



Peter Piper's PRESCHOOL PRESS

Holy Child Academy – Dolan Family Early Childhood Center

May/June 2010, 2010

Dear Parents,

Now that June has arrived, we are once again filled with that bittersweet feeling ... happy for summer and sad to say goodbye to our dear little students! It has been a marvelous year, filled with so many magical moments ... chicks hatching ... butterflies emerging ... learning to write one's name ... building a tall tower using ALL the blocks ... singing on the BIG stage ... reading a whole book all by yourself ... riding a tricycle on the playground for the very first time ... counting to 100 ... drawing a self-portrait complete with body, arms, legs and facial features (thanks to MAT MAN) ... going to the potty (yeah to the TODDLERS!) ... tying shoe laces (congrats to those Kindergarteners who succeeded and to those who have not yet mastered the skill - keep trying, let it be your summer goal!) ... learning 70 new sight words ... in the words of American Express - PRICELESS!

We are so proud of all that has been accomplished by the PreSchool children. Please celebrate with us at the "End-of-Year Show" on June 10, 2010 at 10:00am in "Kevin's Kingdom" in the ECC gymnasium. All parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles and special friends are invited. We congratulate our Kindergarteners, as they officially become part of the Holy Child Lower School. We will miss our BIG friends. They are a wonderful class filled with lively, lovable, enthusiastic and energetic personalities. We wish them all much success.

On behalf of all the PreSchool teachers, I thank the parents for their support, generosity and trust throughout the year. Now we know why your children are so wonderful - you are a terrific group of parents! When parents and teachers work together, your child's school experience is much more successful, especially in the early years.

Admissions continues to be active. Please let us know if you know any family or friends that have interest in the school. Word of mouth continues to be our best source of advertisement.

Blessings for a safe, happy, fun-filled summer

...and don't forget to READ - READ - READ!

Marie O'Donoghue

Pre School Director

IMPORTANT DATES:

June 10 - Thursday -End-of-Year PreSchool @ 10:00am *Kevin's Kingdom*-ECC gymnasium
NOON DISMISSAL (N, PreK, Kdg)

June 11 - Friday - Last Day of School for PreSchool *Beach Bonanza* @ School
NOON DISMISSAL (N, PreK, Kdg)

Sept 9 - Wednesday PreSchool Orientation @ 1:00pm (Toddler, N, PreK, Kdg)

September 10 - Thursday First Day of School - HALF DAY for ALL N & PreK - FULL DAY for Kdg - 8th Gr

September 14 - Monday - TODDLER First Day of School

September 24 - Friday - PreSchool Parent Visiting Day @ 9:00am

PACT

(Parents And Children Together)

Mrs. Civello

It's hard to believe that our PACT program has come to an end. The children have grown so much both physically and socially and they have all greatly improved their language skills. As the year ended, they were able to express themselves very well and certainly let us know their likes and dislikes.

It was a delight to see friendships formed by these wonderful 2 year olds! They were so excited to see each other each Tuesday and Thursday morning and really enjoyed playing together. Our Circle Time became livelier as the children participated more actively. They especially loved to exercise to "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (which also helped them to learn their body parts) and sing to our favorite Elmo book, *If You're Happy and You Know it*.

Throughout the year our program focused on the social skills of sharing, taking turns and following directions ... and of course learning to play with peers! In that regard, these little friends did a great job and get an A+! Their visits to Movement class with Mrs. Burton demonstrated how well they learned all these skills as they played the many games that required good listening. They participated with great enthusiasm and always had great fun!

Our projects this last month included making flowers, inch worms, butterflies, bumblebees, binoculars and picture frames for Mothers' Day. The children enjoyed the painting, gluing, stamping and crumpling of paper to make our projects look fabulous. Project time was also an opportunity to develop fine motor skills and reinforce color recognition and counting 1 - 5 ... in addition to just having fun!

It was my pleasure to teach with the parents. I thank you for sharing your children with me. May you all have a safe and fun summer! Enjoy.



