
WHISPERING FARMS MONTESSORI NEWS



Hearing/Vision Screening

We will have hearing, vision, and speech screenings on Monday, October 10th. Hearing and Vision Screens are mandatory for all children who are 4- If your child has not been screened at their pediatrician's office, this is a good opportunity to get this done. More paperwork will be available the first week.

Fire Truck Visit

The children will get a visit from Prosper's Fire Dept. on Tuesday, October 4th. The children will get to go in a fire truck and ambulance, and they will learn about fire safety.

Fall Festival

Our annual Fall festival will be on Monday, October 31st. Children will be able to bring their costumes to change into in the afternoon. We will have a bounce house, train rides and face painting. Parents and family are all welcome to attend!

Parent Observation Week

Parent Observation week will happen during the week of October 10th. Parents will have an opportunity to view their child's classroom on the monitors and see how their child's day goes by. A sign up sheet will be available to first week of October.

Picture Day

Picture day will be on Friday, October 28th. More information will follow with the themes for the backgrounds.

New Lunch Caterer

The school would like to announce our new lunch caterer. It is Prosper's very own Cotton Gin Café. We are very excited and thankful that the local restaurant will be assisting us with our hot lunch program. Menu items will include home-style dishes such as: chicken tender baskets, cheeseburgers, quesadillas, etc. The lunch program fee will continue to be \$85/month, if you are interested in signing up, please let the front desk know.

Whispering Farms Montessori Academy

10/01/2011

Important Dates:

10/04 Fire Truck visit
10/10 Vision, Hearing Screen
10/10-14 Parent Observation
10/28 School Photo Day
10/31 Fall Festival

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Starting Preschool: A Milestone of Separation and Individuation

By: Jacque Grillo

Perhaps your little one has just started preschool, or maybe this is an event you are planning for next year or the following, or perhaps your child is already settled in preschool. **Whatever your circumstances, starting preschool for any child, whether for a few hours each week or for most of each day, is a major step in a life long process of separation and individuation.** I thought this would be a good time to consider some of the most important early milestones in this process of separation and individuation.

For every child the first and most dramatic step comes at birth when the umbilical cord is cut. As in every juncture of the separation and individuation process the child is challenged to re-identify who he is, his relationship to others and the world around him. At birth, as at each transition point, the child transitions from a place of relative homeostasis to a period of stressful adjustment, which will ultimately lead to a new level of comfort and familiarity. What could be a more dramatic illustration of this cycle than a child transitioning from his life in utero, physically united and completely dependent upon his mother, to being an independent and physiologically self-supporting being?

The young infant is vulnerable and tentative, but over time becomes stronger and gradually develops a mastery of infancy. And then he is once again ready for change and transformation. The next major milestone comes with self-mobility. With the ability to move on his own the child enters a new world of independence and autonomy, and again will need to readjust his sense of self and his relationship to the world around him. As in each juncture point the level of stress is high, not only for the child but for the caregivers as well. If you've ever had primary responsibility for the safety of an actively exploring young toddler then no explanation is necessary! Following her around from room to room and place to place as she tirelessly explores her suddenly expanded environment is exhausting.

The next major juncture point begins when the toddler stage ends and early childhood begins, typically from about two years and nine months to three years. This is often the time that a structured and organized preschool is introduced (as distinguished from child care or play groups). The transition from toddler to young childhood is evidenced in many ways. There are the physiological changes: the child literally stretches out, and the proportion of the upper and lower body gives him the appearance of adult maturity -- all the parts seem to be for the first time working in harmony. By this time most children have mastered self toileting. The normally developing child has also accessed a new level of language mastery, and is able to fairly reliably not just make his needs known, but actually carry on a fairly sophisticated conversation. He is now ready to reach out to his peers with a new maturity, and will begin to establish truly interactive friendships. He is less self-focussed and begins to develop genuine curiosity and interest in the "other." He is at an early point of moving beyond his own egocentric needs and interests, and is consequently now ready to share and cooperate in a group setting.

As exciting as this can be the child also responds to these new challenges with an understandable ambivalence. Some mornings she'll seem nothing but eager to go to preschool, only to have a major meltdown when it's time for you to leave. Often regression will occur: toileting takes a step backwards, or she'll engage in baby talk or other behaviors left behind long ago. It's important not to panic but instead to see the ambivalence as natural and to be expected. Ambivalence typifies every transition point in the separation and individuation process.

This is yet another time when you are called upon as a parent to access your best intuitive and sensitive self. Partly what she is expressing with her ambivalence is her own uncertainty that she can handle these new challenges. It is possible, if not always easy, to both empathize with her understandable feelings of ambivalence, while at the same time holding the confidence she lacks. In this way she will gradually internalize that same sense of confidence, and eventually achieve a new level of homeostasis and mastery. Until of course it is time for the next step in the lifelong process separation and independence, the incremental movement from dependence to autonomy.

Our Teachers and Staff

Office:



Ms. Kiran- Director



Ms. Marta



Ms. Danielle

Infants:



Ms. Sylvia (A.M.)



Ms. Betty (A.M.)



Ms. Francisca (P.M.)

Beginners



Ms. Antonia (A.M.)



Ms. Claudia (A.M./ P.M)

Transition



Ms. Holly (A.M.)



Ms. Julie (A.M./ P.M)

Primary



Ms. Peggy(A.M.)
Primary 1



Ms. Anna (A.M.)
Primary 2



Ms. Vera (P.M.)
Primary 1/2



Ms. Sylvia (A.M.)
Primary 1 / 2



Ms. Beth (PM.)
Primary 1 / 2

October 2011 Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Cheeseburger French Fries Pears	4 Chicken Quesadilla Corn Banana Pudding	5 Grilled Cheese Carrot sticks Pears	6 Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Apple Slices	7 Hot Dog Carrot Sticks French Fries
10 Mac N Cheese Green Beans Peaches	11 Corn Dog Carrot sticks Apple Slices	12 Cheese Quesadilla Corn Banana Pudding	13 Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Apple Slices	14 Grilled Cheese Carrot Sticks Banana Pudding
17 Cheeseburger French Fries Mandarin- Oranges	18 Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Apple Slices	19 Mac N Cheese Green Beans Peaches	20 Hot Dog Carrot Sticks French Fries	21 Cheese Quesadilla Corn Banana Pudding
24 31 Corn Dog Carrot sticks Apple Apple Sauce	25 Grilled Cheese Green Beans Pears	26 Cheese Quesadilla Corn Banana Pudding	28 Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Apple Slices	29 Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Apple Slices

September Birthdays!

10/20 **Dakota**
10/22 **Logan**
10/23 **Phoebe**
10/27 **Grant**



Lunch Reminder

Our school lunches are an easy and nutritious option for your family. If you choose to provide your own lunch please make sure to send it with a cold pack. Also please do not send any frozen lunches, we can reheat food but do not have the capacity to cook them.



Whispering Farms Montessori Academy

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Whispering Farms Montessori Academy is Prosper's first (and only) Montessori school. It was founded in January 2003. Lead Teachers in the Primary program are Montessori Certified. All teachers are CPR and First Aid Certified. We have a dedicated staff.

Our Goal is to provide a creative environment where each child will excel and learn at their own pace.

We would really appreciate it if parents could place a review about our school on any search engines like Google, Yahoo, etc..