



### **Important Dates**

#### **Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30pm – “Conflict Resolution” Learning Dialogue**

We hope you will join us again for our second evening of Learning Dialogues. We will be discussing conflicts and how we resolve them at school as well as strategies that work well at home. The last half-hour will be reserved for individual conversations with teachers or other parents.

#### **Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – Second Trimester Payment Due**

You will be receiving an invoice in your cubby for the second trimester payment. Please let us know if it does not appear to be accurate, or if you will be needing to make any changes to your child’s schedule. Keep in mind that changes must be made prior to the second trimester start date (November 16<sup>th</sup>).

#### **Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am – Pumpkin Patch!**

Join other families in celebrating fall at Anderson Farms. This is just a casual opportunity to meet up for a fun Halloween event. If you want to plan to meet at the gates at 10:30 you can, or you can just enjoy arriving at your own time and running into other Patchwork families! You can get directions and additional details on their website at: <http://www.andersonfarms.com>. And Mitch invites everyone to stop by her workplace at Paul’s Coffee and Tea for a hot drink beforehand (it is located at McCaslin & Cherry) to say hello!

#### **Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – No School – Teacher Work Day**

#### **Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm – Information Session (Preschool & Elementary)**

If you know of any new families that are interested in joining our waitlist, please let them know about this upcoming information session. The hour will include a tour, information about the philosophy and the school, and a question/answer session. RSVP’s are appreciated but not required.

#### **Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am Halloween Parade Field Trip – The Stratford**

We will be taking our first field trip of the year to a nearby assisted living home to bring Halloween cheer to the residents, and to allow the children a safe and enjoyable opportunity to "Trick or Treat!" Please see the associated field trip form for details on treats, transportation, and more!

### **Announcements**

**Original Works** – Please don’t forget that if you are interested in ordering something from Original Works, your order form is due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a great way to support the school and get wonderful personalized gifts for friends and family!

**Materials Gathering** – Thanks for bringing materials for the First School’s “found objects” project. If you



**Ladybugs from our Ladybug Release!**

haven’t brought anything yet, there is still time, as they will not be starting to open the bags until Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, we appreciate your help in letting your child know that the items will be shared with other children and must be small enough to fit in the bag.

**Student Directory** – Some people have been asking about the student directory – it is coming very soon! Wyatt’s mom (Alexandra) helped us type it all up, and we will be getting a copy to everyone shortly!

**Volunteering & Offerings** – The children are really settling into the routine now, so we're thinking that we could start having parents join us to do offerings during the day starting in mid-October. Good parent offerings can come from something that is a passion or expertise of your own, an idea that came from one of our threads, or even a family tradition. Let us know if you need help coming up with an idea!

**Class Pictures Online** – The class pictures that Nicki Heathwood (Henry & Charlie's Mom) took of the children are now online. More pictures (for those that didn't turn out as well) as well as group photos will also be added shortly. Feel free to check them out at: <http://http://picasaweb.google.com/thepatchworkschool/ClassPictures20102011#>

**Halloween** – We just wanted to let everyone know that children are always welcome to dress up when they come to school, so Halloween will certainly be no exception! Please do discuss with children the possibility that costumes could get dirty or torn, though, just so they are aware of the potential consequences. Besides the field trip, we will also be offering Halloween-related activities throughout the week.

**Boots/Winter Gear** – As we prepare for the snowy days ahead, we wanted to share with you our snow plan. There will be rugs in the cubby room to help dry off wet feet, and we would like children to remove any wet shoes or clothing there (you don't necessarily need to remove your wet boots if you aren't going into the main room). Children can then change into dry shoes, slippers, or socks for wearing indoors. Please hang coats & snow-pants on your child's hook, and put mittens and hats in your child's cubby. Thanks for helping us keep the floors nice and clean and the children nice and warm!

**Poppy Vacations** – As the weather gets colder, Poppy Seed will need homes to vacation at for weekends and school vacations. Please sign up to take her home if you are interested! This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to care for a pet and also help connect home and school!

**Items From Home (PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING)**  
There has been some recent confusion regarding who owns various items that have been brought from home. It would be much appreciated if you could help your child limit the items that they bring from home (preferably no more than one per day) and make sure everything is clearly labeled. You might also want to talk to your child about the possibility that items brought to school can get lost or dirty and will have to be shared with others or remain in their cubby.

