



"The best classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky."

Margaret McMillan

Fall 2013 Newsletter



Dear Annette's Preschool Families,

In the blink of an eye, it seems as though the summer sun has gone and cold winter air is just on the horizon. We have been blessed with both beautiful fall weather, as well as an amazing start to the academic year. Classrooms have been buzzing with Autumn-themed activities, busy establishing classroom rules and routines, creating friendships, and exploring our natural world! We look forward to another enriching year of growth and accomplishments here at Annette's Preschool and thank you for all of your appreciation and support!

Please remember to follow us on Facebook to stay updated on local upcoming events, legislative updates on early childhood education, school closings, and celebrations of achievement. You can follow us at www.facebook.com/AnnettesPreschool. Help us stay connected!

Annette's Preschool Announcements & Reminders

Phone System Launch Thursday, 9/26:

Our new phone system is up and running! Typically, we plan and hope to have myself or Miss Angela answer the phones during business hours. However, our Preschool and After School Programs are hustling and bustling throughout the day. We take walks, explore the outdoors, converse with families during drop-offs and pick-ups, and sometimes just can't stop the fun and learning to answer our phones. As a result, we have restructured our phone messaging system a bit in the rare case that you do not immediately reach a live person upon calling. If our phone rings an excessive amount of times, you will be directed to our messaging system. You will be given two options:

The first option is to press 1 if there is an emergency. Although we hope to avoid all emergencies, we would like to give families the option to immediately get re-directed to a live person. The phone will immediately reconnect you to ring our second line, as well as our cellphones. Please note that emergencies should be considered an urgent, unexpected, and potentially dangerous occurrence requiring immediate action. If you feel as though you need to notify us of any dangers, please press 1 and we will assist you in any possible way that we can.

The second option is to press 2 to reach our Staff Member Directory. This will give you the opportunity to select a classroom or administrative staff member to leave a voicemail message for. Upon leaving a voicemail, our phone system will send an electronic notification to the administrator or teacher of your child's classroom via their Annette's Preschool email account. Our teachers will check their email notifications at least twice per day - during both their curriculum planning time/rest time AND the end of day. Please leave messages regarding attendance in Angela Record's voicemail box (option 1), so that we can be sure to get these absences or late arrival notices to teachers prior to their curriculum planning time or rest time.

Art Enrichment Program "The Petite Artiste" - Registration has been extended to Monday, 9/30:



The Petite Artiste program is a unique extension, going beyond the daily classroom visual arts curriculum that we offer every day at Annette's Preschool. Over the course of 6 weeks, Miss Sherrie will guide our preschool children age 3-5 toward "visual literacy" as they both learn and express themselves through artistic mediums. This enrichment program is particularly suited for children with a natural interest in art, or for any child that loves to explore paper/textiles, acrylic paint, oil pastels, watercolor or clay. Linking the past with the present, each Petit Artiste will share thoughts and responses to examples of work from great masters all over the world. Projects will require consecutive classes to complete. At the end of the season, all children will be invited to display their work for the public at a Petit Artiste Gallery event!

Each Petite Artiste enrichment class is 45 minutes long. Classes will be held twice a week in our Creative Studio located in the Clubhouse building across the driveway. Each group will consist of no more than 6 children of the same age. Sherrie will escort each child from his or her classroom to the Creative Studio and back again (as a group). Each session meets for 6 weeks, for a total of 12 classes.

The Petite Artiste Program at Annette's costs \$14 per week, or \$84 for a 6 week session (12 classes). You must enroll for a full 6 week session. Registration is due Monday, 9/30.

Fire Prevention Week - 10/7 - 10/11:

Monday, October 7th through Friday, October 11th Annette's Preschool will be celebrating Fire Prevention Week together. This week will be hosted and organized by Ms. Maria, our Emergency Response Planning Coordinator, in an effort to advocate and raise awareness of the importance of safety education. Each day Ms. Maria will visit a different classroom with a planned lesson about fire prevention. With the help of her puppet, "Fireman Frank", they will learn an important fire safety tip and the importance of fire safety within a school setting. The lesson will include a story, a game or song, and an art project.

Tuesday, October 8th, as a part of our school-wide prevention week, the Hinesburg Fire Department will be making a special visit to our school! Firefighter Eric Spivack will bring his gear to show the children and help them associate the suits, sounds, and tools of a firefighter with safety and not fright. He will end his special visit with a tour of the fire truck! This visit will take place at 2:30 p.m. Please use extra caution coming up the driveway if you plan on early pick-ups or joining us for this

event! We hope you will join!

