

PEACE PIPELINE

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Peace Pipeline is a publication of
Peace Community Preschool
Judy Placzkowski, Director

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Fine Motor Development

What is fine motor development? You may hear your child's teacher or another parent talk about "fine motor development" and not know exactly what that means. Don't worry. You may not be the only one. Fine motor skills involve the small muscles of the body that enable you to write, grasp small objects, fasten clothing, etc. They involve strength, fine motor control and dexterity. These skills are important in most school activities as well as in life in general. Weaknesses in fine motor skills can affect a child's ability to eat, write legibly, use a computer, dress themselves, etc.

It is always important to assist your child with their fine motor development. . . but the winter months are a wonderful time because you are "stuck" indoors. There are so many fun activities that you can engage in with your child to promote their fine motor development.

- Stringing beads, buttons, macaroni, etc. Have your child repeat a pattern or sequence, such as large-small-large or red-blue-green.
- Playing with play-dough to strengthen finger muscles (Rolling a snake or ball, pinching, and pulling)
- Sorting small objects like beads, buttons, marbles, cereal, etc.- Sort by size, shape, color
- Cutting with scissors to strengthen finger muscles and coordination. A correct scissors grip is essential. (*Thumb is always up!*) Progress to cutting fringe, straight line, curve line, circle.
- Establishing a correct pencil grip. Provide beginner "fat" pencils and wrap a rubber band around it about one inch from the point for a right hander and about two inches from the point for a left hander.
- Squeezing a dropper or turkey baster in the bathtub
- Drawing shapes (The clock is shaped like a circle, the door is a rectangle, etc.) If you don't mind a little messiness, shaving cream on a tray is a fun way to practice this.
- Assembling paper shapes, and small objects (Glue shapes to make a house, tree, car, robot, etc.)
- Following directions: "Draw a circle around the cat; Put an X on all the M's on the page."
- Memory activities. Match a shape, letter or number by reproducing it from memory.

Many types of games and workbooks are available at a reasonable price from area drugstores, discount stores, and supermarkets.

- Dot-to-Dot Pictures
- Large letters, numerals, shapes to trace
- Mazes
- Hidden Pictures
- Missing Part Pictures to complete
- Color by number
- Lacing Cards
- Puzzles
- Legos, Lincoln Logs, etc.
- Pick-up-sticks, and other small muscle games

These are just a few suggestions. The list is endless!

Have fun with your children! They are a gift from God!
From the Director, Judy Placzkowski



NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE:



Wish List:

We are in need of a new (or gently used) adjustable basketball hoop. Please call the office if you have one that you would like to donate. Thanks!



Christmas Bake Sale Fundraiser:

Thank you for your contributions for the Christmas Bake Sale. We made \$623.00 for the school.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



NO SCHOOL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th



“We Love to Read”



During the month of February we will be having a “Read-a-Thon” at the preschool. February is a good time of year for a trip to your local library, and the perfect time to cuddle with your children and rediscover the joy of books. We are blessed to live in a country where we have free access to so many wonderful books. All donations received during the Read-a-Thon will be used toward the purchase of Children’s Bibles that will be given to children who are graduating from Peace Community Preschool in May. Enjoy the blessings!



Emergency Preschool Closings

You may be wondering what criteria the preschool uses when deciding to close the school because of inclement weather. We usually close the preschool whenever Frankfort School District 157C is closed. However, there have been occasions when the School District closed because of severe temperatures but the road conditions were not a factor. When we have severe temperatures the School District does not want children waiting for busses or walking to school in the frigid temperatures. However, if there is no difficulty driving to the preschool and the building is warm, we may decide to keep the preschool open even though the Frankfort School District 157C is closed. Please remember that you always have the option to decide if the weather conditions permit you to safely bring your children to the preschool when it is open and the snow or severe temperatures are a factor.

- Preschool Closings will be posted on the preschool website www.peacecommunitypreschool.org
- We will try to reach you by phone to inform you of the preschool closing
- It’s possible that the preschool will be open in the morning, but the afternoon classes will be cancelled because of snow accumulation during the day. If this happens, we will try to reach you by phone.



Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Date	Class	Location
February 1	Early Learning (M/W) #115	The Huddle
February 2	Early Learning (T/Th) #101	Classroom #101
February 2	Early Learning (T/Th) #115	The Huddle
February 3	Discovery (T/Th/F) a.m. & p.m.	Classroom #116
February 23	Kinderbridge	The Huddle
February 27	Discovery (M/W/F)	Classroom #101

*****Creative Beginner Students will have Parent-Teacher Conferences in April*****

Please sign-up for a conference with your child's teacher if you have not already done so. The teachers have prepared a portfolio that includes samples of your child's work throughout the year and a Developmental Assessment Checklist that indicates your child's progress. You will have the opportunity to review your child's portfolio and Developmental Check List during your parent-teacher conference. The portfolio and Developmental Assessment Check List will be given to you at the end of the year, and a copy of your child's Developmental Assessment Check List will remain in your child's file at the preschool for five years. The preschool will not release personal information about your child or your family without your written consent. Out of respect for your child, we ask that you not bring children with you. It is very difficult for a child to hear you talking about him. Please inform your child's teacher at the end of the year if you wish to have an additional conference at that time.

****There will be NO CLASS for your child on the day of your Parent-Teacher Conference****



Valentine's Day Parties

- February 15:** Creative Beginners Class
- February 14:** Early Learning (T-TH) Classes
- February 14:** Discovery T-TH-F AM & PM, and Kinderbridge Class
- February 13:** Early Learning M-W & Discovery M-W-F Class

During the month of February the children will be learning that Jesus loves us with extraordinary love. His love for us does not depend on any circumstances that may or may not occur in our lives. Jesus loves us, and He wants us to love Him and each other. The children will have a Valentine's Day Party and have the opportunity to share Valentine Cards with their friends. It's good practice for your child to sign his cards if he is able. However, it is best to ask him to sign a few each day before the party. **Please do not address the Valentines with the classmates' names.** Since very few of the children can read their friends' names, it's easier for your child to pass out one Valentine to each child and not match up the correct name with the correct child.



"School Pictures"

- February 15 Creative Beginners, Early Learning (M-W),
Discovery M-W-F
- February 16 Early Learning T-Th, Discovery (T-Th-F) AM & PM and
Kinderbridge

"School Pictures" will be taken by Star Vision Photography in Frankfort. They have been taking school pictures for our preschool for many years and have always provided excellent quality pictures. These pictures are nice for families who wish to capture their child's preschool experience with a class picture. Siblings of students may also have their picture taken at the beginning of the class session, and siblings may have their picture taken with their brother or sister from preschool if you wish. You will be receiving further information along with an order form next month. Star Vision Photography always guarantees your satisfaction. For those of you who are new to the preschool, the photographs are a **full body pose** unlike the headshots taken in the grade schools. This is not a fund raiser for the preschool; and there is no obligation for you to purchase pictures.



Peace Community Preschool's Annual Daddy-Child Bumper Bowling! Saturday, March 3, 2012

Mark your Calendar and save the date!
(More specific information will be sent home at a later date!)



Thank You very much!

A special *Thank You* to all the parents from the Kinderbridge Class who cleaned the preschool classrooms on January 14th.

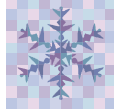
*Megan Bouck
Kristen Bruns
Michelle Cheney
Megan Fagan
Keena Jedlowski
Debbie Powers
Dean Reber*

*Meghan Brown
Laura Buczynski
Rob Civinelli
Kelly Grigus
Sara Kostro
Mia Pranckus
Belen Tokarski & Kristen Zvonar*

The next class clean will be:
Saturday, February 18th - 9:00 - 12:00 AM
Early Learning T/Th #115 Class

If you have any questions, please contact
leslieblokel@att.net





CREATIVE BEGINNERS
Wednesday
Cathy Carlson and Tracy Lucas

February Bible Verse:
Love one another. John 15:17

Happy New Year Creative Beginner families!

