



Important Dates

April 27th – No School – Professional Development Day

April 29th, 7pm-9pm – Adult Garden Planning Party

Bring your ideas, your books and your enthusiasm as we plan the future gardens at TPS. We have approximately 5 or 6 outdoor areas that we can turn into magical places: edible and flower gardens, a sunflower playhouse, an arbor, a new and improved enchanted forest. Let's get creative and work in teams. We've been asking the children what they'd like to see in a garden, so we'll bring their ideas to the party as well.



Thursday, May 14, 9:45am @ The Curious Cup in Lafayette

Let's do another Coffee Talk! The Parent Connections Committee is also working on planning another Parent's Night Out in May – we are just finalizing the date with the teachers!

**** Mark Your Calendars ****

Saturday, May 16th 9:30 am-3:00pm – Garden Creating, End of Year Bash and Potluck!

This was a huge success last year! Let's do it again. Bring the whole family and join us for all or part of this day to celebrate our first year in Louisville. All family and community members are more than welcome! We'll be implementing the garden plans created at the Garden Planning Party, and having the usual bubbles, music, and potluck extravaganza. Please bring your garden tools (labeled) and a dish to share. After the Garden Planning Party, we'll be sending out an email with a list of supplies we need for the day of creation.

Announcements

Summer Resource Notebook – Thanks to Helen (Rose's mom), we now have a fairly comprehensive notebook of summer camp flyers and information. You can find this near the sign-in sheets – please feel free to browse through it!

Feedback Survey – We recently sent out an email requesting that everyone complete a feedback survey for the school. This is very important to us as we plan for next year and as we apply for grants. Please let us know if you didn't receive the email and we will be sure to get it to you!

Thread Update

Spring Fever!
By Michele Beach

The children have all been noticing the changes in the weather and the flowers beginning to bloom (despite the snow)! This has resulted in lots of interest in gardening, insects, and birds. Some of the related offerings and provocations that have happened recently are:

- Creating birds' nests out of clay, sticks, yarn and plastic eggs.

- Making bird feeders out of pinecones and other recycled materials.
- Doing symmetrical butterfly paintings by squirting paint and folding it in half.
- "Planting" beans in jars with papertowels to hopefully watch them sprout.
- Making plans for Patchwork gardens using books and maps.
- Making clay spiders and other insects.
- Exploring the remote control spiders in the science lab.
- Reading books about bugs and catching books out back.



Here Gavin works on assembling his nest using sticks that he helped gather from the backyard. Some children also added yarn or feathers. They were interested in putting eggs in their nests.

Bringing Birds to Patchwork

By Elizabeth Baker

Inspired by a Magic School House book about bird nests, we recently asked ourselves the question: What would make more birds come to Patchwork School? The unanimous answer, offered up at the older children's morning meeting, was to make a birdfeeder! We talked about different possibilities for birdfeeders and then walked around the front and back yards looking for the perfect tree. One child offered "We can't hang the birdfeeder in this tree, because it's too close to the trucks (at the construction site) and the birds might be scared to come". Another offered, "We can't hang it in this tree, because people climb in this tree." We finally settled on a tree in the forest, where the children agreed they would be able to spy on any hungry birds. After a very exciting hunt for the perfect pine cone (we found a giant one in the basement), we spread it with sunbutter and sprinkled birdseed all over it. The children were delighted to hang the feeder! Come on birdies...Patchwork School is waiting for you.



Griffyn, Jonas, Sam, Riley, Ella, Rose & Emerson work with Elizabeth to make a birdfeeder.

