

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 6

# Washington University Nursery School

Director's Newsletter

*At WUNS, we believe that children learn most effectively through Play experiences that are designed to build communication, socialization, fine and gross motor, creative and collaborative skills. Our curriculum is aligned with best practices standardized by the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC).*

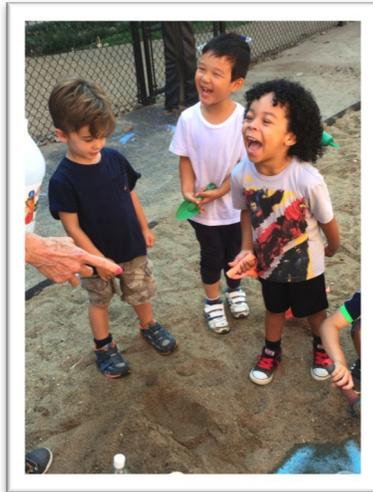


Who's who?

Ready, set, here we go!

The school year is off to a wonderful beginning. Your children are ready for the adventure of a new school year. They have settled into their classroom routines, looking forward to seeing their teachers and friends and engaging in their favorite activities in the classrooms and on the playground.

The warm weather the past few weeks has allowed the children time with the outdoor water trough – water and sand are fun combo with kids! Water play is fun and WET! The children love to create rivers and lakes with their friends, filling their buckets with water to water our plants and flowers or just dumping it out into the sand, fascinated as it disappears. Others, dip paintbrushes into the buckets filled with water to give our climber a “fresh coat of paint!” Often, their shoes and clothes get wet in the process. Be sure to keep a couple sets of extra clothes (shirts, pants, underwear and socks) in your child's cubby. You can switch out their shorts for warmer pants and long sleeve shirts as the cooler fall weather arrives.



The morning classes and their teachers are:

**Chona Carson and Marbie Reap**, in classroom 2 with the Teddy Bears.

**Marsha Graeber and Katie Loynd** in classroom 1, with the Bear Cubs.

**Suzy Frillman and Alicia Santiago-Haslag** leading the Big Bears in classroom 3.

In the afternoon, the teachers are:

**Chona Carson and Marsha Graeber** with the Panda Bears in classroom 2.

**Colleen Corbett and Katie Loynd** in classroom 3 with the Sun Bears.

**Colleen Corbett and Suzy Frillman** lead our morning and afternoon Bear Tracks, respectively.

**Amber Ott** works part-time in the office as the administrative coordinator.

**Nikki Scheele** is the Director.



## Enrichment classes

Our enrichment classes have begun. Suzy Frillman teaches an Art class monthly and met with the Big Bears this past week. The morning classes had a fun and lively time singing with Laura Frank, our music specialist. Afternoon classes will meet with Laura this coming Tuesday. Colleen Corbett, our Spanish teacher, meets with each class for 10-15 minutes on Mondays. Liz McCane will begin her Nature lessons with the classes in November. Parents can view their child's upcoming enrichment schedule, weekly announcements and current newsletter by visiting their child's classroom page on our school website. Monthly art lessons, song lyrics, Spanish lessons and Nature fun facts can be found on our website.



## Playdate

Our first play date of the year will take place on Wednesday, September 28. Families are invited to our WUNS playground to enjoy fun and friendship from 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm. Siblings are welcome to join. Parents or caregivers should accompany their child at the play date. We will have more play dates in the spring.

## Open House

Open House is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. On this special day, your child can show you their classroom, demonstrate their skills on the playground and share in a snack. WUNS t-shirts and sweatshirts will be available for purchase as well. The children love wearing their "bear" shirts to school. Adult sizes are available too.





## NAEYC Accreditation Renewal

In June, the Nursery School received word from Washington, D.C. that our school met the standards for **NAEYC** accreditation renewal. Accredited programs have met NAEYC's 10 standards for high-quality early childhood education. These programs have demonstrated that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have teachers who are well trained, have access to excellent teaching materials, and work with a curriculum that is appropriately challenging and developmentally sound. We are proud of this achievement and are continuously improving our program to provide the best possible educational opportunities for children.

## Fire Prevention Week in October

On Monday, October 15, WUNS will enjoy a visit from the Clayton Fire Department to celebrate national **Fire Prevention week**. Classes will read stories and discuss what to do in case of a fire at home. The firefighters will talk with the children about fire safety and how to **STOP, DROP and ROLL!** We will learn when it's appropriate to call 911 and watch a firefighter put on all of his/her gear to see that he/she is not scary. If the weather cooperates, we'll also see their ladder and pumper trucks. If you haven't already done so, now is a good time to develop your family's fire safety plan and talk about it with your child. We practice fire, severe weather and campus lockdown drills monthly at school too.



## School Photos

Individual and class portraits will be taken on Thursday, October 6. Lifetouch Preschool Portraits will photograph every child. Your child's proof photos will be sent home the following Monday for you to view and then place an order. I can't wait to see their beautiful smiles. Photos will be taken outdoors if the weather permits.

## What's coming up? What's new?

### Kitchen Renovation

Our Nursery School kitchen has been updated! We are enjoying new cabinets, solid surface countertops, sink, and range and soon-to-arrive commercial refrigerator. With funds from the university's Residential Life Department and monies from Nursery School fundraisers, we are delighted to have a fresh, and stylish new kitchen. Stop by and check it out!!



### Kidzexplor

**Kidzexplor** is a new St. Louis based company that has partnered with WUNS for a fall fundraiser. Kidzexplor is a simple way for parents to expose their children to exciting new activities and experiences, like art, music, fitness, open play, cooking and theater, all included in a low monthly membership fee. This web and app-based service allows a member to book classes with no long term commitment, when you want it, helping you to unlock your child's passion and potential. It allows parents to drop into 57 of the best STL class providers that offer a variety of different activities – all for one flat fee, with no sign-up fees or commitment. WUNS parents can enjoy a 40% discount on a one-month plan and in addition, Kidzexplor will give 10% back to WUNS. The owners will also be at our play date to answer questions about this new venture.

### Halloween Parade

The Halloween Parade and celebration will take place on Monday, October 31 at 10:45 am and 2:15 pm. Parents are invited to this school wide event. Teachers will be sending home invitations and details the week before. We try to keep the celebration low-key to not overwhelm the children.



### School Handbook, Directory & Website

The Nursery School **parent handbook** is a great resource for school policies and procedures. Please take time to read through it. Our school family directory will also be sent home soon. Please visit your **child's classroom web page weekly**. Announcements, newsletters and class photos/videos will be posted to for you to view.