The Toddler Program

Mrs. Gannon
Mrs. G



Flowers, caterpillars and butterflies were the project themes for this month. We painted big paper umbrellas with rollers and marbled small flowers with three different colors. We painted wiggly-paper-plate caterpillars and made butterflies and flowers with our handprints.

The children had great fun painting binoculars (toilet paper rolls) and then “looking for spring” on the beautiful Holy Child campus. We spotted birds, flowers, bees and squirrels. What fun!

All the children had great fun making their special project, “Children Are Like Kites”. We also made lovely gifts for Mothers’ Day.

We celebrated our last days together with a little performance ... singing some of our favorite songs – and we were fabulous!! We wore the wonderful “I Am Special” crowns that we made. The parents provided yummy treats and we had fun parties. For the Wednesday group we were able to attend Music class with Mrs. Carlton and on Thursday we were all able to go to the gym together for our last movement class with Mrs. Burton and show off to the parents all that we learned!

We are very grateful to all the parents who have been so fabulous this year. Mrs. Fischetti, Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Petti were amazing class moms! The children and I were particularly blessed to have Mrs. G with us. She is absolutely amazing with the Toddlers! Her always positive and helpful ways with the children created a very nurturing environment. Plus, her potty training skills are unsurpassed!!

The Toddlers have grown in so many wonderful ways! It has been amazing watching them unfold and blossom. They are now so ready for Nursery. They are able to follow the structure of the schedule and transition easily from one activity to another. They share beautifully and play well with each other. They always made us laugh and were such a source of joy! We are so happy to have been part of their first school experience. We will miss them. Thank you for sharing your children with us. The pleasure has been ours. God bless.

Summer Vacation



Nursery

Mrs. Barra and Miss Eckel
Miss O'Shea and Ms. Rosado



The Nursery children returned from Spring Break well rested and ready to start our unit on Earth Day. The students enjoyed painting their "earths" with their handprints. They marked their special places on their earths (hometowns, vacations) and then displayed them in the lobby for all to see. The children also loved helping Mother Earth by picking up trash around the beautiful grounds of Holy Child.

Earth Day segued into our weather unit. Nursery really loved talking about all of the different weather patterns such as rain, wind, sun and clouds. The children especially loved reading "It Looked Like Spilt Milk," by Charles Shaw, and then used straws to blow white paint on paper to create their own clouds. The Nursery boys and girls had great fun learning that clouds could look like many different things! At the end of our weather unit they voted on their favorite type of day ... and sunny was the winner! Other fun weather projects were mosaic suns, rain sticks, windsocks and weather dials, which accompanied us at Circle Time when we sang our weather song!

We began the month of May hard at work preparing for our Mothers' Day celebration! To show their love for their moms, the children made special frames with their smiling faces in them, baked chocolate flowerpot cupcakes and sang "Mommy" songs at our Mothers' Day Brunch. What a special day!

Another favorite unit this month was insects. We enjoyed making construction paper ants and singing "The Ants Go Marching." It was fun to count how many spots our lady bugs had and practice recognizing/writing our names on a caterpillar after reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." The boys and girls loved making paper plate bees to put in our hallway and were excited to learn how honey was made.

This warm weather has made us realize that the end of school is near and summer is just around the corner. What a perfect time to begin our seashore unit! At Circle Time the children talked about all of their fun summer plans. The children enjoyed making colorful fish, friendly crabs and singing octopuses!

The Nursery year certainly was fun-filled with lots of singing, stories, rhymes, dramatizations, projects, special activities, cooking and lots of learning and valuable lessons. Lots of emphasis was placed on the social skills of good listening, following directions, sharing, waiting their turn and using words to express feelings (instead of hands). We also focused on some pre-reading and pre-writing skills. All our theme units helped with color, letter and number recognition. With the help of "Mat Man", which was introduced this year as part of the *Handwriting Without Tears* program, much emphasis was placed on learning to recognize and draw body parts which has certainly improved the children's drawings of people! The children also had great fun using wooden pieces to learn proper formation of the letters. We, as teachers are very excited to be using such a multi-sensory and playful program to introduce early learning.

