

Preschool Weekly News

from Ms. Lauren & Ms. Megan's Class



Encouraging Independence in Preschool at Redwood

A big part of Preschool learning is teaching children to be as independent as they can. These skills are so valuable in school years to come, as well as in many facets of their lives. We also love seeing how proud the children are when they realize they can do something by themselves, try hard at something that is a little difficult at first, and when they are excited about being responsible for a new classroom job. Here are some of the ways we encourage independence in our Preschool classroom:

- Classroom jobs started last week! Here are some examples of jobs a child may be assigned to for the school week this year:
 - Line Leader
 - Caboose
 - Kindness Reporter
 - Gardener (waters our class plants)
 - Table Washer (washes the tables with a wet wash cloth before a working parent cleans them more thoroughly with cleaner.)
 - Table Setter (Puts out caddies with lunch time necessities on each table)
 - Center Inspector (makes sure centers are tidy at the end of center time)
 - DJ (chooses the movement songs we dance to on the carpet)
 - Electrician (turns lights on and off as instructed by a teacher)
 - Rain Boot organizer
 - Bell Jinger
 - Schedule Secretary (keeps track of our daily visual schedule)
- Children use child sized scissors at lunch time to open their packaged lunch

items on their own. This is also great scissor skill practice!

- They clean up their lunches on their own and are learning what kinds of trash is recyclable and which is not.
- Keep track of their own water bottles and put them in and take them out of the class water bottle tub throughout the day.
- Use the visuals that we taught them and hung on the wall in the bathroom in order to use the potty and wash their hands by themselves.
- Get their nap blankets out and put them up before and after rest time.
- Unpack items (such as lunches) from their backpack in the mornings and pack them up at the end of each day.
- Children are learning how to resolve conflicts with friends on the playground by using their words and talking through disagreements.

Of course, teachers are always close by and ready to help when needed. But, we do always make sure to give each child time to figure something out by themselves first and we are excited to give praise and encouragement along the way.

Dinosaurs Week 2!

This was the second week of our dinosaur project! We focused on learning about different types of dinosaurs since that was a large category in what the children wondered about when we completed the "I wonder.." section of our KWL chart.

Here are the **some** of the fun things we did together this week:

- Shared some great books together during read aloud time! (*What the Dinosaurs Did Last Night*, *What the Dinosaurs Did at School*, *Dinosaurs Galore!*) as well as non-fiction books all about dinosaurs.
- We researched three different kinds of dinosaurs more thoroughly while also collecting facts about others. The three types of dinosaurs we focused on were the Pteranodon, the Brachiosaurus, and the Velociraptor (which answered our question about whether or not dinosaurs had feathers!..Chloe said "It's like a chicken dinosaur!")
- Charted our favorite of these three dinosaurs by making tallies and then counting the tallies with one to one correspondence to see which dinosaur was liked by the most children and adults in our classroom.
- Worked together to make a giant Pteranodon to hang in our classroom! We used paint, bubble wrap, kraft paper, scissors, and branches.
- Introduced a class visitor (a stuffed T-Rex) who gets into different activities in our classroom each night while we are at home and then leaves our class a note the next morning. The children love her and voted to name her "Starlight".
- Introduced the letter Ff (our first "frog jump capital" letter) in morning meeting and took turns finding the letter Ff and circling it.
- Went on a dinosaur hunt around Redwood.
- Completed our art projects based on the book "If the Dinosaurs Came

Back". These are now on display in our classroom.

- The Lexington Fire Department came to visit and teach us all about firefighters and let us explore the fire truck.
- Really got into the art center and explained that children were allowed to use any of the materials in our art center at center time. Free Art is the best!



Tallying our favorite dinosaurs



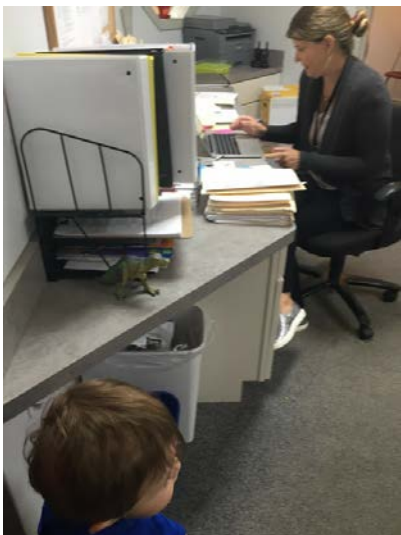
Looking at fossils up close!



Painting with our hands



Fun at Center Time: shapes with geo boards, dinosaur dig, fine motor practice, and dramatic play



Our Dino hunt around Redwood!

Coming up...

Next week at Redwood we will continue our Dinosaur unit but will focus on where/when the dinosaurs lived, what the land was like when they lived here, and what happened to them!

We will also be having a visit from the Police Department on Tuesday!

Working Parents for 9/4-9/7

- Mon 9/17: Compton (Reed)
- Tues 9/18: Greer (Connor)
- Weds 9/19: Zonio
- Thurs 9/20: Cowen (Olivia)
- Fri 9/21: Zonio

There is a schedule for working parents posted on our classroom cabinets. Rest time is at 1:00. We try to save things to work on for our working parents, but at the beginning of the year, we usually do not have enough to fill that entire time period (we have a lot of nappers in our room and they sleep til 2:15!). So, if you are a working parent and would like to bring along a book or something for the time period when children are resting, you are welcome to.

We are so appreciative of all our families! Thank you for partnering with us!



Starlight had fun in the art center

Reminders & Important Dates

- **Field Trips:**

- **September (in-school experiences)**

- Tues., Sept. 18th @ 9 a.m. - Police Officer visit
- Tues., Sept. 25th @ 9 a.m. - Lexington Humane Society visit with a child friendly dog
- Thurs., Sept. 27th @ 9 a.m. - Wildcat Guide Dogs visit

- Friday, Sept. 28th @ 11:45 a.m. - Veterinarian visit
- **October 12 @ 11 a.m.: Field Trip to Evans Orchard.**
- **November 9 @ 10 a.m.: Lexington Children's Theatre's production of *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats**
- **December (in school experience): An Interactive Musical Petting Zoo with The Lexington Philharmonic.**
- **Notes Regarding Field Trips:**
 - **All preschool students** are encouraged to attend all of the field trips. We would love to have everyone be able to enjoy these cultural experiences and create wonderful memories.
 - If an in-school experience is **schedule on your child's off day**, you are welcome to bring your child for the time period of the visit, we simply ask that you stay during this time as well.
 - **Permission Slips will be sent out for all field trips with due dates.** Please turn in the permission slips before or on the due date, as reservations will need confirmations with specific numbers of attendees with the venues.
 - We love having **more family members and siblings** on field trips; however, we will ask you to please pay for the extra members prior to the scheduled field trip for reservation confirmations with venues.
- Please remember that our storage in our room is limited. Please only send **one** water bottle/back pack/lunch box/lovey/blanket/jacket etc. with your child to school each day.
- **Show and Share is every Friday and Wednesday for MTW friends!**



Thank you for sharing your special children with us!

Love, Ms. Lauren & Ms. Megan