Spontaneous Kite Making

By Haley Sladek

Because of the students *growing* interest in nature, plants and gardens. We have been spending a lot of time outside. Throughout these past couple of weeks, it has been a great experience to see how each child relates to his/her environment. Something that happened right before Spring Break was a spontaneous day of kite making. It wasn't particularly windy out, actually I do not think there was even a breeze, but two students had independently made kites in the studio and then proceeded to go outside and run with the brightly colored construction paper. The other children who were playing outside in the playhouse and doing various activities with tires and sand decided that they too wanted to fly kites. Gradually, students trickled in and out of the studio, asking where to find certain materials, each with their own specific idea on how to attach the

string, what the kites should look like, etc. I had the opportunity to see why and how each child wanted to make a kite... some wanted one because they wanted to join in on the fun with the others, others wanted to see how fast they could make a kite go, and others simply wanted to use scissors, the hole punch or colored string. There were also students who were more concerned with the paper color and the stickers that covered it while others focused more on the length of the string so it wouldn't drag on the ground. The most amazing part of that day was the fact that it happened in a very dynamic and spontaneous way, without teachers coordinating the learning, and with no plans, each child wanted to engage with their community and the outdoor space in a particular way!



Thomas, Maggie and Zane test out their kites!

Earth Day

By Karli Horan

With Earth day coming up I plan to explore ways that we can all help to take care of our planet. Specifically, I plan to explore the concept of recycling/reuse by revisiting the found art project we did early in the school year and by making recycled paper with the children. My hope is to make care for the environment accessible, exciting, and contagious among the children. Also, be on the lookout for a sharing project involving recycled products found at home!



A recycled project – Katie, Cassidy, Jack K. and Ethan paint egg cartons to make caterpillars.

Spring Time Bug Hunting

By Susan Herbert

Spring is arriving, and with the snows melting and leaves reappearing on the trees, the arrival of many creepy crawly bugs have appeared in the Patchwork garden. They are still hiding a bit, so the children organized a bug hunt to see how many different kinds of bugs they could find under the bricks and logs as well as those hiding in the long dry grass. Each child who participated in the hunt was given a plastic bottle (observation chamber) to gently place any bug they



found inside. Bugs were carefully picked up with a long spoon and dropped inside. Some children placed leaves and dry grass in their bottles so the bugs felt at home. So what bugs live in the Patchwork garden? We are the proud home of many roly-pollicies, ants (large and small), worms, pincher bugs and many small spiders. After the bugs

were observed for the afternoon, an important part of our bug hunt was carefully putting the bugs back in their homes; stones, bricks and grasses were gently turned back to how we found them. Thank-you Patchwork bugs for your participation in this exciting afternoon.

On a sunny spring afternoon recreate the Patchwork bug hunt in your own garden and explore your local habitat!

You Asked...

Now that enrollment is happening for the fall we have had many families (and community members) ask how the school is doing in terms of enrollment, given the current economic situation.

We are thrilled that so many of our families are returning and that we have been able to give almost all of them their first choice of days/times that they requested. In addition, we had a fairly extensive waitlist that we have been going through to fill the remaining spots, so we are basically already full for the fall, and still have a waitlist.

The economic situation has affected some of our families (both returning and new), but rather than losing them altogether, most have been able to just reduce their number of days. Fortunately, for the school, we have been able to fill those vacant days with new students, who we are very glad to welcome to Patchwork!

We have also begun a waitlist for siblings for the following fall (or for mid-year) so if you have a younger child that you would like to get on the list, please let us know. They will basically be listed in order of their birthdates (the day that they become eligible to start here is when they turn two-and-a-half).

Finally, we want to thank all of you for the wonderful referrals that you have given to friends. About 95% of the families that find us have heard about us via word of mouth and not advertising. This has really helped us to keep our advertising costs to a minimum! So, thank you, and keep up the good work!

Other Happenings

Flat Stanley

By Lindsay Yost

A big thank you to all those families that traveled with, photographed, or built a snowman with Flat Stanley! Many of you included him "in spirit" and brought in photographs anyway, that is also appreciated. It was a great avenue for us to learn about each other's time away from school. Some children were inspired to make Flat Stanley books and drawings during the school day. We also read the classic Flat Stanley books at morning meeting. It was so fun to see children walk in from break with big smiles on their faces holding multi-colored Stanleys that they had decorated. If your child did not get a chance to share please encourage them to bring in a photo of their choice (Stanley does not have



to be included, nor does Spring Break). We will also be providing other opportunities and themes for children to share at school as we continue to build our community.

A meeting about what to do with Stanley!