## **First School Updates** **Even the Little Ones Lead Offerings**

By Natrisha Bayer

At the end of September things really got jammin' at the school. Sam Horvath and his mom Amy were inspired to make a special "school mix" of some of their favorite songs. They brought their CD in, and Sam told his friends during our morning meeting that they could dance to his music. After notifying the rest of the children during snack, we set the CD player up outside. Soon enough we had a sunny dance party in the school yard. The children and teachers were laughing, jumping, and singing. It was wonderfully fun, and a great example of an offering. An offering is something a teacher or child wants to share with others. It can be a question that leads to a group investigation or an activity, like dancing or painting. Thank you to Sam and Amy for your awesome music and for teaching us some new moves on the dance floor, including break-dancing!



Everybody enjoys dancing to Sam's Music!

## **Superhero Research**

By Haley Sladek

Superheroes, lately, have been a frequent topic of conversation and at the root of some of the children's

dramatic play. And with the recent addition of two capes, (made by Julie Adkins) superheroes (and superhero-princesses of course) have been flying around the school almost daily. With this recent development, we have started to do "superhero research" on the computer and talk about what it is that makes a person "super." Some of the conversations are posted in the school, so please feel free to take a look at the great thoughts that have been coming up. This computer research has led us to hear not only the 1960s theme song of "Batgirl" but it has led us to wondering whether or not Scooby Doo is a superhero, because he does solve mysteries, but he *is* only a dog...



**Drawing and discussing Batgirl & Superwoman.**

## Bones & Bodies

By Kerry Cerelli

Whenever we read books about the body - such as a story about how scabs are made or a tale that traces the path of digestion - many children gather around, completely enthralled with the information. To expand on their interest in the body, we did a bone offering in which we read books about human and dinosaur bones, looked at pictures of skeletons, and then made our own bones out of clay. The children made amazing models of snake bones, human backbones, and Stegasaurus skeletons. All this talk about skeletons and bones seems right on time for Halloween!



**Sabrina works on her clay bones.**



**Natrisha works with Evan and Kai.**

## More Gardening Fun!

By Michele Craig

Some really beautiful things have continued to come out of our garden, including leafy kale, contorted carrots, gigantic zucchinis, and a strong connection to nature. Every day a child will ask to go explore the garden, especially after it was covered in lady bugs. After snack, we also have a wonderful routine of going to the garden to find a fresh snack for Poppy Seed. The children love visiting Poppy Seed and helping us to make sure she feels loved!



**Aedan & Zidane with a basket of treasures from the garden.**

## Elementary School Updates Cuisenaire Rods

By Brooke Bell

We are exploring Cuisenaire rods with the children. These colored rods are an example of a math manipulative - they vary in size and represent numerical values. We set out the rods with graph paper and markers that matched the colors of the rods in order to explore the material and record our findings. Children

built structures, put them together in different patterns based on their values, and drew on the graph paper. I observed children teaching each other the values of the rods and how to use the graph paper. We will continue to play with the Cuisenaire rods and see how else we can learn about math concepts in a hands-on way.



**Working with Cuisenaire Rods.**

## Grand Canyon Offering

By Amanda Easton

We had a visitor, Dimitri Easton (my ten year old son), come and do an offering last week. He did a demonstration of the Grand Canyon. The children were amazed and also learned some great facts about the Grand Canyon! Here is some of the dialogue:

Dimitri: It's a mountain, but it used to be flat. Then a river came through and made this canyon.

Amanda: How long did it take?

Dimitri: It's still forming every winter when the water goes. (Dimitri explains the water running down from the cup into the sand.)

Jackson: Wow, that is a river!

Gavin: It's dripping

Dimitri: Once it falls off the ridge it will form a channel. Jackson: I bet it's going to form a lake, too.

Gavin: How does it get out?

Jackson: The sand falls down.

Gavin: Now the sand is wet.

Dimitri: Now it's eroding.

Amanda: Oh look, it's going through the middle channel.

William: That's because it's the easiest way.

We then brought the laptop out and did a little bit of research on the Grand Canyon and looked at photos. We also had conversations about the Colorado River, Arizona, debris and tributaries. Amazing stuff!!



