



What's News at Sage?



Sage Academy's Preschool – Elementary School Newsletter

March 2010



From the Director...

Dear Sage Families,

Thanks in part to the success of our recent World's Finest Chocolate sale, our teachers will be attending the California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference over Spring Break! The conference takes place in Long Beach, and includes workshops such as:

"Creativity and Play: Addressing the Needs of the Whole Child in the Classroom"

"Parents and Center Programs; the Benefits of Partnerships"

"Right From the Start: Building Great Brains from Birth to Age 8"

"Science: Every Day for Every Child"

There is also a wonderful Expo Hall, which is an exhibit of the latest materials available in the preschool field. We are very excited for the opportunity to build our skills and enhance our current program. We will give you an overview of our experience in the May newsletter!

Thank you to our families who participated in our candy fundraiser; thanks to your efforts we raised 50% of the cost to send our teachers to this worthwhile event. If you were unable to sell candy but would like to contribute to the "Conference Fund", your donation would be greatly appreciated.



Sage's Annual Spring Silent Auction

Friday April 23, 2010!



A note from: Diana Horn and Stefanie Taylor, Silent Auction Co-Chairs

As part of our ongoing fundraising efforts for the school, we would like to inform you of the upcoming Spring Silent Auction which will be held on April 23, 2010.

Last year we raised enough money to provide new shade structures for all the playground areas, which was greatly needed on warmer days! And in past years, funds were generated to provide new playground equipment. This year, the proceeds will be used for two purposes: 1) to purchase items as requested by teachers on their "Wish Lists", and 2) to contribute to the "Bower-Farber Scholarship Fund", which assists Sage families during times of temporary financial need.

Here's where you can join in. We are looking for as many donations as possible to auction off. Some suggestions include: tickets to sporting events or entertainment events, celebrity autographed items, merchandise gift certificates, restaurant certificates, tickets to amusement parks, the zoo, museums, movie theaters, health spa certificates (including manicures, massages, facials and days at the spa), and weekend getaways (public and privately owned). Remember your local merchants and business that you frequent are always happy to give- if you ask (it is advertisement for them!).



Shoe Update!

Due to safety concerns, we have made a change to our parent handbook regarding appropriate footwear for school. Please read the following update regarding shoes:

DRESS CODE

Preschool:

- Play clothes that can get messy
- **Closed toed sneakers appropriate for climbing and running. No sandals, "Croc" type clogs, or dressy boots/party shoes are allowed**
- Jackets and pants without drawstrings
- Clothing that is suitable for the weather

Elementary (Grades EK-3)

Closed toed sneakers appropriate for daily P.E. are required. All clothing must be appropriate for school and physical education.

The Yellow Room with Giselle & Andrea

Hello March! February was great – thanks to all the parents who helped with our Valentine’s party – but we are all excited to say goodbye to winter and step into the sunshine (or rain)!

The Yellow Room will start the month with a fun Dr. Seuss theme to honor the famous children’s author’s birthday. We will be reading Dr. Seuss’ books, cooking and tasting green eggs and ham, making silky truffula trees,



and even creating our own Dr. Seuss books!

Next we will start our exciting rainforest theme. The children will learn about all kinds of rainforest animals and make some beautiful plant and flower crafts. They will also learn about the importance of taking care of our precious rainforests, and we will start by putting a paper recycling box in our classroom to save some trees!

The following week we will talk about our five senses. There will be lots of hands-on activities as we conduct taste and smell tests, experiment with lots of textures, and play with sound.

Finally, we will close out the month by celebrating the coming of spring! We will be planting in the Sage garden, making rainbows, and smelling flowers. Our spring theme is sure to brighten up our classroom!

The Purple Room with Audra & Paula

Hello, Purple Room families! How are you feeling? This month we’ll read, sing and create art about all of our wonderful emotions. We’ll paint with “happy” and “angry” colors while listening to



corresponding music. It is vital that young children understand their feelings and have the words to express them, so we hope our lessons are helpful. Creepy crawly bugs will be the next topic of the month. Ants, spiders, butterflies and ladybugs will be explored. It was nice meeting with you for parent-teacher conferences; thank you for your support and continued communication. We hope you have a wonderful Spring Break!

The Blue Room with Margaret & Marlyn

It was wonderful to sit and talk with each of you on our conference day. We appreciate all of the support that we get from our families and your words of kindness mean so much! Thank you.

We’ll be celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss this month! It’s a great opportunity to explore rhyming words and to create some funny stories of our own. Do you like green eggs and ham? We’ll find out when we whip up a delicious batch in the classroom!



St. Patrick's Day will be a fun way to start with our spring holidays and to bring out the Irish in all of us. We will also celebrate the Persian New Year and Easter to familiarize ourselves with how many of us celebrate this time of year.

Spring is also the time to notice the changes going on outside too, so we'll be learning about the many things that happen when the seasons change. We'll be busy with baby animals and flowers to bring the beautiful springtime inside!

Have a great Spring Break and we'll look forward to seeing you all on April 12th!