Our thanks to all the parents for all your support throughout the year. We wish you a safe and fun-filled summer!

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Ehrhardt, Mrs. Mahon, Mrs. Urbank

May is for Mothers! The moms were treated to a breakfast of muffins and chocolate-dipped strawberries made by their very own Pre-K children. The highlight of the morning was the lovely songs sung by each proud child on the BIG stage. We all chuckled as the moms read the Pre-K created cookbooks. Oh how we love our moms!

May marked the end of our yearlong "Letter of the Week" study. The children proudly shared their completed ABC books with their family at a "book release" gathering. The books were a culmination of hard work with projects from A to Z. The children enjoyed reading a multitude of alphabet books from the selection in our classroom library. Games with letter recognition, sound recognition, and matching uppercase and lowercase letter continue to be part of our daily routine. Working with the *Handwriting Without Tears* program has been successful in teaching letter formation through a multi-sensory approach. Use of wood pieces, magnetic boards, chalk boards, and roll-a-dough letters have taught correct letter strokes, knowledge of size and shape, imitation of lines and curves, and left to right orientation. "Mat Man" books and magnetic pieces helped children learn spatial and drawing concepts while giving them a sense of body part placement. As part of our new Math Recovery program, numeracy activities helped the PreK students understand numeral identification, one to one correspondence, forward and backward sequences, and estimation.

The highlight of our Pre-K experience this year has been the arrival of twelve baby chicks. The Fischetti Family so kindly provided the eggs, which were offspring from the hen born at Holy Child last year. We incubated the eggs in our classroom for twenty-one days. The children anxiously waited for the eggs to hatch by marking off each day on a calendar. We were able to observe the miracle of life as we watched their birth. To our surprise, the chicks are yellow, black, brown, and striped. The children have had the unique opportunity to see them eat, sleep, run, hop and grow. To see the excitement on the children's faces as they hold and pet the chicks has been memorable. At the close of our school year, the chicks will have a new home at the Fischetti's and will be reunited with their mother hen, which is important to the children. Please check the website for pictures.

Spring has given us a wonderful opportunity to explore the sights and sounds of the season. The children created a beautiful spring display of flowers and butterflies. One particular flower we learned about was the dandelion, the pretty yellow ones that become the "wishing flower". As a follow-up activity to the book, The Mother's Day Mice, the children made art projects using, "ring paintbrushes" to create their own dandelions. Each child then had the opportunity to make a real wish as they blew on the dandelion "puff" and then wrote about it in their journal. We also read the folktale about the woodcutter who wasted three wishes. Here are the wishes of the Pre-K children as they blew on the dandelion . . .

"I wish I had a Yorkie dog." Anna

"I wish my Mom could get a beautiful dress." Pavan

"I wish I could go on a scooter ride with my Dad." Tyler

"I wish I had an airplane pop up book." Christopher

"I wish my Dad could take me somewhere in a full sized van." Aidan

"I wish I could play with my dad all the time." Michael

"I wish I could build a skyscraper that touches the clouds." Paul

"I wish I could have a castle to live in." Marlena

"I wish for one hundred dollars." Vanessa

"I wish for a super fast racecar that is brand new and can drive all over." Naren

"I wish for a Wii." Daniela

"I wish for a big bouncy ball. It would be very big." Nicholas

"I wish for a Mario Ghost. I would play with it." Carolina

"I wish for a little shopping toy so that I can go to the store and bring a carriage." Olivia

"I wish for a baby chick for a pet." Sonny

"I wish I were a knight." Mac

"I wish for a new Wow Wow Wubsie that comes to life. I would share it with my brother and sister."

Georges

Thank you for a wonderful year.

Have a safe and happy Summer!

We look forward to welcoming you back in the Fall!





MRS. MACDOUGALL, MRS. MODICA

How can it possibly be that we are finishing this school year? Time has gone by so quickly and the children have made such strides, both socially and academically. We are so proud of each and every one of them.

