



STEPPINGSTONE SCOOP FOR MAY, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 29
May 31

No School – Memorial Day
Annual School Picnic & Last Day
Of School

Steppingstone would like to thank the following families for these donations:

Scanlon Family - Clorox Clean-Up and for supplying us with Clorox Clean –Up for the school year.

Bradford Family – Small soaps for use in Practical Life.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in Box Tops and those who have ordered Scholastic Books month after month. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to drive and chaperone our field trips and volunteered in the classrooms throughout the year. All of the help and donations we've received mean the world to all of us here at Steppingstone!

This time of year is bittersweet. It's time for goodbyes! To all of our families moving on we will miss you. A special goodbye to the families who have been with our Steppingstone family for many years, the Carnduffs, Farringtons and the Scanlons. We will also be saying goodbye to Martha Chilicki, who will be leaving our Steppingstone family after 23 years. Come congratulate her and say goodbye at our Annual School Picnic on Wednesday, May 31st.

We wish all of you the best and hope you keep in touch. Thank you for choosing Steppingstone as your child's first educational experience and for sharing your children with us.

For those of you returning in the fall, we are happy to have you back!

Enjoy your children and have a great summer full of wonderful adventures. See you in the fall!

Paula



TODDLER NEWS

We can't believe it is already the end of the year, it went by way too quickly. It has been such a pleasure getting to know you and your children.

We have been amazed with the children's growth and what they are able to accomplish. We are looking forward to working with the children that are returning next year. We will miss those that are not.

EXTENDED DAY NEWS

We have been very busy in Extended Day. Marcia brought earthworms into the classroom. The children learned about their habitat and castings. She also brought in some ribbon leeches. We learned about leeches and loved being able to touch them. A Venus Flytrap also visited our classroom. We learned about their habitat, their food and how they eat.

We had a great time making the banana bread for our Spring Family Kite Flying Event.

We have enjoyed working with your children in the afternoon. We will miss those not returning.

We hope you have a wonderful summer.

Julie and Marcia



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

It's been a wonderful year of growth and discovery for both the children and Miss Martha and myself. We were happy to get to know your children and all of you. Thank you for allowing us into your lives. You are all in our hearts.

The children had many favorite activities this year in all the areas. Here are a few listed by interest area.

Practical Life

The children loved every food preparation activity. Some of the most popular were Biscuit Making, Nut Cracking, Apple Slicing and making Cinnamon Toast. Other activities the children loved are Table and Floor Scrubbing, Polishing, Washing Dishes, Brushing Teeth, Whisking Bubbles and Sewing Activities.

Art

As always the Art area was one of the most popular places for the children. They really loved creating with construction paper. Painting and Big Markers at the easel were sought out often. The children could be found Poking Shapes and Cutting with Scissors daily. Working with Clay was thoroughly enjoyed.

Sensorial

By far the most popular activity in this area was combining the Pink Tower with the Brown Stair. The children really explored the Sensorial Materials this year. They loved searching the room for objects that matched the colored tablets in Color Box 2 and looking for objects that corresponded to the Geometric Solids.

Language

Sand Paper Letters win here for the most popular. The children especially liked teaching each other the sounds. The Beginning Sounds Baskets were appealing to the children. Many children have become quite proficient at hearing these sounds and sorting the objects accordingly.

Science and Nature

The children enjoyed the Catapult immensely. They liked all the experiments we did throughout the year.

Geography and Culture

Map Making and Exploring the Culture Bags were chosen often. The children have learned quite a bit about organizing their work with these activities.

Math

The children love to count. The Red and Blue Rods, Short Bead Stair and Teen Beads were in use often. The Hundred Board was popular with the older children. Everyone loves the Short and Long Chains. The children were very careful while moving through the classroom when these materials were being used.

Line Time

The children loved participating in our morning greeting. They loved sharing with each other tidbits about their lives. Favorite games included Farmer in the Dell, Bluebird Through My Window and Toomba. The children asked to play one or another of these whenever we were stuck inside.

Singing was always a happy time. The children especially enjoyed Fishing for a Song. Some of their favorite songs, chants and poems were, Chop Chop Chippity Chop, 5 Little Ducks, 5 Green and Speckled Frogs, Jingle Bells, Little Bunny Foo Foo, I Have a Little Spider, The North Wind Doth Blow, Down By the Bay and Mr. Sun. Even our more reticent singers were belting these out by the end of the year.

The children had some favorite stories. The Grinch, Pumpkin Soup, A Was An Apple Pie and The Gingerbread Man stand out. They never tired of them and asked for them from time to time during the year.

Our class became better at using their words to solve interpersonal conflicts. Some were able to use the Peace Stick all by themselves by the end of the year. The children became kinder, more empathetic and came to each other's aid more consistently. They turned into a community of children.

We had so much help and support from our parents this year. Thank you a thousand times. All of the parents and grandparents who helped at our classroom celebrations were integral to these being successful.

We had a core group of parents who helped drive and chaperone on our field trips. The trips went much smoother as a result.

The children created quite a bit of laundry each week. We appreciated the families that helped us with this task.

A special thanks goes to Jen Drumm who worked with the Sandpaper Letters and reading with the children. Her help was much appreciated. All the children benefitted from her presence.

We received many donations this year. Thanks to the Scanlon Family for providing us with gallons and gallons of disinfectant spray throughout the year. Gratitude also goes to the Bradford family for keeping us supplied with small bars of soap. Our stock has been replenished which is wonderful as we go through a ton of soaps every year.

To all of you who donated items, thank you again. We really loved all the facial tissue, cotton balls, dish soap, paper towels, etc. that you sent us. As you might imagine these items are used up quickly.

We will miss the children who are moving on. We look forward to seeing our returning families in the fall.

I'll leave you with this:

We give you back your children, the same child you confidently entrusted to our care for the past several years. We give them back pounds heavier, inches taller, years wiser, more responsible and more mature than they were then. Although they would have attained their growth in spite of us it has been our pleasure and privilege to watch their personalities unfold day by day and marvel at this splendid miracle of development. We give them back reluctantly, for having spent many years together at Steppingstone Montessori we have grown close, have become a part of each other and shall always retain a little of each other. We have lived, loved, laughed, played, studied, learned, and enriched our lives together. We wish it could go on indefinitely, but give them back we must. Take care of them for they are precious. Remember that we shall always be interested in your children and their destinies wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become. Their joys and struggles we will always be happy to share.

Humbly and with Love,

Donna & Martha