AMV Picture Days - 10/10 & 10/11:

AMV Photography will be visiting Annette's Preschool again this year to take individual student photographs, as well as sibling, classroom, and candid! The picture days are scheduled for Thursday, 10/10 and Friday, 10/11. Registration forms and flyers will be posted on Monday, 9/30.

Upcoming School Closings: Friday, October 18th Annette's Preschool will be closed for our annual Fall In-Service.

We will be attending the 41st Annual VAEYC (Vermont Associations for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Killington on this day. We are eager to attend this high level of professional development and look forward to applying our new knowledge and connections to our classrooms. Follow Us On Facebook!

As always, please contact me with any questions, concerns, or just to chat! Thank you again for another wonderful start to the school-year and for sharing your little ones with us!



Strengthening Community Connections

This fall, the management and staff at the Preschool has been focusing largely on community goals and projects! Annette's Preschool has always been a landmark in the community, and we believe that we can serve children and families best by lending a hand, collaborating and fostering new connections as much as possible. We are planning to participate in annual as well as novel events within Hinesburg and the south Burlington area in the coming year –and we really appreciate your efforts and support.

For our 4th year in a row, Annette's Preschool is donating our time and materials to sponsoring the Kid's Activity Zone at the Hinesburg Harvest Festival this Saturday, September 28th! We will be creating a "Halloween



Sustainability: Connecting Children to the Natural World

This year one of the many goals that we hold in creating a more sustainable world and school is to design and create a Natural Playscape with a purpose. Our mission is to help connect children and families to the natural world through unstructured free play in beautiful, creative, art-filled environments. Ms. Maeghan, Miss Ashley, Ms. Tanya, Ms. Khari, and I have created a 'Natural Playscapes Committee' to begin the dream, research, discussion, design, and implementation process for creating such an environment. Throughout this process we hope to call upon our community for a hand in the construction

Themed" tent complete with games, arts & crafts, opportunities for sensory exploration, face painting, and prizes! Please come join us in celebrating autumn, local food and produce, street performances, puppetry, and children! A special thank you to Miss Maria, Miss Maeghan, Miss Ashley, Miss Jackie, and Miss Robin for organizing and facilitating such enriching activities, and to all of our families that we hope will join us!

Next month, we will also be sponsoring the Hinesburg Annual Clothing & Book Swap on Saturday, October 5th for the 4th year in a row! Please look for boxes in the classrooms to donate all gently used children's clothing, sizes Infant - 14 years, as well as any books from toddler-middle school reading levels. We will be transporting and sorting your donations at the Town Hall on Friday, October 4th. The following Saturday, October 5th the Town Hall will be open to the public to start swapping clothing and books. Therefore, you give what you don't need and can look for things that your family does need. This is such an amazing way to contribute to the community – swapping and sharing resources!

Lastly, mark your calendar for another opportunity Saturday, October 5th: Annette's Preschool will be participating in this year's Chutes & Ladders Game board Event in Montpelier! The Vermont Early Childhood Alliance, Mama Says, Building Bright Futures, and MomsRising.org are bringing parents, children, caregivers, and legislators together to play a life-size version of Chutes & Ladders on Saturday, October 5th from 10am-noon on the State House lawn in order to highlight the many ways high-quality child care and preschool moves children and our economy forward. Join your legislators, other families, and early childcare providers to take action to support Governor Shumlin's Early Childhood Framework, Vermont Childcare Financial Assistance Program, and Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Program. If you are interested in learning more about this life-sized game board event or how you can advocate for these programs please visit <http://www.kidsarepriorityone.org/early-childhood-gameboard-event.html>. In addition, the Annette's Preschool van will be available for families that would like to hitch a ride with us to advocate and participate! Please contact Andrea Sambrook directly at (914) 844-8670 or by email at andrea@annettespreschool.com if you are interested in learning more about transportation!

and collection of materials. Our goals for this fall are to create a music wall out of reusable materials, an outdoor art studio, create a dry creek, plant trees with a purpose, and build the Infant/Toddler playground a sandbox with a natural retaining wall.

Please help us to create this space by donating any Music Wall materials that you feel would create unique sounds and tempos. Materials such as pots, pans, washboards, bicycle spokes, wind chimes, etc... There is a box on the front porch that you can donate towards. In addition, we are calling on families that may have some experience with landscape design and construction. We hope to create a dry creek out of the ravine on the Preschool Playground and are looking for anyone with experience in creating such a landscape. In addition, anyone that may have experience, advice, or the labor know-how to help us build retaining walls for our sand boxes. Please contact me by phone at 482-2525 or by email at Megan@annettepreschool.com if you have any tips, suggestions, or experience! We are so eager to begin strengthening the connection between the wonders of the natural world and our children!