**Dimitri's Grand Canyon Offering.**

## Investigation Notebooks

By Christy Lochary

Since the beginning of school we have been exploring the concept of an investigation notebook. We have been noticing an increased interest in, and self-regulation of the notebooks. Using a 3-hole punch, the children have been inserting pieces of work which they deem valuable or interesting. Writing, sketches, plans and more have been included. The children have also shown an interest in using the school computer (with teacher guidance) to "Google" images and print them for the notebooks. It will be fun to see how the use of the investigation notebooks evolves as the year goes on.



*more likely to observe them. Just as important, participating in the process of rule making supports children's growth as moral, self-regulating human beings. (DeVries & Zan)*

Again, here are some questions that might help you think about your own parenting strategies and what you might want to talk about at the Learning Dialogue:

- What parenting strategies or techniques do you currently use at home?
- Which ones work and which don't?
- Have you and your spouse discussed your parenting styles and are you on the same page?
- What are your primary goals when you are resolving conflicts at home?
- How much do you know about conflict resolution at Patchwork?
- What do you know about Restorative Justice?

## Learning Dialogues

### Conflict Resolution

**Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30pm**

Thanks so much to the many parents who attended our first Learning Dialogue, Back to School Night (see pictures below). It was wonderful to have a chance to talk with you all more outside of school. We look forward to continuing the series this month with our focus being "Conflict Resolution." Now that the children are getting more comfortable, this is the time we often hear more questions about how we handle conflict at school and also how parents can handle and also help their children discuss conflicts at home. For this topic we will be doing a short presentation for the whole group on Conflict Resolution at school, and then break into smaller groups to discuss parenting strategies, and finally we will break up for one-on-one conversations the last half-hour. Here are a few quotes to help us think about the topic:

*The drive for independence, self care, and the enjoyment of work supports the development of responsibility. It calls children to a deeper sense of calm, purposeful activity and gives the child a sense of self-confidence. It also eliminates all kinds of negative, challenging behaviors. (MacDonald on Montessori)*

*When children care about a classroom problem... and take part in solving it, they are more likely to view the resulting rules as fair. Having made the rules, they are*



**Parents enjoying being students!**

# Thank You!

**Thanks to everyone who volunteered, donated to, or attended the Art In The School House Fundraiser! The event brought in over \$4000!**

Besides all of the amazing artwork and fabulous musicians, people also enjoyed good food, a community art project (which will be hung in the Elementary School), the Grand Opening of the Elementary School, a fun Silent Auction, and so much more!



**Jackson points out what he added to the painting!**



**The aftermath of the ribbon cutting!**

## Fight Lead Poisoning

The following is information from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment:

*Lead poisoning is the No. 1 preventable environmental health threat to children. Lead poisoning can cause **permanent** health, learning and behavioral problems.*

Recently it has been found that many of the toys imported from China contain lead. Playing with toys containing lead could result in your child getting lead poisoning. Use caution when buying toys made in China or letting you child play with any toys that came from China. Tests have also found lead in dog toys made in China. Other items that may contain lead include imported –

- plastic miniblinds
- candy
- ceramic pots and dishes
- home remedies such as Greta and Azarcon

Lead is most dangerous to children up to 6 years old, and its effects are lifelong.

### **Effects of Lead Poisoning**

Most children who have lead poisoning don't have obvious symptoms but may show signs of the following:

- Speech, language, and behavioral problems, especially in school.
- Short attention span
- Loss of appetite
- Digestive problems
- Trouble sleeping
- Hearing problems
- Learning problems
- Slowed development
- Poor muscle coordination

### **Fight Lead Poisoning**

Five years ago only 3,000 – 5,000 children were getting tested each year for lead poisoning in Colorado. Now up to 20,000 children are getting tested each year. Medicaid, CHP+, & Colorado Resident Discount recipients are required to have a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months, or 36-72 months of age if not tested previously.

If your home was built prior to 1978, have it inspected for lead-based paint before beginning any renovation or remodeling project. Removing lead-based paint improperly increases the risk of lead poisoning. NEVER sand or scrape dry paint.

- \* *Get your children tested – it's free!*
- \* *Get your home inspected.*
- \* *Use lead-safe work methods during all renovation and remodeling projects.*

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment  
Air Pollution Control Division (APCD-SS-B1)  
Denver, CO 80246  
1-800-886-7689 ext. 3150  
E-mail: [lead@state.co.us](mailto:lead@state.co.us)  
[www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/leadhome.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/leadhome.html)