



Important Dates

Monday, September 7th – Labor Day – NO SCHOOL

Saturday, September 12th from 11am-6pm
Art in the Schoolhouse!



We are having our 2nd annual celebration of community, education and artists here at the school! This fundraiser is an open house event full of **food, drinks, music and art**. There will also be a **silent auction, artist demonstrations, and kids' art projects** offered throughout the day. This year the showcased artists include: Jennifer Rudkin, Emily Miller, Marissa Perry Saints, Peter Steele, Trish Bryan, Laura Ostrowski, Kat Gibbons, Julie Hietala, Sarah Purdy and Dwell & OneUnit. The talented local musicians playing live at this event include Andrew Langford, Choosing June and Chris Ramey. This event is a celebration of the Patchwork School's first year in Louisville as well as a way for families and the community to support the school's continued growth. All of the proceeds from purchases at "Art in the Schoolhouse" will benefit both the artists and The Patchwork School. A suggested donation of \$5/person or \$10/family will be accepted at the door.

The event is open to the entire community. Below is the events schedule for the day: 11am-5pm Silent Auction, 11-6pm Art Show. There will be live music at 12pm with Chris Ramey, 1pm with Andy Langford and Choosing June will play at 2pm. The artist demonstrations will be at 1:30 with Jennifer Rudkin and 3:30 with Marissa Perry Saints. Please contact Sarah McCurdy, event chair: 720-271-6729 or email info@thepatchworkschool.com if you have questions or would like to help out! Also see the website: www.artintheschoolhouse.com for lots more information!

Thursday, September 24th 5:30pm – Back to School Night Potluck

In celebration of this new school year and our community, we'd like to invite everyone to a Back to School potluck! We'll provide the paper products, if you could please bring the offering that corresponds with your last name: A-H: Main Dish, I-L: Side Dish, M-R: Dessert, S-Z: Drinks. If you're able, please RSVP before the event so we can have a sense of how many families will be able to make it.

Announcements

Schedule Change Policy – We just want to make sure that everyone is aware that our official policy for schedule changes is that there are no credits or refunds for changes made after the trimester begins. We had made some exceptions in the past, but our board recently decided that schedule shuffling was costing too much from an admin standpoint, and can also be hard on the children. So, please try to make any changes prior to the start of the next trimester, otherwise we won't be able to get you a credit or refund. However, you may still add a day (or after care) mid-trimester if there is space (which will be prorated).

School Pictures – Nicki Heathwood (Henry & Charlie's mom) will be taking casual individual and group pictures for us again this year. This will be happening the weeks of September 7th. You don't need to do anything special, as the pictures will be posted online for you to view and/or purchase.

Sharing Toys From Home – Children are welcome to bring an item from home to school (preferably not more than one if possible), as long as they understand that they will be expected to either share the object with everyone or else keep it in their cubby. The one exception is that if they bring their special "lovey" they are not expected to share.



A group of girls decide to try out their journals.

Drop-off Times – Everyone has been doing a great job, but we just want to make sure that the drop-off and pick-up windows are clear, as there is a lot to remember:

8am drop-off: Please arrive between 8:00 & 9:20

9am drop-off: Please arrive between 8:50 & 9:20

12:30 pick-up: Please arrive between 12:15 & 12:30

3:00 pick-up: Please arrive between 2:45 & 3:00

4:00 pick-up: Please arrive before 4:00

There is a 10 minute grace period on pick-ups, after which you will be charged for a drop-in hour (\$8.50), or the overtime fee (for after 4pm).



The beginnings of a potato experiment.

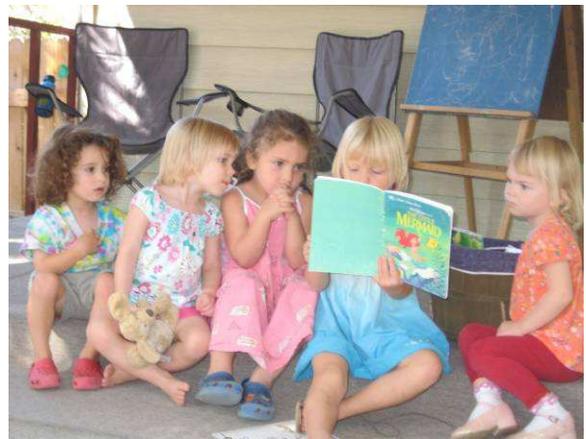
Lunch Suggestions – First we would like to thank Laura Ostrowski (Serena's Mom) for her wonderful nutrition guide! Some additional logistical things to think about for lunches are:

