



## *October Kindernews*

October already? What happened to September? Time really does fly when you're having fun!! As we build a sense of community in our classes, we continue to marvel at how quickly the children are adapting to all the rules, routines and each other. Establishing these routines in an atmosphere of fun will help each child feel a safe sense of belonging. Our most important time together, prayer time, has been a main focus during circle time. We have been practicing the sign of the cross, and we have discussed different ways of praying or talking to God, such as sharing words, singing together, reading stories, and even quiet thinking. It is extremely rewarding to hear the children's expressions of thanks and wonder at all of God's creation. There should never be any doubt that their spiritual development is equally as important as their physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth.

We're getting used to all the other things we do after circle time, special jobs and play time. Story time, journal writing, alphabet action, gym, computers, recess, snack, music, library and switch centers are all part of the kindergarten week. Through it all, these amazing little kinder-stars are learning how to take care of their own things, how to be respectful, how to be accepting, how to share, how to clean up together, how to listen and speak, how to take turns, how to walk quietly down the hallway and how to cope with all the other kids on the playground! It's no wonder we have to start the day with a prayer!

This year in the half day program I feel so blessed to have two exceptional educational assistants to help create a warm, inviting and successful learning environment for your children. It takes a very special person with a very special heart to do what these two ladies do every day. We absolutely could not provide the programming we do without them. Mrs. Shelley Patrick and Mrs. Tricia Collins really are God's hands in my classroom, and I can't thank them enough for all their help. Phys. Ed. is taught by Mrs. Grace Robertson in the morning and Mrs. Gwen Guimond in the afternoon, and both get help from Mrs. Michelle Pulkrabek. Every morning we also have help from Katie, a grade 12 student from St. Thomas Aquinas high school who is gaining academic credits through a work experience program. What a great team!



This week our special jobs include: a make-and-take **Bb** book called What's in **Bear's Basket?**, gluing **b**eans onto printed **Bb**'s, a **B**andaid **B**ook, and a sequencing activity with the story **Brown Bear Brown Bear**. We met **Be-Bop** the **B**ear who **b**ounces and **b**ops! Ask your child to teach you **Be-Bop's** song! We are thinking of many words that have the **/b/** sound at the **b**eginning and we love the silly **Banana Phone** song!

It looks like October is going to be a busy month, as usual. Our themes will be Fall, Thanksgiving, and Halloween. Here is some important information you will need to start:



We will be going for a walk in the woods on Wed., Oct. 7 to further investigate signs of fall (hopefully, we won't have snow already!). School policy states that any time we leave the school property we are required to have permission from parents/ guardians and you have already filled out your consent form for the year. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll try again on another day.



Watch for the St. Joseph newsletter to find out about the school's Thanksgiving liturgy. Parents are always invited and encouraged to attend these beautiful celebrations. In a spirit of thankfulness and sharing, all children are asked to bring in a food bank donation during the first week of October. I know how easy it is to reach into the pantry and grab a can of soup to donate without really thinking about it, but I would ask that you take the time to talk to your children about sharing what we have with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. If yours is one of the families going through a rough patch, unable to share and in need of some assistance, please let me know (it would be in the strictest confidence); there is definitely help and hope available for you.



We're ready for parent volunteers! If you would like to help out in the classroom, just sign your name on the calendar posted outside our class door. Because we already have so many adults working in kindergarten, I would ask that only one person sign up per day. Thanks!



On Fri., Oct.10, we will be having High Tea to celebrate the letter **Tt**! This will be a formal affair so children will be asked to dress up elegantly and bring their very best manners. It will be tremendous to do the Turkey Tango after Tea Time!



It is time for our "Star of the Week" program to begin. If you notice your child's name on the calendar at the beginning of the week, it means it's his/her turn to be the v.i.p. for the whole week! We ask that you help your child create an "All About Me" photo poster (family, pets, hobbies, favourite foods, special events, etc). Your child will explain the poster to the class and we'll hang it up in the classroom for the week. All you scrap bookers out there should have fun with this one! If you need poster board, glue, scissors, etc, let me know and I can give you some!

That's enough information for now. More kinder-news next week!

 Mrs. R ☺

*"God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything."  
Ephesians 4:15*