WASC- Speaking Out...

WASC welcomed 52 children to the 2011-2012 school year. The children were asked what they liked to do at WASC.

These were their responses:

Jay: I like the tennis rackets.

Ryan: The after school club is a wonderful after-school program.

Hannah: Here at the ASC we build with the blocks and make towers.

Molly: I like to finger weave at the ASC. It is a very popular thing to do,

everyone likes to do it.

James: I think that the playground is fun because we have a climber to climb on, a sandbox to play in and swings to swing on.

Elli: Peace

Charma: Friends

Megan: We play outside, sit on the chairs and talk with our friends.

Alexandra: We have lots of toys to play with.

Gabriella: If I'm having a bad day at school I know I can relax the ASC.

Hope: I love to jump rope.

Ben: I love to climb the pole in the climber.

Adam: Awesome teachers.

Joseph: ASC is cool because we have so much stuff to play with.

Collin W.: The ASC is nice because we have cool stuff.

Russell: It is great because we play outside.

Anna: I like the playground because there is so much to do.

Elias: I like to play

with all the stuff in the shed.

Massimo: I like to play hockey.

Dylan: I like to play on the playground.

Alyse: I love to play outside.

John: I like to build with the blocks.

Boden: I like to play tennis with my friends.

Gianna: I like the projects.

Gavin: I like the sports that we can play here.

Please look for your child's picture hanging in the windows.

## Parent Tip

Teach your tot to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice—about 20 seconds—as he washes his hands with soap and warm water, which is about the time it takes to get hands clean.

**"No spring nor  
summer beauty  
hath such grace as  
I have seen in one  
autumnal face."**

**John Donne**

## Riddles & Jokes

- What does a cat have that no other animal has?  
- Kittens.
- What has two heads, four eyes, six legs, and a tail?  
- A cowboy riding his horse.
- What always sleeps with its shoes on?  
- A Horse.
- What is as big as an elephant, but weighs nothing at all?  
• The shadow of an elephant.
- If Mounties 'Always Get Their *Man*', what do Postmen always get?  
- Their *Mail*.
- Why is the Mississippi such an unusual river?  
- Because it has four eyes and it can't even see!



## Cooking with Kids...Apple Crisp a la Mode

Your child can measure the ingredients, and knead the mixture

You'll need:

- 6 apples (or 6 cups of apple slices)
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick), softened
- Whipped cream or ice cream

Heat oven to 375 degrees and lightly butter an 8 or 9-inch-square baking pan. Peel, core, and slice the apples and arrange them evenly in the prepared pan. Place the oats, brown sugar, flour, spices, and salt in a sealable plastic bag, close, and shake until combined. Cut the softened butter into 1-inch pieces and add to the oat mixture. Close the bag again and knead or squeeze until the mixture holds together. Open the bag and crumble the topping evenly over the apples. Bake the apple crisp for 40 to 45 minutes or until the topping is golden brown and the juices begin to bubble around the edges. Cool slightly, then serve with whipped cream or ice cream. Serves 6.

## To Quote the OASC...

"Awesome!"

"Fun!"

"I really like coming here."

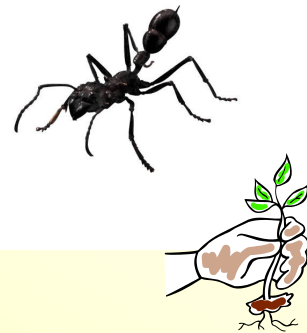
Well, from the sound of it, it looks like we're off to a good start here at the OASC. The kids have been enjoying all sorts of fun activities such as digging for bugs and plants, playing on the laptops and they have even taken a great interest in sewing.

The more experienced 5th and 6th graders have done a great

job of taking the new 4th graders "under their wings" and showing them how the afternoon works. We've been playing fun games outside such as Four Square and tetherball and on rainy days our pool and foosball tables have been helping us work off some of the "rainy day crazies."

Yes, all of our favorite activities are still popular and life at the OASC is great! There have been some changes, too. We welcome Kat LeConey over from SASC and our new Nintendo Wii is a big hit!

The OASC would also like to welcome Kara Woolsey, our new teacher. We are glad to have her join our staff.



## The Owls are Learning new Routines...

It has been a very busy month. We have been talking about families and made collages with our family pictures.

Our new friends are doing well and seem to be adjusting to the new classroom. We are all learning to work together.

We have been practicing hand washing ; sometimes it feels like its all we do 'ha ha'. But it is important to learn the routine to stay healthy and we would like to thank you for practicing at home.

Jackie & Scott



## Duckling Teachable Moments: Sensory Awareness

Each week curriculum plans are designed to meet the developmental needs of the toddlers. Some of the activities focus on sensory awareness, a cornerstone area of development during the preschool years. The activities are varied, offering a variety of choices for the children and include water and sand play, periodic cooking projects, introduction to art materials, etc.

Additionally, the ducklings engage in spontaneous, in-the-moment sensory experiences which present teachable moments between the child and an adult. Teachers verbally and physically guide the children through environmental explorations which involve all five of their senses. During September, for example teachers labeled textural experiences as the children explored nubby balls, bumpy and soft dough used to make beads, and cool wet sand outside. Children's auditory experiences we noted as they were calmed by CD music upon arrival, sounds were learned and made for animals and trains, and teachers identified classrooms and hallway noises while quietly sitting with a few Ducklings.