- **What Did They Eat?** – We will always try to pack everything back into the lunchbox so that you can see what they ate, but don't be surprised if they don't eat very much since they have so much that they want to accomplish at school. They also tend to eat more snack than lunch since it is fun to eat the same thing that everyone else has.
- **Serving Size** – Remember that a serving size for a child is 1 Tablespoon per year in their age. So, please try not to send more than a small handful of any one item.
- **Food Police** – We would prefer that you not ask us to withhold a certain food item until another "healthier" item has been eaten. This tends to focus the child purely on the treat item, whereas if we allow them go ahead and eat things in whatever order they like they tend to eat more overall and learn to make healthier choices. Focusing on a treat item also instills the notion that some foods (like vegetables) are only worth eating if you get something better out of it.

- **Treats** – it is perfectly fine to send a treat, but please try to keep it small (one hershey's kiss is a good size) to minimize sugar intake. Notes & pictures also work well as treats.
- **Containers** – just as with adults, it's sometimes all about presentation. Tupperware tends to work better than baggies since it's easier for them to eat out of. It also creates less waste and fewer trips to the trash can for them.

Administrative Assistant – Some of you heard at the orientation session that we have hired an admin assistant to help out in the office this year. This is still true, however instead of Emily, Christy will actually be filling this role on the days when she is not teaching (Tu/Th mornings). She will be handling scheduling questions and various other administrative projects. So she will soon start responding to some of your emails regarding scheduling questions. Therefore, if you can try to send scheduling questions separate from other questions (but still to info@thepatchworkschool.com) that would be great!

Online Pictures – Each month we will be uploading pictures to our online website, and even though August was very short, we know you are probably excited to see pictures from the first week. So be sure to check them out at <http://picasaweb.google.com/thepatchworkschool> Looking at them with your child is also a great way to get them talk to you about their experiences here!



Children listen intently as Maggie reads aloud.

Scholastic Book Club – We hope that you find this to be a helpful way to grow your children's home libraries, but we also welcome your feedback on this program. You will be receiving order forms for three different age groups so that you can select books for older or younger siblings or for gifts. Please do not feel obligated to purchase anything. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact our parent coordinator, Nicki Heathwood (nheathwood@comcast.net). The first order is due September 30th.

Parent Cubbies – Please feel free to utilize the parent cubbies if you have invitations, announcements, etc... We know that schools frequently have policies requiring that all families or children be invited to all events, but we believe that we can be an understanding community and know that isn't always possible. We just ask that you please be respectful about opening notes and invitations at home rather than at school.

Vacations & Illness – Thank you to those of you who have already been contacting us about upcoming vacations and calling when your child will be out due to illness. We greatly appreciate this for scheduling purposes, but also so that we aren't wondering if something is wrong.

Parent Orientation – Thank you so much to all of the parents that were able to attend our orientation session! We appreciated your questions and your feedback! For those of you that couldn't make it, a DVD is now available, so just let us know if you'd like to check it out.

Emerging Threads

Community – We started this year off focusing on building our new community and getting to know each other, especially during our meeting times. The children have jumped right into telling stories, having amazing conversations, and listening to one another. In order to further these discussions, we would like to encourage children to bring something from home to share. Each group has taken a slightly different approach, so see below for your child's topic:

- **Blue Group – Family Photos** – Brooke and Christy have been sharing their own family photos this week, so they would love for the children to bring in 1-3 pictures to share. It would be great if you can send pictures that don't need to be returned so that they can be hung up and use for projects!
- **Yellow Group – Animal Stories** – Many of the children have been talking about their pets in meeting or reading about animals and animal babies. Please help your child bring in a "story" to share about a pet or another animal – this could be fictional or true!
- **Green Group – Lovey/Special Toy** – Kerry brought in her special dog "Napper" to share with the children, and they have enjoyed talking about their loveys. If you can help your child choose one special toy, blanket, or stuffed animal to bring that would be great!

Please help your child bring their sharing item sometime between September 1st and 11th.