The class came back ready to go. It was so nice to see the children excited to be back at school. Not one of our friends has missed a step. We began, as we stated in our December newsletter, and all the children are doing wonderfully. We are doing our line without the rope and it is going well. We instituted the thinking chair and the class is making good choices.

This month we worked hard on a snowman project which will be displayed at our Open House for all to see. This was a fun project and each snowman has a variety of textures. So when they bring home their art, you can have them touch each texture. We have soft, cushiony, hard, bumpy and silky. The bulletin board in our room will display their snowflakes. We have also posted the rules we are following in our class.

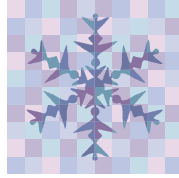
In February we will kick off our reading program where each child will get a heart to be posted on our wall for each book that is read to them by family and friends at home. This is a good time to remind you that all book orders can be done on line and the children are really starting to get into stories. It is good to ask them questions about the story when you finish reading to see if they comprehend the story and pictures.

The cutting is really improving and now we are cutting through play-dough to strengthen their hands and improve fine motor. Most of the children know their colors and some are saying they play their color stick game at home. We want to thank you for playing the games we send home as it reinforces what we are learning at school. In February, we will be planning a field trip to the library and then start library for our class in March. More information on the library field trip and our library will be coming home in the next few weeks.

As stated in earlier newsletters, we will be going outside in the winter. Please place gloves, hats and snowsuits in your child's cubbies as it is easier than searching through book bags. We are bringing in each child's winter coat to the room to help lessen the confusion. If you would please mark their belongings with their name that would also be helpful. Thanks again for all the help and positive comments. Mrs. Lucas and I really appreciate it. We also would like to give another thank you for making our Christmas special with all your thoughtful gifts, cards, and words.

God Bless,
Mrs. Carlson & Mrs. Lucas





EARLY LEARNING
Tuesday, Thursday
Mrs. Marquardt and Mrs. Lucas

February Memory Verse:
Lord, How I Love You! Psalms 18:1

Here we are already planning Valentine activities and lessons for February. We will be working on using our five senses. We will also be working on the math concepts of counting, one to one correspondence, and shapes. We will continue to work on our basic skills with many classroom activities. We have been and will continue to work on projects that help build fine motor skills (beading, lacing, writing, play-dough, and cutting.) We've also been working on developing large motor skills, outside and in the gym. (balance beam, balls, standing on one leg, hopping, skipping, and jumping.) It is important to work on these skills at home, for many it will take lots of practice to master these skills. So, please work with your child at home, also. Should you need any suggestions of activities, please feel free to ask. We would be happy to provide some!

Please remember that on the day you are parent helper your child should bring show and tell. Please bring an item in your child's backpack into the classroom to be shared. (The children love to try and guess what the objects are.) Your child will also be our flag holder on your helper day. We will be learning a flag song that we will sing daily.

Our Valentine's Day party will be on Tuesday, February 14th. Please have your child only fill out the "FROM:" portion of the Valentine's cards. Each child will have an opportunity to pass out their cards. There are 18 children in our class.

Important Dates for February:

14th - Valentines Party

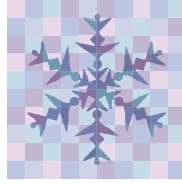
16th - School Pictures

Have a great month!!

With God's Love

Linda Marquardt and Tracy Lucas





EARLY LEARNING CLASSES
Monday, Wednesday
Tuesday, Thursday
Mrs. Floyd and Mrs. Muellerschoen

February Bible Verse:
Nothing can separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38-39

Our Conference days will be Wednesday Feb. 1st and Thursday, February 2nd. Each conference is 15 minutes long. Please do not bring your child into the conference with you. Try to find another parent who can watch your child while you are in the meeting and then you will watch their child for them. There will be no school for the children that day. Please ask me if you have any questions.

February is the month the class will learn about God's love. God showed His great love for us when He gave us Jesus. His love is constant and nothing can separate us from Him. God's love will be the focus of the spiritual lesson. We also will be talking about the ways we can show love to others through kind words, sharing, and taking turns.

