



el 26 de octubre

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 16th

We will be scheduling a time to meet with each family to discuss goals for this year as well as learning that we have already seen.

There will be a sign-up for 11/16 soon, and let us know if you need an alternate time.



Our Daily Routine

The kids have all adjusted wonderfully to the move upstairs. They all seem to enjoy their packed lunches. Thank you parents for adjusting to preparing lunches. One of the benefits of packed lunches is that kids can work on fine motor skills opening their own containers. This is a valuable skill to being honing as the transition to eating at elementary schools will be easier!

It's so convenient to be on the same level as the bathrooms and the kids all are used to our bathroom routine. We have been talking with kids about effective hand-washing practices. It often takes a reminder that the water is not for rinsing the soap off, but scrubbing soap on hands in the water is necessary. With cold and flu season upon us, this is extra important.

Fine Motor Skills

Not only are there many opportunities in our daily routines for fine motor activities, but we also prepare activities specifically with the goal of strengthening hand muscles. Hand strength helps children do things for themselves like snaps, zipping, taking their own shoes on and off, and putting on their own mittens. It also helps them to have good marker control in order to write letters and to have more control to enable drawing with purpose.

Literacy

We have begun talking about the syllables in our names as well as in other words. Syllable awareness is an early skill that sets the stage for reading. We have read *El Conejito Knuffle* by Mo Willems as well as played *laundromat*. We are currently reading *Clic, Clac, Muu: Vacas Escritoras* by Doreen Cronin. There are quite a few high-level vocabulary words that we are discussing such as: ultimatum, strike, and furious.

el español

Our routine changed, so did our phrasing.

Vamos al baño *Let's go to the bathroom.*

Vamos, regresamos.

Let's go, let's go back.

(many children like to joke, about going downstairs still, as that was the routine phrase)

From *Knuffle Bunny*, we learned

conejito	<i>bunny</i>
mamá	<i>mom</i>
papá	<i>dad</i>
lavandería	<i>laundromat</i>
monedas	<i>coins</i>
parque	<i>park</i>
escuela	<i>school</i>

What's Up Next?

It's coming, we already had flurries once. As we prepare for snow, we pre-teach the order of dressing oneself. Such as, one's boots cannot go on before snow pants. It just won't work. Once we are dressing for snow, it will help your child be more successful dressing themselves in all that winter gear if they are practicing dressing themselves at home too. We will have so much fun in the snow, ,but getting dressed to get out there is a big part of winter!

Flood Update

Clean up work will begin in the basements as early as next week. In the space we were using this will be extensive, even including the removal of our blue exploration wall and all the door frames. At a meeting this week the church board decided that it would make more sense to look at renovations upstairs to make our current space work better for our needs. The best parts is odds are we never have a flooding problem again and we get to keep those beautiful windows. The downside it that it will involve another round of contractors and, because work on the space will need to happen when we are closed, continuing to work with what we have for the rest of this school year. We will continue to make breakfast and afternoon snacks at school but packed lunches are here to stay until further notice. Again, we so appreciate you all making that change to your routine.