Children responded to various odors as teachers spoke about them and dramatically demonstrated the "act" of smelling as they neared their noses to various sources. New words were used as the children learned to identify "strong odors" (i.e. oranges, cinnamon), "yucky odors" (at the diaper table), "no odor" toys (the stacking rings), etc. As children looked at their family pictures, "read" books independently, and generally explored their environment visually, teachers noted and verbally described what was seen.

In September, looking out the window was a popular, relaxing, entertaining and educational experience. The Ducklings talked about their moms and dads as they watched other children arriving- people were named, car colors were noted, small animals ran through the field of vision and discussed, etc.

There were numerous teachable moments that addressed all domains of the children's development- a virtual smorgasbord of learning! Tuning into the children's sense of

taste, the teachers responded to food choices made and talked about them. In those moments, the children ate favorites and "discussed" how the food tasted (Yummy"; Ummm"; "sweet" etc.).

Following the children's lead within the moment has opened the opportunity for innumerable, effective child-teacher moments of learning. Pursuing the child's spontaneous interest blatantly increases possibilities for her/his development.

Jeanne, Joe & Barbara



## Getting Creative at the SASC

With the start of the new year under their belts, the children of SASC have really shown us all their creative sides. Projects like clay sculptures, paper flowers, picture frames and beading have been beautifying our space throughout the month. Other new found favorites at SASC have been up-close Science inspections, Bingo, and barber shop "shaving." Outdoor

activities like kickball have always been popular, and this year's group is no different. All of our children are doing a great job of trying new things and creating an accepting atmosphere which we look to carry through the school year.

As the seasons change, so does the weather. SASC tries to go outside as much as possible, and as the

temperature drops that means more appropriate clothing. Please remember to have some warmer clothing options for your child as the Winter approaches. Layers that can be removed always work the best, as an active child is much warmer than the adults supervising them.





Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast  
to support Trinity Cooperative Day Nursery

All you care to Eat Pancakes!

Sunday, October 16, 2011

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar

320 MacDade Boulevard

Folsom, PA 19033

\*Tickets are \$6.00 per person and are on sale now. Please contact Michele in the office with any questions., [michele@tcdn.org](mailto:michele@tcdn.org), 610-544-4555 x221 Please mail all ticket order forms to the TCDN office.

Please look out for the TCDN Script Gift Card Order Form. Giving gifts could not be easier. Just fill out an order form with your desired gift cards, return the form to the TCDN office with your payment, and your gift cards will be delivered to your child's site for pick up upon delivery.

United  
Way

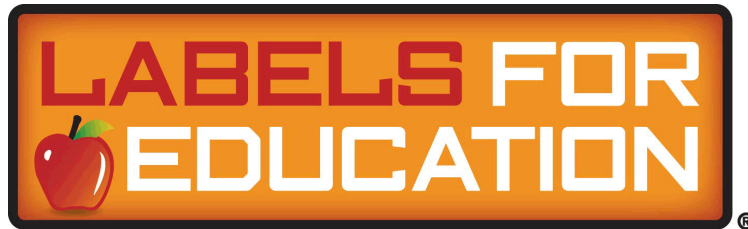


Remember TCDN when making your pledges to United Way.  
Our DONOR OPTION numbers are:

SE Delco	#1155
SE PA	#1155
United Way of DE	#3890



Thank you to all of the families and members of the community who purchase meals to help support TCDN programs. The event was a huge success!



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

TCDN is collecting Labels for Education. Please help to support our programs by clipping the Labels for Education from many participating products. Our programs will accumulate points which will be used to purchase educational resources. This is done in 3 easy steps.

- ◇ Clip and save UPC's and beverage caps from participating *Labels for Education* products.
- ◇ Drop off the UPC's at the TCDN office or your child's site.
- ◇ TCDN can redeem points for

FREE educational resources.

Here is a list of many parent companies that participate in Labels for Education.

- ◇ BIC Pens
- ◇ Pop- Secret
- ◇ Spaghettios
- ◇ WOLFGANG PUCK
- ◇ Prego
- ◇ Swanson
- ◇ Franco American

- ◇ Campbell's
- ◇ V8 Splash
- ◇ Pepperidge Farm
- ◇ Goldfish Crackers

For more information on the program, please visit [www.LabelsForEducation.com](http://www.LabelsForEducation.com)

## Squirrels and Apples- a great combination

.The Squirrels are hard at play and learning about a favorite fall fruit- apples. We have been learning Science, Math, Art, Reading, and Writing through our unit on apples.

The Squirrels have been reading a lot of books about apples. We have enjoyed some non-fiction books that have taught us about how apples grow from seeds, as well as some fictional books about apple trees. As always, we loved reading Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*

The Squirrels did a cooking project and made applesauce. We peeled and cut the apples and heated them until they became applesauce. We

were surprised to learn that applesauce only needs one ingredient- apples! Our applesauce was a delicious addition to lunch.