February brings thoughts of Valentine's Day. The party for the M-W class is Feb. 13 and the party for the T-TH class is Feb. 14. Children may bring valentine cards for their friends, but please do not put names on the envelopes. It is easier to pass them out when the envelopes are not addressed. Treats are appreciated but not necessary.

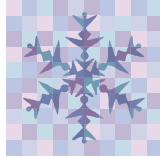
The children will continue to work on building their fine motor and cognitive skills. Sorting and matching games are offered. Opportunities to recognize their names will continue to be offered and the children will continue to practice writing their own names. If you help your child at home, please remember to encourage him/her to hold the pencil correctly and to use an upper case letter for the first letter of the name and lower case for the other letters in the name.

The classes will be learning about the five senses – taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell.

The school will be participating in a Read-A-Thon for the month of February.

Thank you, thank you for all the faithful help you give to the class. It is much appreciated.





DISCOVERY CLASS
Monday-Wednesday-Friday
Mrs. Marquardt and Mrs. Thomas

February Bible Verse:

Dear Friends, Let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7

It is amazing what a wonderful school year we are having. We were blessed in January to have both warm weather and snow. What fun it has been to be able to utilize our playground so much this year. January was also very full of learning. We continue to work on our basic skills along with learning our letters and most importantly learning about Jesus.

February may be the shortest month of the year, but we have much to accomplish this month. We will continue to learn our alphabet, work on our color book and the writing of our first and last names. Please remember to encourage your child only to use a capital letter on the first letter of both their first and last names.

As the school year goes on and the children are totally comfortable with school and each other, behavior becomes more of an issue. Please remind your child that we are school to have fun and learn. Education as a whole now moves at a very quick pace and we do our best to prepare them for the next step. It may seem that we spend much time on listening, walking in line and following directions, but we have found that students coming from our school are well prepared to enter the next step in their education. If behavior should become an issue, we do use redirection for most misbehavior. Should that not seem appropriate, we will at times implement a time out.

Conferences will take place at the end of the month on Monday the 27th. We will not have school on this day. Please see the sign-up sheet upon arrival or dismissal. If this date does not work for you, please let us know so that we can make arrangements for another date or a phone conference. It is also nice to sign up back to back with another family so that you can exchange childcare. We never want to speak in front of your child, so we ask that you please make arrangements for them. Each conference will be about 10-15 minutes long.

Important dates for February

3rd - Please bring in a box, to be decorated for Valentine's Day (Ex: shoe box, etc)

13th - Valentines Party-We have 20 children in the class. Please have them only fill in the "from" portion of the Valentine. They will be passing them out to all of their friends.

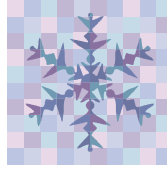
15th - School Pictures

20th - No school - Presidents Day

27th - No class - Parent Teacher Conferences

May you feel the Love of the Lord, this month and always,
Linda Marquardt & Diane Thomas





DISCOVERY AM & PM
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Mrs. Spreadbury and Mrs. Teske

February Bible Verse:

Dear Friends, Let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7

Our Bible verse this month reminds us that God made us like Jesus to do good things. We need to help, care, and support one another. In February, we will be talking about loving one another because love comes from God. The Bible stories we have read taught us about Jesus growing up. We will continue to learn more about Jesus, God's Son, being a great teacher and the many miracles he performed.

The Discovery Class has started learning their last names. This requires the children to learn how to spell it and how to print those letters. This will take some practice. Encouragement and practice at home will be greatly appreciated. We continue working on our alphabet books each week. This month we finished all the letters up to the letter "N". We are also working on our Brown Bear Book. The children had the opportunity to blow blue bubbles on the blue horse page. Our next long- term project will be a Number Book from 1-20 that we'll start in February. We are also learning about winter, snow, cold, ice, and penguins. Since the weather was too cold to go out to play in the snow, we brought the snow inside to color with eyedroppers and watercolors. We also have Insta-Snow in the sand table and we sprinkled snow glitter on our snowmen. It was a very snowy day!