The Green Room with Laysha & Aimee

I want to thank everyone who was able to come in for conferences, it was such a pleasure to meet with you and talk about how wonderful your children are. We really have an amazing class.

The first week in March we had a great time learning to rhyme! We celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss and had fun reading some of his classics and making up silly rhymes of our own. Next, we'll be looking at some of our favorite books. We'll make designs with "spilt milk," for *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*, paint with "lion's tails," for *The Lion and the Little Red Bird* and make cookies for a mouse!

We'll spend a few days exploring Ireland as we approach St. Patrick's Day. We'll make rainbows with prisms, experiment



with the colors blue and yellow to make green, make our own lucky clovers and enjoy an all green snack.

That will bring us right up to our Spring Unit. We'll learn how seeds grow, we'll plant beans and watch them sprout, and learn what they need to survive. Then we'll start our own nursery as we learn about baby chicks, lambs and bunnies. As we near Spring Break we'll explore eggs and even dye some to bring home. We'll end the

month with a Spring Fling to celebrate all the new growth around us.

Additionally, if you haven't noticed, we've introduced a calendar in our classroom and have been discussing the difference between days and months. The children have been very excited to count the numbers and watch the calendar fill up. So, as the year continues to fly by, I want to thank you again for your continued support.

Pre-K-1 with Martha & Parvaneh

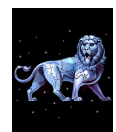
In March we are talking about seasons and all the changes the weather brings! We even made a rain bag and proved that we can be meteorologists too. The signs of spring are all around us, so we talked about trees and how they change with each different season. Along with seasons, there was a very special birthday in the beginning of March! We celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss with each child choosing their favorite Dr. Seuss book. We even made rhyming words book markers in honor of this fun filled day. In the middle of March we will have good old Irish time with St. Patrick's Day by celebrating with leprechaun's gold and delicious green eggs and ham. As March comes to a close we'll end the month by going back into the dinosaur age; always such fun!



Thank you and have a great Spring Break!

Pre-K-2 with Jen & Leslie

We had so much fun in February. We started off by talking about colors and shadows. We were able to sit in the computer lab and watch the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, come out of his burrow and see his shadow. We also had a lot of fun that week mixing colors.



Valentine's week was full of love and we had fun making valentines for our friends and family. We moved on to learn about Chinese New Year and how red and gold are lucky colors during this time of year. We also learned about the different animals in the zodiac and that we are roosters and monkeys! We ended the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. He wrote some silly rhyming stories. It was really yummy to make and try our own green eggs and ham. To better prepare the children for kindergarten, we have started to introduce more academic activities at optional centers. We have been thrilled to see that the children are really enjoying this new challenge. In March, we are looking forward to learning about weather, pets, St. Patrick's Day and Easter/Passover. We will also be thinking about the letters "Uu", "Nn", "Mm", and "Y". We hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Break!

EarlyK/Kindergarten with Mrs. Small & Mrs. Sasooness

March has started off with a BANG! Our Early K/Kindergarteners celebrated a very exciting birthday this month, our friend Dr. Seuss! We kicked off the festivities by reading and listening to the many books Dr. Seuss has written for all of us to enjoy. We followed that up with different activities and projects including rhyming words, making our very own "Cat in the Hat" hat, and creating a unique Dr. Seuss character! The students were even able to explore "Seuss Ville" online in Computer class! We will be wrapping up one of our favorite units to date: "Transportation" this month. We were able to explore all different modes of transportation from feet to helicopters, as well as discover all things trains on our field trip to Travel Town in Glendale! Looking forward we are excited to explore a new Language Arts unit: "Down on the Farm." We will take advantage of this theme and



explore farm animals and food grown on farms for Science. Our class has also been gearing up for this unit during computer class by drawing different animals using the tools of the computer. The farm will really come alive during our trip to The Pizza Farm at Pierce College in April! We are going to continue practicing our addition skills and we'll start a new unit on measurement and time this month! Our class wishes everyone a very lucky St. Patrick's Day and a wonderful Spring Break!

1, 2 & 3 with Mrs. Florez and Ms. Shelly

It's amazing how much our class continues to grow as learners! We began this month sharing our science book reports on animals and natural disasters. The children worked very hard to complete these research reports, and we learned many interesting facts about frogs, monkeys, volcanoes, and tornadoes (just to name a few)! Students also showed their creative side by making posters, bookmarks, and very realistic drawings to go with their reports. In Mathematics, our 2nd and 3rd graders will be starting a unit on fractions and probability. We will explore how fractions are important in our everyday lives, and even get a chance to play games involving probability.



Our 1st grade students are finishing up their study of measurement, and have had the chance to use rulers to measure various objects. They also investigated how measuring liquids and solids can be used in many activities at home -such as cooking! Our class has been extremely busy preparing for spring with many exciting lessons and activities! For example, we wrote about our favorite spring pastimes, which can be viewed on our "Great Work" bulletin board. Students even had the opportunity to learn about symmetry while designing their own butterflies. Like many of our friends at Sage, we are also looking forward to a relaxing Spring Break toward the end of this month!