



October 2011

Dear PK/Enrichment Parents,

School has been great! We are enjoying getting to know your children. All the children have adjusted well to the beginning of school and are exploring the room, developing friendships and improving their individual and group interaction skills. We have had several apple activities as we discovered the similarities and differences in their size, shape, color and taste. Please look for our graphs and summaries on the walls.

Baby Day was fun. It was an exciting day to talk about how babies are different from each other and the children in our class and to remember how much the children have grown. We measured and weighed the children and will measure and weigh them at the end of the year to show them how much they have grown.

Our first field trip is happening soon. We feel that the field trips are a very valuable experience for the 5-year-old class. We build on these as learning experiences. This does mean that we need the help of all you parents. We will have a total of approximately 13 field trips. We will try to take the RTD bus as much as possible to cut down on parents having to drive and to save gas. We will also have you meet us at some field trip sites. We will let you know what our plan is for each field trip so read your newsletters and calendars!

**OCTOBER PLANS:** Our emphasis will be on the changes of fall, farm and baby animals and their preparations for winter. For fall, we will be collecting and comparing leaves' sizes and colors, making nature collages, and making fall trees. We will be going on a **Fall Hike** with our small groups on **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** – meet on the grass east of the **Parking Lot at The East Boulder Rec. Center** (on 55th, between S. Boulder Rd and Baseline Rd) at 1:00. Pick up at the same location at **3:25**. If your child is in **Lunch Bunch**, please feel free to form your own carpools to get to the hike. Remember to have your children wear appropriate shoes (no sandals), send a jacket or sweater, a water bottle and a snack in a backpack. Later in the month we will be learning more about scarecrows, skeletons, spiders, owls, cats and bats. Also this month we will be collecting pumpkins and squash (carving them, cooking them, eating them and their seeds), and of course, singing songs, telling stories and doing activities centering around fall and Halloween. If the children have related items or books that would add to the educational value of the theme of the day, please send them to school on that day.

**EXPLORERS DAY:** Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: In honor of North American explorers and the adventurer in all of us, we're planning some fun activities.

**PIRATE DAY:** Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>: We will positively go on a perfectly peerless treasure hunt. We'll have popcorn, patches, parrots and prizes (can you tell we will be talking about the letter P?). Treasure maps will be provided! The children can dress up as pirates if they wish.

**ALL SPORTS DAY:** Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: We will be talking about healthy bodies and staying fit and having fun with sports. And we will continue our "exploring" theme by visiting the Dal Ward Athletic Center and stadium at CU on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> to see where the CU athletes train, eat, study and play. We will get to tour the cafeteria, weight room, sport medicine room, coaches' offices and the trophy room and see some of the athletes and coaches. We will ride the bus there (and ask that you or your carpool pick up in the parking lot of the football practice field off of Folsom St at 3:20. (Directions and maps will be provided) Please send \$.50

**PUMPKIN FARM:** Our class will be going to Cottonwood Pumpkin Farm on 75th by Arapahoe on Wednesday, October 19th. While there, we will look at farm animals and farm machines, go through a maze, have stories and snack and of course, get a pumpkin. Please send \$4.00 for the trip. **The teachers will meet the children at the farm at 1:15.** Please pick up there at 3:15. Again, feel free to form carpools with other Lunch Bunchers to get your child to the Pumpkin Farm.

**DAD'S NIGHT AT PRESCHOOL:** Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – 5:30-7:00 PM. This is a special evening for Dads and their preschoolers to spend together. There will be fun projects for father and child to do together, pizza and surprises!!! We hope to see you there. Please make other child care arrangements for siblings.

**HALLOWEEN:** Some pre-Halloween activities will include carving a pumpkin, making spiders, having ghost day, and making "Witch's Brew" (a mixture of a bottle of loving kindness, a cup of giggles, a pinch of cackles, etc.). On Monday, October 31st, the children may wear costumes to school (send one in their tote bag if they don't want to wear it - they may change their minds). Please use your discretion about sending scary masks - some children are very frightened by these. Please drop your child off in the classroom promptly at 1 PM so that we can be ready for our....

