

## Winfree Preschool Newsletter October 2009



Nate O'Neill

Dear Families:

We are proud of the adjustment your children are making to school and to new classrooms, teachers and routines. Learning to play with friends, to take turns, to solve problems together and to listen to teachers is hard work. In addition, we are learning classroom rules and how to safely and productively work with blocks, art, science, music, movement and reading materials. Your children are probably tired from their efforts each day. We hope you are pleased with their progress so far.

During the next month, we will emphasize home and family, fall nature experiences, safety and making new friends. Children will be learning about colors and shapes, cooking and farm life with trips to the **pumpkin farm**. We are starting to have fire drills, and I'm sure your child will be telling you about how we go outside to practice fire safety. Threes, fours and fives will be having **school pictures** taken this month. The younger classes will have informal portraits taken in classrooms, but class pictures will be done in the spring when children are more settled in. Finally, **Betsy "Q"** will be performing for us this month. You will agree that October will be fun filled and exciting.

Parents will also have many events at school. We have an exciting **Parent Meeting planned for October 5 titled, "Raising Your Child's IQ: What Brain Research Tells Us"**. I hope to see many of you at this exciting meeting. You will also get an early shot at your Christmas shopping with Discovery Toys, Usborne Books, Pampered Chef, 31 Gifts, Stella and Dot Jewelry and Handmade Jewelry by Carol Kessler! In addition to our fall parent meeting, we will be holding **parent conferences for families of 3's, 4's and 5's on October 15 and 16**. Child care will be provided during your conference, and we hope you will stop by to **pick up your cookie dough, which is to be delivered on the 15th**.

If you have not yet signed up as a volunteer, feel free to contact your child's teacher so you may be placed on the class calendar. You will love your time at school, and your child will be thrilled to have you here!

God bless each of you, and have a Happy Fall!

Sincerely,

*Ginny*

### Important Dates for your Calendar

- October 5, 6** School Pictures for 3's, 4's and 5's classrooms
- October 5** Fall Parent Meeting, "Raising Your Child's IQ"  
9:15 Coffee, socializing and browsing  
10:00 "Raising Your Child's IQ"  
9:15 – 11:15 Childcare available, reserve (794-1388)
- October 12-16** Spirit Days, wear your Winfree T-Shirts this week!  
Your child should also wear his or her Winfree T-Shirt on all field trips, if possible, for easy identification of our children. T-Shirts are on sale in the school office for \$10.00 each.
- October 13** Betsy "Q" performing her fun and educational children's songs at 11:00 and 1:15. There is no charge. If this is not your child's regular school day, you may attend with your child. Betsy "Q" CDs will be available to purchase.
- October 15, 16** Parent Conferences- On Thursday, October 15, there will be Parent Conferences for all TTh 3's, MTTh 4's, TWTh 3's and 4's and JK2 classes. These classes will not be held, but free child-care is available during conference hours. Friday, October 16 will be the conference day for the remaining 3's, 4's and JK classes. On your child's conference day, there will be NO SCHOOL for the class.  
  
Parent conference appointments will be arranged by your child's teacher.  
Note: Toddlers and Twos will come to school as usual on these days.  
Child care is provided during conference times.  
**Extended Care will be offered both days.**
- October 15** Cookie Dough Delivery – 8:30 through 4:00 PM.  
Thank you for an excellent fundraiser! **It is imperative that all cookie dough be picked up on Delivery Day since the dough must be refrigerated!**
- October 21** Time Out For Moms, 9:30, Child Care available by reservation  
**October 23** PACED Teacher's Conference, NO SCHOOL!  
Our entire teaching staff will be away for an exciting training event.
- November 3** Election Day, Winfree Preschool is open all day.  
**November 2-6** Scholastic Book Fair at Winfree Preschool See details below.  
**November 9, 10** Speech Screenings by appointment

## **Pumpkin Patch Trips Planned**

Three and four year old classes will all travel to Chesterfield Berry Farm to pick their own pumpkins, take a hayride, and see many baby farm animals. Classes have scheduled trips on different days, so check your child's calendar to find all the details for his or her class.

Because of strict state regulations about drivers on preschool field trips, classes will meet at the designated time at the Berry Farm. The cost of this trip is \$8.00 per person. All siblings except non-walking infants in baby carriers must pay full price. Please make your check payable to Winfree in a timely manner so we can have teachers pay with one check. The Chesterfield Berry Farm requires payment with one school check, and they charge an extra fee for families who pay separately at the farm. If your child is sick or you will be unable to attend, please call the school before 9:00 AM if you would like a refund. Otherwise the class will select a pumpkin to bring to your child. Rain cancellations will be made by the farm and families will be notified via phone.

## **Teacher Requests**

Please send your child in comfortable clothing that is easy for him/her to get on and off. Belts are hard for little hands to manage. We will be working on dressing skills, but we would like to avoid frustrating the children. Also, we remind you that "jellies", sandals, "cros" and leather-soled shoes are unsafe on the playground. Children are more likely to slip and fall on climbers and while running with these shoes. Rubber soled sneakers, well fitted and with full heels, are preferred on the playground.

The TLC's of Parenting TEACH All children need guidance LISTEN Encourage your child to express feelings CARE Your child needs your love and support
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### **Toddlers and Twos Note**

Parents of toddlers and twos are asked to arrive within five minutes before school is scheduled to begin. These little ones have difficulty waiting in the hallway. Also, while you are waiting, we would appreciate it if you and your child could stand or sit along the wall so the threes, fours and fives who are trying to find their classrooms can see their teachers. Many of the children are reluctant to walk down the hall past a congestion of parents if they cannot see their teacher smiling near the doorway to their class.

### **Sign up for Childcare for the Parent Meeting October 5!**

With our wonderful parent meeting planned for October 5, we have an exciting array of parent vendors who will have products on display for your early Christmas shopping. Come to learn all about many successful tricks to make parenting your preschooler easier. At the same time you may enjoy meeting and fellowship with other parents while shopping for wonderful products. Don't forget to phone the school office (794-1388) to arrange for childcare for your little ones. We will need an accurate count in order to arrange for enough child care workers.

### **Virginia Drug Card**

Residents of Virginia and their families have access to a **FREE** Prescription Drug Card program. Simply download the Prescription Drug Card and receive **savings of up to 75%** at more than 50,000 national and regional pharmacies. You may create as many cards as you need. Participating pharmacies include the following: Giant Pharmacy, Drugstore at Martin's, Ukrop's Pharmacy, Kmart, Rite Aid and CVS as well as thousands of independent pharmacies. This card is pre-activated and can be used immediately. To sign up, go to... [www.virginiadrugcard.com](http://www.virginiadrugcard.com).

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Winfree will be holding its second annual Scholastic Book Fair the week of November 2-6 in the Preschool Building Fellowship Hall from 9:15 to 4:00. Proceeds will be used to expand the Winfree Preschool Library. We hope everyone will come to shop (Christmas gifts?) and support our school! **LOOK FOR INFORMATION TO COME HOME WITH YOUR CHILD.** Please call the school office (794-1388) if you would like to volunteer to help.