We looked at the inside of apples and made apple prints that show the shape of the apple as well as the places where the apple seeds are. We even put a few apple seeds into bags on the window to see if they will grow. We tried one bag with seeds, water, and a paper towel and the other with just water and seeds. As good scientists, we made a

hypothesis about what will happen. Most people think that the seeds will grow a little bit. One person thinks they won't grow at all, and one person thinks we may grow a

whole tree on the window!

We also had sensory play with apples. We played with apple peels, apple slices, chunks of apples, and apple seeds. Children made the sensory play important to them by focusing on their interests: some commented on the feel or smell of the apples, while others counted seeds.



Isabel arranged and counted apple seeds on a slice of apple.

## Explorers exploring art, science and food...

The past month has been spent discovering the many artists, team players, helpers, readers, writers and athletes in the Explorer Program. What a fun group of children we have. The two groups total 37 kindergarteners and are almost equal in size this year. The AM group has 19 children enrolled and the PM group has 18.

We typically spend the first weeks of our year learning the new routines and learning about each other. As usual the children pick up quickly on the routines and have figured out that after group time we go outside. A fun thing we learned during a recent taste test is that all of the Ex-

plorers like golden delicious apples! The results of the test are on our bulletin board. The children have had many opportunities to portray themselves and their families through various media. Currently on display are paper doll like versions of each Explorer inspired by self taught American Artist James Castle. The Explorers seem to like creating and are working on their cutting skills. We have also begun journal writing and are seeing their writing emerge independently during free play time. Science experiments (sink or float, oil and water) requiring thoughtful observation and the making of predictions have been experienced, with the results also on display. Several Explorers have been learning new

board games too. They seem to like the challenge of a good game. We encourage families to share any special talents and skills they may have too.

Each day we continue to learn a bit more about the children and are looking forward to a fun year together.



## Handwashing 101

*Although this topic may seem trite, it is an important one that is relevant to every teacher and child within TCDN programs. Children who play in groups have an increased risk of infectious diseases. 80% of common infections are spread by the hands. Good handwashing is one of the BEST things we can practice and teach children how to do correctly to reduce the spread of infections in our programs.*

*TCDN teachers have been working hard to help children establish a good routine of when they should wash their hands and how to wash properly.*

### **WE COULD USE YOUR HELP IN 2 WAYS!**

*If you bring your child into his or her program (Preschool, AM Explorers), please ask your child to wash hands upon arrival. If you can, take a minute,*

*help your child wash properly. Young children need supervision until they master the steps. Teachers will supervise handwashing upon arrival in all OST programs.*

*Use the same proper handwashing procedure and wash at the same times that we are teaching children to wash. This reinforcement will help children establish handwashing as a healthy routine for life.*

### **Important times to wash hands:**

*Upon arrival  
Before and after eating  
After diaper changing or toileting  
After playing in sand or water  
After blowing the nose, touching the mouth or other bodily fluids*

### **Proper handwashing procedure:**

*Turn the water on and get the hands wet  
Put soap on the hands*

*Scrub the hands with soap for 20 seconds. Scrub the backs, between the fingers and under nails. 20 seconds is a perfect time to sing a simple song, practice counting in creative ways or, for older kids, say the alphabet backwards*

*Rinse the hands*

*Grab a paper towel to dry the hands and turn the water off with the paper towel*

*Washing hands at least 5 times a day has shown to significantly decrease the frequency of colds, flu and other infections. As we work at TCDN to teach healthy habits, we could really use your reinforcement at home. Together, we can help children learn one of the most valuable habits they will ever learn. THANK YOU!*



# Director's Corner



**UPCOMING SOON AND NOT TO BE MISSED!**

## **The Fall Preschool Work Day is Saturday, October 22nd, from 7:30a - 12:00.**

*We need every preschool family to participate in Preschool Work Days! In addition to the one coming up this fall, there will also be one in the Spring. Only one parent needs to come, and you only need to stay for at least an hour. Of course, you might be having so much fun that you find yourself staying longer and your spouse will demand to be the one to attend in the spring! These days are the only opportunities we have to get things cleaned, repaired, painted, washed, raked, etc., and this fall there are many jobs to be done both inside and outside. Parents have found that they are also wonderful opportunities to socialize with other TCDN families.*

*Please take a look at the poster of jobs that will soon be on the wall. Sign up for an area you are willing to help with. If you have the tools or are willing to help pick up materials, please let us know.*

*Thank you, in advance, and I look forward to seeing you to chat while we improve our facility.*

### **Developmental Progress Reports and Family Conferences**

*Since the school year began, teachers have been getting to know children and families. From spending time with children and through information gained from careful observations, teachers are ready to prepare an initial observational assessment of children's development across several learning domains.*

*A copy of this assessment will be given to families along with a letter that offers an opportunity for a conference. On the letter you can indicate whether you will take advantage of the conference opportunity or whether you are satisfied with the information and do not wish to attend a conference. You must return the signed letter either way.*

*I encourage you to enjoy the opportunity to talk about your child's development in a conference setting. I know when my children were young, I always appreciated hearing anything and everything teacher's shared with me.*