**HALLOWEEN PROGRAM ( 1PM Monday October 31st):** After dropping off your child in the classroom, please proceed downstairs to Fraiser Parlor by 1:20 PM where we will join you to sing some songs and have a flannel board story. It might be a great day for pictures!!! After the program, we'll have some *spooky* snacks. We will need some volunteers to help provide some healthy snacks for children and parents. Please sign-up at school. Thank you!!!

**WHEN SENDING SPECIAL TREATS TO PRESCHOOL:** When special holidays occur, we often ask parents to donate treats for the celebration. We usually request healthy snacks, such as cheese, crackers, veggies and fruit. However, for very special celebrations, sweet treats are OK. (We only do this 2 or 3 times a year.) Because we are dedicated to making Mt. View "nut" free, please do not use any kind of nuts, almond extract or M&M's (the candy coating has some nut ingredients) in any of the treats. We want to keep everyone safe! Thank you!

**SMALL GROUPS/HOME VISITS:** We are looking forward to visiting your home and plan to begin scheduling visits toward the end of the month. We'll be calling you or catch you at school to set up a time. Most of the children have been relating well to all teachers, so our decisions about small groups are based primarily on the relationships between children. Some children do very well with a special friend in the group while others have a better experience in working separately. We have 3 small groups: the penguins, the

whales, and the jellyfish. Ask your child which group he/she is in. In January, the teachers will begin working with different small groups so that they will each have an opportunity to work with different children in his/her group.

We have a great Music Enrichment teacher, Amy Haywood who has been teaching music to children since 1981. She will be bringing many hours of fun and excitement to our classrooms. She will be visiting us 3 times a month.

**BEING A "GOOD NEIGHBOR":** For the sake of safety, please watch your children as you arrive and leave the preschool building. The children seem to be attracted by the "child's eye level" windows on the lower level and have been "peeking into" meeting rooms and offices while they are in use. Gravel is also being tossed at the new windows and dropped down important air holes for the boiler. Please remember to use the Preschool entrance instead of the narthex area (the Church's main doors) for "coming and going" as the narthex is a "quiet area". Thank you for helping us respect the Church grounds and building.

**KEEPING IN TOUCH:** We like to talk with you on a regular basis but aren't always able to get around to everyone, even within the space of a week. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

**ENTRY DOORS:** Please remember to enter through the double doors when bringing or picking up the children. **Our post information on the easel in the front hall (Sunshine Room).** Look for "theme of the day" information before school and sometimes after school you'll find a summary of the day posted on the easel. As the weather becomes colder, it is important to keep the doors closed since the thermostat is in the entry. If you find the doors left open, please close them and help us keep energy costs down.

### **FROM THE PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE:**

**PARENTING SERIES:** Tuesday, October 4 – 9:15AM. Join Donna with a discussion about "Building Self-Esteem Through Discipline". Babysitting will be provided. Contact Donna (303-530-0736) to make a reservation.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you, thank you, thank you for volunteering your help and time at Mt. View. The subcommittee chair positions have been established and they will be getting in touch with you. Some of the activities do not start for a few months. If you have any questions, contact Julie Poyton, Committee Chairperson, at 303-527-1918. We appreciate your support!

**RECYCLE PRINTER CARTRIDGES:** We recycle printer cartridges at Office Max for in-store credit to purchase office supplies. Please place your cartridges in the special box on the entryway credenza. Thank you for your help!

**COMMITTEE MEETING:** Wednesday, October 19th – 9:15 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**ENROLLMENT:** Carrie Sakai is in charge of Enrollment for Mt.View. If you have any "little ones" that you want to put on the waiting list for future years, please contact her at 303-325-3413.

**LUNCH BUNCH:** We still need Lunch Bunch "short and long notice" substitute teachers. **This is a paid position.** Contact Sue McGrath if you're interested in working (303-665-6043). Please do not send GoGurt or Squeeze It's in your child's lunch. Anything that can be squeezed seems to land on the floor, not in mouths!

### **UP-COMING EVENTS.....**

**The Barnes & Noble Book Fair** is scheduled for December 9th from 9am-1pm, so mark that date on your calendar! More information about this event will be coming in the next newsletter and your child's cubby.

**SAVERS:** 6 – 8 ounce plastic containers with lids.

HAPPY OCTOBER.....Janet and Gayle