



The Willow Tree Preschool

7055 North Williams Avenue • Portland • OR • 97217 • (503) 283-0619

Nourishing the Spirit of Childhood

OCTOBER 2006

LET'S TALK!

Parent/teacher conferences are Wednesday, November 1st, Thursday, November 2nd, and Friday, November 3rd, from 2-5pm. Please sign up for your desired half hour time slot. The sign up sheet is posted in the classroom. (Conferences are for adults only - no childcare provided.)



SPOOKY CELEBRATIONS



As Halloween falls on Tuesday, October 31st, your child is welcome to come dressed in (or bring) a costume, Monday the 30th and Tuesday the 31st. We will have an informal celebration, roasting pumpkin seeds, popping corn, and carving a pumpkin, among other festive activities. No super hero or media costumes, please.

"Study nature. Love nature. Stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

~Frank Lloyd Wright

BOUNTIFUL BEGINNINGS

September was a fantastic month! The children settled in very nicely and feel very comfortable in their surroundings, with each other and the teachers.

We are very excited about the fall season. It's such a beautiful time of year and we are enjoying watching the leaves turn from green into beautiful reds, golds, and browns. We are noting the plant life, as many begin to produce, and drop, their seeds. The kids are collecting seeds

from sunflowers, nasturtium, goldenrod, coreopsis, daisies, marigolds and many more! We cut several of the sunflower seed heads for seed collection and examination. The kids have been using magnifying glasses to get a better look at the seeds in the center of the flower. Some will be saved for planting next season in our garden, and some are going home with the kids.

Leaf exploration has begun. We are collecting them from around the yard and on neighborhood walks, using them in rubbings and prints. One art method being explored is screen printing. The children select their leaves, place them onto paper, put a screen over the top of the paper and

brush paint over the screen, sprinkling the paint all around creating a print.

We've set up tables with interesting items to draw such as leaves, apples, sunflowers and pumpkins (still life). Kids make literal interpretations, or turn their projects into

something entirely different - it's up to them. The project is open-ended and can be taken to any level.

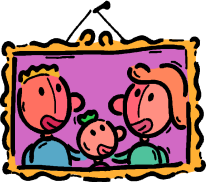


The children have been enjoying the bounty of the season with lots of baking! With left over zucchini from the Stone Soup Party, we made zucchini bread, and then moved on to banana / zucchini bread! Most of the grapes are harvested, and were either eaten randomly throughout the day as they were picked or used for juice. One batch was straight grape juice, the other was grape/apple juice (they were both pure juice blended with water, no sweeteners added). Apples will continue to be a point of focus until the season passes. Dehydrating, cooking apple sauce and baking them are among some of the ideas.

A DELICIOUS SUCCESS



Thank you all for your donations to, and joining us for, the stone soup/harvest party. It was a wonderful success; we all had a great time. The soup was made with the support and generosity of the entire community, just what the Stone Soup tales are about! Pictures of the making of Stone Soup will be out soon, either in the photo album or on the website. (We are now onto a series of Baba Yaga, and other beautiful seasonal , folktales.)



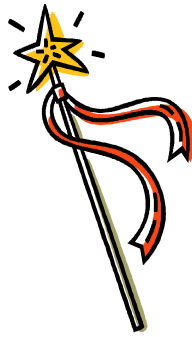
FAMILY NEWS

Josh Poe, his sister Elizabeth, mom Leigh Ann, and dad David, are the family of the month. Please make a point of visiting Josh's board.

Class portraits will be in soon - the order forms will be passed out with the photo viewing.

PARTY HOST NEEDED

Does anyone want to host the Winter Solstice party in December? This is a fun way to get to know the families, and the kids are always excited to see their friends' homes. Let Kim know if you are interested.



WISH LIST

- Keys
- Spools
- Beads
- Natural & recycled items
- Small lengths of molding
- Scrap wood
- Anything interesting and useful!



CHINOOK BOOK SALES

The Willow Tree fundraiser (sales of The Chinook Book - a fantastic coupon book with savings from sustainable local companies in almost every industry) runs November 1st thru 22nd. During this time we ask that each Willow Tree family sell a minimum of five books, at a cost of \$20 per book. Our school receives \$10 for each book sold. Your enthusiastic support is very much appreciated.

"In wisdom gathered over time, I have found that every experience is a form of exploration."

~ Ansel Adams

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 1-3: Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 1: Chinook Book Fundraiser Begins
November 10: No School (Veterans' Day)
November 23-24: No School (Thanksgiving Break)

December 15: Tuition Due
December 18-Jan 1: No school (Winter Break)
January 15: No School (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
January 15: Tuition Due

Winter Solstice Party: Time and place TBA