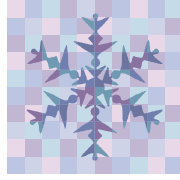
Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up on Friday, February 3, 2012. There will be no school for the children that day. This is a time for you to discuss any questions you may have about your child with the teachers. Please do not bring your child. Conferences are 15 minutes long for each child, and will be held from 8:00am until 3:00pm. A sign-up sheet is available in the classroom.

The Valentine's Day party will be Tuesday, February 14th. Children may bring valentine cards and special treats to pass out to their friends. Please have your child write their name on the card; however, do not put names of the other students on the valentines. That causes too much confusion. We have 20 children in the morning class and 7 children in the afternoon class. Valentine cards and treats will be bagged and sent home.

Picture Day for our Discovery Classes is Thursday, February 16th. The whole class will have their picture taken together and then individual pictures will be taken if you are interested. More information will be sent home later.

A big thank you for all your help in the classroom. We really appreciate it.





KINDERBRIDGE
Tuesday - Friday
Mrs. Talaga and Mrs. Thomas

Memory Verse for February:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."
1 John 4:7

During our Bible time, I have asked the children how a person gets to heaven. Most of them respond by saying, "You have to do good things." This answer would seem to reinforce what our Bible verse is saying. But notice that the verse says that we are "created in Christ Jesus" and then says "to do good works." It is our responsibility to teach the children that no one can enter heaven based on their good works. If that was true, then why did Jesus have to die on a cross? Jesus is the only sacrifice that God can accept for our sins. By acknowledging that each of us is a sinner and then by placing our trust in Jesus (or being created in Christ Jesus), for our salvation Jesus then lives in our hearts. We then do good works out of our love for Jesus. Please partner with us as we teach these little ones that Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him." John 14:6.

We have introduced the concept of the calendar. We are learning about the months and how to find out the date. There are many facets of our calendar time and much learning is taking place. We are learning about tallying and also how to make a weather graph. We have learned to sing the "Month-a-rain-a" and the children are getting very good at knowing the months of the year. Please have them demonstrate for you as it is a sight to see!

We recently made new snack mats. Instead of pictures, we have decorated them with words – Sight Words! The children have enjoyed asking each other what certain words are and celebrating with each other all the words they have come to recognize by sight. Please continue to quiz them on their sight words as often as possible. We have also introduced the game "Quiz, Quiz, Trade." Each child is given a sight word. The teachers then hum a song and when the humming stops, each child finds a partner. They quiz their partner on the word card they are holding, then they trade cards and quiz each other again. This is a game they ask to play again and again.

We were thankful for our first snowfall. The children had an opportunity to be outside and enjoy the snow. The children realized the importance of dressing appropriately when we are outside in cold weather. We would encourage you to leave a bag in your car with boots, snow pants, a hat, gloves, and a scarf. That way you will always be prepared if we do go outside. We will plan on going outside at the end of our school day.

We had a discussion on mittens and what makes two mittens a pair. The children took this concept a step further and made their own mittens. They were very good at making sure that each mitten looked exactly like the other one. Kind of like identical twins! We read the story The Mitten by Jan Brett several times. The children loved taking different roles and acting the story out. This story is especially good to help the children focus on sequential order. We hope that you had an opportunity to have your child retell the story to you with their mitten and their animals.

We are now writing our first AND last names. The children are doing surprisingly well. We do have to remind them, at times, that only the first letter in their last name is uppercase and all the rest are lowercase. We will be sending home name papers that they can use to practice writing their first and last names.

Please continue to emphasize correct letter formation. We have noticed that some of the children are starting their letters at the bottom and that is a definite "NO! NO!"

We are working on understanding the numberness of numbers. Basically this means that a child really understands what the numeral means. We are also working on writing our numbers correctly. We are implementing the "purple green" strategy for teaching number writing. This is especially effective in helping children to not reverse the numbers when writing them. We are in the process of making each child an individual, laminated set to bring home. If you want further explanation of this strategy, please let us know.

Soon we will be sending you information about upcoming parent-teacher conferences. Our conferences will be scheduled for the end of February.

In His Love,
Mrs. Talaga and Mrs. Thomas



"Snowflakes are kisses from heaven." -- Anonymous