Animals – Besides the interest in animal babies and animal stories in the yellow group, many children have

continued to be excited about bugs and other creatures outside (some have even spotted our wild bunnies). We have also had a lot of pretend play including lions, dolphins, sharks, and cats. If anyone has a pet at home that loves children, please let us know if you'd be willing to bring them for a pet visitation offering! We will also very soon be announcing and introducing the children to our very own Patchwork pet rabbit!



Studio Materials (Crayons) – We are starting the year by introducing and exploring just one material at a time in the studio. We decided to choose something very familiar to start with, so we have been highlighting crayons! We have done crayon rubbings, drawings, scratching, and murals to explore ways to use the material. In addition, we have worked on sorting them by color and inspecting the writing on the wrappers using magnifying glasses. All of the children seem to have really enjoyed this simple introduction to the studio! If you would like to continue to explore crayons in a new way at home, here is a recipe for making crayon "muffins":

Crayon Muffins

August 31st, 2008 | By Kendra

<http://www.handprintsonthewall.org/2008/08/31/recycling-craft-crayon-muffins/>



- Muffin pan
- foil muffin liners (or regular liners, stacked three deep each)
- broken crayons

First remove all of the paper from each crayon. Heat the oven to 350*. Put liners in pan. Fill each cup with broken crayons (only about half way full). All different colors is fun, but I think similar colors together looks prettier for a gift (like red+pink, yellow+orange, blue + green, etc.) This would also be a fun "sorting" activity for young children. Place pan in oven and watch carefully. When the crayons have melted together, remove from the oven. You can use a toothpick to make a swirl effect in the wax before it cools. Just be careful, the wax is very HOT! Let them cool. Remove the liners and voila! Beautiful new crayons!

Healthy Habits

By Laura Ostrowski

Hello Parents, My name is Laura Ostrowski (a.k.a. Serena's mom). As the nutrition consultant for Patchwork, I look forward to empowering you and your children to create healthy habits. And now that our children are adjusting to their new school routine this is the perfect opportunity to get them back on track to healthy eating habits too! As Charles C. Nobel said, "*First we make our habits, than our habits make us.*" This is literally true with food, since *we are what we eat.*

So how do we encourage good eating habits for our kids? Here are a few suggestions. First, *be a great example yourself.* Children learn from our actions more than by what we say. By eating more nutritious foods ourselves, they will learn by example. Serena didn't learn to love kale because I offered it to her, it's because she saw me always snacking on it. She wanted to see what it was she was missing out on. Second, *offer only healthy food choices.* By letting children choose between 2 or 3 healthy foods, you all win! They get to make a decision and eat healthy food regardless of their choice (and feel and act better because of it). A few other suggestions are to let kids be part of making healthy food dishes. They are more inclined to eat it when they are involved. Go to farmer's markets, local farms, grow gardens, or expose them to where their food comes from. I like the saying of '*grow foods*' – because foods that grow help our children grow too. That is a big selling point! Factory foods don't grow, fruits and veggies do!

Please feel free to contact me for more nutritional information. You should have already found a nutrition guide in your parent cubby with school related food information, including what it means to be a **nut-free school** as well as list of lunch box and snack ideas. In

addition, I have put a Patchwork parent's link on my www.goodnuture.com website for continued updated information, including what daily snacks will be offered, as well as many other resources. To contact me, please phone 303-478-4777 or e-mail me at laura@goodnuture.com. I wish you and your family much joy and wellness!

Parent Connections

Summer Play Date Wrap-Up

By Laura Ostrowski

Hello Parents! I wanted to thank everyone who participated in the Patchwork Summer Play Dates. We had a lot of fun in the sprinklers, swinging, making nature soup, jumping on the jumpy, finding bugs, and water balloon fights! We found it was an excellent way to keep the children and parents connected to the school and each other over the summer months. It was a great opportunity to get to know one-another even better too! If you participated and haven't filled out your survey, we'd love to hear your thoughts so we can make next summer even better! Thanks again!

What Can You Do?

Ways to Help Fundraise – We have added a number of new ways that you can help support the school. If you check out the "Donations" page on our website (www.thepatchworkschool.com) you will see options ranging from how to donate via Paypal, to how to use GoodSearch.com to earn the school money without even spending any!

Volunteer for Art In The SchoolHouse – We will need a number of volunteers to help cashier, bartend, set out food, work with children, bring tables and chairs, help artists setup, etc. You will find sign-up sheets in the cubby room or for questions, you can contact christy@thepatchworkschool.com.



Beautiful example of early writing by Grace!