



Important Dates

May 6th – First School Info Session

This will be the last information session for the preschool this year, so let any friends & neighbors know that they do have one more chance to get on the waitlist for this fall!

May 13th 6:30pm at City Hall (749 Main St.) Planning Commission Hearing

If you'd like to come and show your support for the Elementary School, there will be a public hearing to approve the use of the building next door. At the same time we'll be working to get those "No Student Drop-Off & Pick-up" signs changed!

May 15th 9:00am-4:00pm – End of Year Celebration and Yard Sale

This year is coming to a close and we want to welcome all of you to come for a Picnic Lunch celebration at school! Our Yard Sale (which so many families have kindly contributed to) will take place from **9am-4pm** in the front yard of Patchwork. We will also have a lemonade stand run by the children (get a refreshing beverage for only 25 cents!).

At **NOON**, we will spread out our blankets in the backyard and picnic together! Please join us by bringing your blanket and a picnic lunch for your family (or self), and help us turn the backyard into a patchwork quilt. We will have some beverages available... We have so much to celebrate--our amazing children, our growing community, the new garden and the end of our 2nd year in Louisville. Please bring the whole family or just yourself!

May 25th – Elementary School Info Session

This will be the last information session for the Elementary School this year, so please help us to spread the word! We do still have some Tuition Assistance and Scholarships available, so let us know if you'd like an application.

May 27th – Last Day of School! (No school on Friday, May 28th)

We can't believe it is already the end of another year. We have had such an amazing second year here in Louisville, and can't thank everyone enough for helping to make it happen. We look forward to seeing everyone over the summer and many of you next year, also!

June 15th 7:00pm at City Hall (749 Main St.) – City Council Meeting

This will be the final meeting to approve the Elementary School, so we'd love to have your support!

June 24th – 27th, Albany New York –

AERO Conference (Alternative Education Resource Organization)

We invite you to join us at the AERO Conference this summer! Michele & Elizabeth will be speaking on the topic of "What does a rabbit have to do with Social Justice?" Kerry, Haley and Christy will also be attending. For more details see:

<http://www.educationrevolution.org/conference.html>

August 23rd – First Day of School for 2010-2011!

We can't wait to see many of you returning next year (and lots of younger siblings)! Also, if you are able to keep the morning of Friday, August 20th open, this will be our Family Open House day where new and returning students can come with a parent and get reacquainted with the teachers and the space.



Henry finds a dandelion!

Announcements

Materials Drive – If you still have items to drop off, Julie (Elise’s mom) and Kat (Jack V.’s mom) are going to be available at the new school the following days and times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (May 3rd-7th). Kat will also collect items Saturday at the new school from 10am-12pm. If you need to schedule another time to drop off, please call or email Kat at: 720-890-4717 or katvanmatre@yahoo.com

Clean out Cubbies – To help you try to get everything, here’s a list of things to remember to look for and clean out before you leave for the summer: clean out child cubby & parent cubby, check lunch cabinet, look for boots, shoes, hats, snow pants, coats, and water bottles, pick up any medication, check the lost and found bins, and take home extra diapers. If you will be participating in the Summer Play Dates, you are welcome to use your child’s cubby over the summer, but please do take a minute to clean it out and take things home. Thanks for helping us with this!

Summer Play Dates & Gardening – You should have received a registration form in your parent cubby to sign up for summer play dates and/or gardening. This is a great way to help your child continue to feel connected to Patchwork over the summer!

NAEYC Survey – The Patchwork School is in the process of applying for NAEYC Accreditation (the National Association of Education for Young Children), and we need your help filling out their survey about Patchwork. We have to have 50% of families respond to the survey for the results to be considered in our application. You will receive both an online version and a paper copy. Please fill out only one of the surveys per family. It should only take a few minutes of your time and will help us tremendously!

Photo Gallery



A Work of Art – thanks to Helen Trajtenberg!

The photo above was from a wonderful series of offerings done by Helen (Rose’s mom). The children created warm and cool paintings that were cut into different shapes for the large piece and then also individual tiles that became the border. Be sure to check out the complete work hanging in the common room!



Planting seeds in the new garden beds!



More planting!



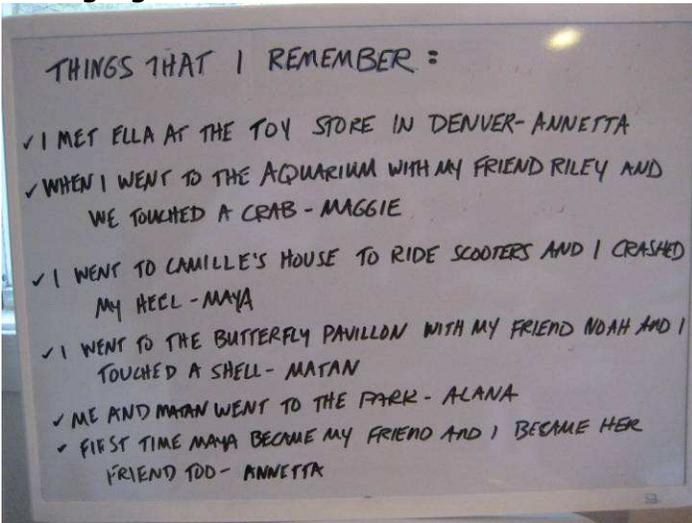
Exploring wheat grass and making bookmarks.