Monster Talk

By Amanda Easton

Last Monday afternoon a few children were walking around with towels over their heads, growling. They were playing monsters. I started to ask them what color they were, if they had fur or scales. I could tell this was extending their thought process on playing monsters. They now were actually thinking about what they looked like (or what they felt they looked like) while playing monsters. After a little of this conversation, we decided to write monster books (really one monster book). We

sat around the kitchen table drawing individual monster pictures. I started to draw one, asking the children to tell me what kind of eyes this monster has; they shouted out colors and decided on yellow. Then we went to the mouth and I received specific instructions from Cameron on how the mouth should look. Then Denzel and Ethan wanted to monster to have a striped shirt. Then Sam and Cami wanted it to have bumpy arms. They asked me what this monster ate, and I told them "flowers and other garden material". They thought that was quite hilarious. We then got into a little discussion about vegetarians.....and you see that's how it goes here at The Patchwork School!

Parent Connections **Committee Column**

Scholastic Orders

By Nicki Heathwood

Hi Parents! Thanks to everyone who has purchased books through Scholastic over the past school year! Not only is it beneficial to you and your child/children, it is also beneficial to Patchwork. The more books we buy, the more free books The Patchwork School gets. It's a win-win situation for everyone. :) The end of the school year is approaching. If you placed an order from March, those books will be arriving shortly. I will be putting the April Scholastic forms in your parent cubbies very soon. These will be due by May 1. Just so you know, there won't be any Lucky or Arrow forms, but you can still request specific books from those forms. Then there will be one more chance to order books before the summer. This will be from the May/June order forms, which will be in your parent cubbies in early May, and due mid-May to make sure all the books arrive before summer! So get your summer reading books before it's too late!

Patchwork Online Art Store & Year Book

By Laura Ostrowski

We are in the process of creating an online Patchwork Art Shop. It will showcase artwork done by the children and also by the Patchwork Community. Our intention is to allow the children and community members to have a place to showcase their artwork and sell it to support the school. The artwork will be available on shirts, buttons, mugs, journals, mouse pads, prints, greeting cards, calendars, tile boxes, magnets, tote bags, and more. All proceeds will be put back into the school as a fundraiser. Before your child's artwork can be a part of The Patchwork School Shop, we will need your permission. Look for a permission slip in your parent cubby if you would like to have your child participate.

In addition to the online Patchwork Art Shop, we are creating a **Patchwork Yearbook**. We will be putting in

pictures, artwork, quotes, and more! If you would like to help with either of these projects, including scanning artwork or donating artwork or time, please contact Laura Ostrowski at 303-478-4777 or laura@goodnurture.com.

Check next month's newsletter for more details as we get closer to the launch of the shop and publication of the yearbook!

Summer Play Dates At the Patchwork School!

By Laura Ostrowski

Hello Parents! I would like to thank everyone who responded to the Summer Options Survey. The results are in, and I'm happy to announce that the Patchwork School will open its doors this summer to the Patchwork Community for Summer Play Dates! The play dates will be every Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Parents and children can come to play and socialize during this time. In addition, if you need some extra "parent-only" time, feel free to arrange with other parents to watch your children here during that time and vice versa! Please limit this to 4 kids per adult (and all children that you bring must be registered). There will be a pre-registration for this Summer Option along with a \$50 fee per family, to cover the school's utility bill and housekeeping. We plan on setting up a separate Google Group and Calendar so parents can communicate, plan activities, arrange child-watching, and more without sending excessive messages to members of the Community Google Group that aren't interested in this option. Snacks will not be offered on a group basis, so remember to bring your own nut-free snacks for you and your kids. If you plan on participating, please fill out the registration that will be in your parent cubby soon.

In addition to the Summer Play Dates at the Patchwork school, we encourage parents to arrange and participate in **Field Trip Play Dates** outside the school too!

Parents can choose Monday, Tuesday or Thursday for these play dates (to parks, the zoo, hikes, etc) and use the Summer Play Date Google Group and Calendar to coordinate these as well! This is going to be a very fun summer!



A fun picnic lunch outside, complete with tent! What crazy weather we have had!