

WILD LILAC PRESCHOOL

HONORING ALL CHILDREN

Iris House 1533 SE 32nd Ave, Portland OR, 97214
Daffodil House 1540 SE 32nd Ave, Portland OR, 97214
(503)236-3240



November 2009

Dear Iris House Families,

What a blustery and busy autumn we have been having. We have had a whirlwind of successful events, celebrations, projects and activities.

We have been watching the work of the Autumn Fairy as the leaves change and fall from their branches. Thank you to those of you who have encouraged your children to bring leaves to school as we study trees. We have been pressing, drawing, rubbing and exploring the leaves. It began with our tree walk back in early October which was so much fun. We walked to the end of the block and back touching, feeling, smelling and hugging trees. We brought along bags for collecting "specimens" and clipboards for drawing what we saw. Keep an eye out for documentation on the wall that shows the children's work. We have begun to build a tree in our classroom. We have used crushed leaves, recycled paper, and various other items the children found in the art studio. We are asking the children to bring in empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls to build the branches.

We have celebrated Fox and Arlo's 5th birthday. In lieu of birthday bread we made birthday pretzels which were an enormous hit! We made

the dough, let it rise and shaped it into various forms such as letters, rainbows, boats, snails, and of course the traditional pretzel shape. We have also had our first goodbye of the year. Our friend Fox has moved on from the Iris house. We hope he has a great time at his new school.

Art!

We have finished our art folders and the children have done some amazing work writing their names! The art folder lives under one of the tables in the art studio. Please feel free to check your child's folder on a weekly basis to collect the many masterpieces they have been making.

Zenger Farm Fun!

We had an exciting field trip to Zenger Farms. Thank you so much to all the drivers who came through to make this event happen. We had so much fun stomping in the mud investigating the plants and animals of the farm. We saw baby fruit trees, chickens and turkeys, a bee colony, a spiral herb garden, a lively worm bin, and we tasted many things from the gardens including kale, leek, radish, tomato, and parsnip. Keep an eye out for photos of this event as well.

Halloween Party Success!

Another great event we had was our Halloween party. We

had a great time preparing for this event by making sugar cookies and apple cider. At the party we carved a beautiful pumpkin, read a favorite story called Very Scary accompanied with some very scary music by French composer Claude Debussy.

Music

Music has always been a large part of the daily rhythm at Wild Lilac. In addition, Sean has been bringing in various instruments for the children to explore. We have been experimenting with various percussion instruments, comparing and contrasting the Irish Bazuki and the acoustic guitar, and we have also been singing impromptu songs relating to the child's play themes.

Parent/Guardian Discussion Night

Our latest parent/guardian discussion night was also a great success. We were very pleased by how many families were able to attend. Thank you so much for supporting these important events. We discussed the importance of language and literacy in the classroom. We talked about important pre-reading and pre-writing skills that children experience in the Daffodil and Iris House programs and examples of these activities in our curriculum. We sampled some delicious lentil soup

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and beet salad from our wonderful chef-extraordinaire, Michelle. If you missed the discussion, there are handouts in the articles folder on the parent board.

Michelle

Speaking of Michelle, we are thrilled to welcome her back as she continues to heal from her biking accident. Yet again she has shown to be such a value to our program with her work ethic, her commitment to providing the program with quality nutrition, and her amazing affinity for interacting with the children.

Our Morning Routine

We have been beginning our day a bit earlier to extend our morning playtime. Open playtime is such an important part of a child's day that we like to create as much time as possible. We will aim to start story time at 8:30 (or shortly thereafter) and we will be having breakfast around 8:45. We will continue to serve breakfast on one of the tables in the eating room until all of the children have arrived and had their meal. Please let us know if this presents a problem for anyone.

On Our horizon...

We have begun talking about our next autumn holiday—Thanksgiving! We will focus our curriculum on the

blessings in our life. We will read books that talk about giving thanks and we will ask questions about what/who each child is thankful for in their life.

We will also revisit our Pennies for Portland Project that begun last year. While reading a book called Voices in the Wind we learned about a project called “Pennies for Peace.” It described how even one single penny can make a difference in others' lives. The children last year decided we should start a project called “Pennies for Portland.” After much discussion, the group decided to collect pennies (and other coins) to help other people grow their own food.

Although the project has been on hold during the summer break we are ready to revive this beautiful idea. We will use the feasting and blessings and thankfulness of Thanksgiving as a spring board for collecting money. We will collect throughout the autumn, winter, and spring. Then we will buy vegetable and fruit starts to donate to others in need.

Book Club Meeting

Our first book club meeting was so much fun! We cannot wait for our next event which will be January 26th at 7pm. Carl and Stephanie Smith (Amelia's parents at Iris House) generously offered to

host our next meeting at their house! Jen (Max's mom at Iris House) requested we read a book related to creating art with children. So, the next book we will be reading is: The Language of Art: Reggio Inspired Studio Practices in Early Childhood Settings by Ann Pelo. It can be found on Amazon, but we have a few copies floating around if you would like to borrow one! Even if you don't read the book, please feel free to join us for the book club meeting anyway!

A couple of reminders:

*Thank you so much for replenishing your child's cubbies with seasonally appropriate clothing. As the rains come your child will need to change clothes often after outside playtime.
*Please label you child's clothing. Our lost and found is already quite full of unlabelled items. Please check the lost and found (under the bench near the sign in/out table). We will be donating all remaining items on December 18th (the last day before Winter Break).
*Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation with our health policy. We have a few in our community who are at serious risk should they contract the flu. We are asking that children with a cough or green/yellow mucus stay home. If your child has

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had a fever, vomiting or any other symptom of illness they must be symptom-free for a full 24 hours before returning to school. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Thank You!

We would like to thank all of you who participated in our Chinook book fundraiser. Although the final count is not in, it looks like we were able to raise around \$1000 for our financial aid fund! And we think that is just awesome.

We would also like to thank Johanna, mom to Eloise in Iris House and Annabel in Daffodil House, for bringing in new soap saving soap dispensers for us!

Calendar

November 25-27- No School
– Thanksgiving Break

December 4-Community
Event- Open House at
Daffodil House, please
RSVP if you plan to attend
4:00pm

December 21-31- No School
– Winter Break

Again, thank you so much for all of your continued support. As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to send us an email at wildlilac.irishouse@gmail.com.

Much love,

Naomi & Sean