Playing checkers on a rainy day!



Making a green volcano!



Erika Carlson did a fun offering about memories!

Staff Update

We wanted to share a brief note from each teacher regarding their plans for the summer and beyond.

Besides Elizabeth & Michele continuing to direct, we are thrilled that Haley, Kerry, Michele Craig, Christy, Brooke, and Amanda will be returning to Patchwork next year!

Brooke: Our summer plans include staying here most of the time to enjoy the weather and friends. Starting in the fall, I will be working at Patchwork Elementary School on Tuesday mornings as the Emergent Curriculum Coordinator. I will be supporting the students in their investigations and long-term projects. Emerson will be at the First School next year, so I will still be a frequent visitor. Have a fun filled summer!

Haley: Before returning to Patchwork in the fall as both a part-time teacher (at the First School) and Patchwork's new Nonprofit Coordinator, I will be doing a range of things this summer. In between temporary work and moving, I will also be traveling to New York (for the annual AERO Conference and visiting some art museums in the city) and to Vermont to start on my Master's degree at Goddard College, which is a low residency program that I will be doing alongside my work at The Patchwork School this coming school year.

Wonshe: My summer break will to be a time for me to be in Nature, garden, make art, spend time with my family and do some traveling to be with close friends. While next school year is not mapped out at present I am clear about the direction I am moving. I feel very passionate about advocating for young children who are homeless, though I am not sure what this will look like. Ultimately, I dream of creating community with homeless families and developing a program in relationship-based early childhood education and parenting education. Moving toward this, I will begin LifeWays Early Childhood and Human Development Training this year. I have also applied for a grant to study Spanish at Berlitz and am waiting to hear the decision. I will also make a trip to Luanda, Kenya to spend time at an orphanage school.

Amanda: This summer I look forward to spending a lot of time at the pool and parks with my children. A couple of them have camps and I'll be doing some volunteering with those. I am performing in a dance show in the beginning of June, and will be training for a 50 mile bike ride in August with Venus de Miles. I will be taking a masters class in July at UCD-Teaching the Gifted, Talented and Creative Child. I also look forward to getting our space ready for the children attending Patchwork Elementary School this fall.

Christy: This summer I will continue to work with the Alternative Education Resource Organization; I will help organize and attend AERO's annual conference at the end of June. Meanwhile, I will be heading to Ohio, for my Grandparent's 50th wedding anniversary and my family reunion! I also hope to fit some backpacking and

camping in there as well. When I am not traveling I hope to be working on the new garden at Patchwork and harvesting a lot of lettuce and carrots! I am very excited to come back to Patchwork next year and I hope everyone has a great summer.

Kerry: My summer plans include: taking care of children I love, visiting my little nephews on the east coast, going to a workshop on embryology and birth, hiking to hidden places in the mountains with my new love, falling asleep in the middle of the day just because I can, rejoicing every time I remember that I am done writing graduate papers for a while, supporting a few women as they give birth, attending the AERO conference in New York, camping with good friends, stargazing on a regular basis, dreaming about Patchwork, and...oh yeah...writing that book.

Michele Craig: I am really excited to be a part of The Patchwork School next year. I have had the pleasure of being a substitute teacher this year and making connections with several of the children! I could not be more thrilled to step in full time and get the opportunity to experience all that these wonderful people have to offer! That being said, this summer I am gearing up for the year ahead of me. I will be taking a summer course at University of Colorado Denver to get a jump start on my Master's degree in Educational Psychology and Alternative Teacher License program that begins this fall. I will also be working at Paul's Coffee and Tea here in Louisville. So, please stop by for some refreshments if you are in the neighborhood this summer. I'll be there unless my fiancé, Jesse, and I have skipped town to go camping, fishing, or see a concert. We are really excited about Crossroads Festival this June in Chicago and Lyons Rockygrass Festival! Besides all this fun, we will be taking on the exhilarating task of planning a wedding in Mexico. Phew! I really look forward to meeting all of you next year and I hope you have a beautiful summer!

Michele & Elizabeth: We will both be working as Patchwork directors over the summer, gearing up for opening the Elementary School, keeping everything running at the First School, and probably helping out with the garden in between! In addition, we'll both be presenting at the AERO conference in June. We hope you all have wonderful adventures over the summer and we will all return with much to share!

Other Happenings

Garden Day Success!

Despite the wet weather on Friday, we had sunshine and garden beds by Saturday afternoon! Volunteers from Project Yes! and CU Going Local, along with Patchwork families and friends all worked together to complete numerous projects. We did some amazing reusing by building garden beds out of cedar paneling

that was taken from the walls of the Elementary School basement! In addition, the barn was painted red, the benches and playhouse were stained, the woodshop got a roof and walls, the library was repainted, the Elementary music room was repainted, fence post holes were dug, the drip system was set up, tons of bark and sand were spread, and more! Thank you to everyone that came and participated!! We are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of our labor this summer! Check out this great Daily Camera article about the volunteers and listen to Haley in the YouTube video: http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_14952937#axzz0m4wRzw6U



Kerry, Kat, Brian and other volunteers remove the trees to start the garden beds.



Children, parents, and volunteers secure the beds and fill them with dirt and compost!

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Thanks again to all of our wonderful Patchwork families – we so appreciate how everyone has found a way to contribute and be involved in order to make this a very special learning community for our children and for ourselves. Have a wonderful summer!