May began with our festive preparation for the “Mothers’ Day Tea” that the children hosted for their moms on Friday, May 7, 2010. The children decorated tote bags, designed placemats, made tissue paper flower vases, and special Mothers’ Day books for their moms. As a snack, we made insect cakes and “cups of dirt” which were a delicious treat! The children then entertained their moms with the song, “My Mommy Has a Special Name,” sung to the Oscar Meyer bologna tune and an acrostic poem called Mother. Each of the kindergarten classes, K-1 and K-2, recited a poem for the moms in Spanish and French, respectively.

In April, the Kindergarteners began rehearsing songs and a dance routine for the Lower School performance of “Cinderella.” The Kindergarten debut was fabulous! We predict that these children will all be “stars.” They were very comfortable singing and dancing on the stage. They wore white costume t-shirts and white gloves and “twinkled” on stage as the fairy dust. It truly was a memorable evening for all!

On April 27th, the Kindergarteners took a “big” bus to the Adams Playhouse to see “Junie B. Jones.” We have read 23 Junie B. books this year so it was exciting to see her on stage. Although, it seemed as though the bus ride was just as thrilling!

Kindergarten is also proud to announce that our nature science experiments were extremely successful. The larvae of both the ladybugs and the butterflies went through their 4 stage life cycles right before our eyes and we are proud “parents” of 16 ladybugs and 10 butterflies. The children enjoyed their role as scientists as they observed the miracles of nature. On a beautiful, sunny, warm day, we released our “babies” on the playground and in the flower gardens. We also grew our own grass and we look forward to giving them their weekly “haircuts.” It was a fascinating unit.

As the Kindergarten year comes to an end, the children have begun to turn their thoughts to summer. Each child made a “summer glyph” that is colorfully displayed in our hallway. This glyph is a pictorial representation of the things that they would like to do this summer such as: swim in the ocean or pool, eat hot dogs or hamburgers, play at the beach or park, etc... Our bulletin board is both educational and informative.

Special Persons’ Day was a smashing success. The children invited their special guests to school and were excited to share the morning with them. They recited a poem called “Bugs, Bugs” at the whole school assembly, showed off their skills during a Gym class, and presented their Metamorphosis Math book during class time. It certainly was a fun and exciting day for the children!

The *End of the Year Show* is on Thursday, June 10, 2010 and the children are working hard to learn the poem and songs that they will perform. The Nursery and Pre-K children will also be part of the show and will perform a song along with the Kindergarteners. The children are so excited to perform on stage again. Special shirts that the children signed with their own names will be worn for the performance. They had a great time writing their name on each of their classmates’ shirts, sixteen times!

These are our final two journal writings for May and June:

My favorite thing about Kindergarten was...

everything... **Kennedy**
the food at the Multicultural luncheon... **Ferde**
doing shaving cream on the tables and gym... **Jack L.**
free play... **Kevin**
gym... **Mikie**
building with blocks... **John**
writing... **Christian**
the pajama party... **Lauren**
doing word searches... **James**
gym class and learning sight words... **Max**
gym and drawing... **Harris**
gym and the pajama party... **Jack M.**
making gingerbread houses... **Olivia**
when the butterflies came out... **Caitlin**
coming to a new school... **Halleren**
drawing and making applesauce... **Victoria**

This summer, I look forward to...

having a toy battle outside... **Jack L.**
reading my new books... **Christian**
going to camp in West Hampton... **Caitlin**
going wakeboarding and tubing on my boat... **Max**
my birthday... **Halleren**
going to Hershey Park... **Ferde**
using my waterslide... **John**
going to the Hamptons... **Lauren**
going to Florida... **Victoria**
going to camp... **Harris**
going to my country house... **Olivia**
going to the beach... **Mikie**
riding on my new bike... **Kevin**
playing soccer... **Kennedy**
going to Mikie's pool party... **James**
going to Bayville Scream Park... **Jack M.**

**It has been such a pleasure working and “playing” with all of your children during this school year.
We wish you a very happy and healthy summer.**

