

## OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### Principal's Message:



Dear Parents,

We are now proceeding into the fall season. We have a lot of exciting changes to look forward to with not just the weather; but we have exciting news to share with all our families.

First of all I'd like to welcome our new families. We hope you have a pleasant experience and we look forward to building wonderful relationships with you and your child. We are excited to have you with us and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We are always here! Secondly, please welcome Assistant Principal Jennifer Settles. Ms. Settles will be having her twins join our Angelfish classroom, as well.

As many of you have seen, we are in a middle of renovating our playgrounds. By end of the first week of October, our new turf grass will be installed. The new grass will be a great new addition to our play yards and we cannot wait to see the children getting an opportunity to play on it.

With the new school year beginning we would like to take the opportunity to remind parents to update any new information regarding to your child (ren). This includes their immunization card, contact information, authorizations for photos or new allergies. We will follow up to ensure that all children's records are up to date.

Most importantly, we want to say thank you to all our families who attended our *Back-to-School Ice Cream Social*. Could have not been a great success without your participation.

Sincerely,

Melinda Carvalho, Principal & Jennifer Settles, Assistant Principal

### October 30<sup>th</sup> Fall Festive Costume Parade

**We invite all our students to dress up in their favorite costumes Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> for our annual costume parade. Every classroom will strut the circuit and showcase their costumes to "spooky festive" music. Activities will be provided for children to interact ranging from arts & crafts to balance coordinating spider web trails.**

**Don't forget to check out our winner of our annual Scarecrow Competition Fri, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

### *Discovery Isle Reminders:*

- Affective this month, we will continue to charge \$1.00 per minute when we have a child picked up after 2:45 pm and 6:00 pm. Our center is open from 6:45 am to 6:00 pm.
- Please remember our school (classrooms, playgrounds & parking lot) all close at 6:00pm. We appreciate you being courteous and picking up on time. Our staff needs to leave on time for their family and school schedules.
- Please make sure to label all of your child's items to insure that if misplaced we know who it belongs to.
- Tuition is due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. We accept checks; have automatic withdrawal from a checking account and now except credit cards (MasterCard, Visa or Discover) with an additional administration fee. See the office for details.

# Exploring Community Helpers & the Roles They Play

This month, our students are gaining a greater understanding of community helper occupations, such as police officers, mail carriers, medical professionals and firefighters. The children have a lot of fun imagining themselves in these important roles, and incorporating toy versions of the uniforms, equipment and vehicles that go with them.

In addition, October is National Fire Prevention Month, so we place a special emphasis on the importance of fire safety and the role of firefighters. Our classroom activities help the children become more comfortable around emergency responders in uniform, and teach them basics about what to do in case of an emergency.

Here are some ways children learn about community helpers in the classroom, as well as activities for you and your child to do at home.



## **TODDLERS (ages 1-2):**

**In the classroom:** Toddlers are fascinated with dressing up as doctors, police officers and firefighters, because they have distinct uniforms and roles that children can easily understand. During dramatic play, our teachers provide students with costumes and props, and encourage them to choose the role they want to play.

**At home:** Continue dress-up play by providing your child with various props and costumes. Ask him, "Who do you want to dress-up as?" and "What does that person wear?"

**Recommended reading:** *Whose Hat is This* by Sharon Katz Cooper

## **BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):**

**In the classroom:** Our Beginner students learn about the special vehicles that community helpers use, by playing matching games, reading books, and building vehicles using cardboard boxes.

**At home:** Go for a drive with your child. Point out vehicles that belong to community helpers, such as a fire truck and a police car. Ask, "Who drives that vehicle?" and "Where might it be going?"

**Recommended reading:** *The Little Fire Engine* by Lois Lenski

## **INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):**

**In the classroom:** During fire safety lessons, many of our schools invite local firefighters to visit. Students explore the tools firefighters use, learn "Stop, Drop and Roll," and may have the opportunity to tour a fire truck.

**At home:** Continue exploring fire safety by practicing "Stop, Drop and Roll" with your child. Ask him, "Who puts out fires?" and discuss what he should do if he hears a fire alarm at home.

**Recommended reading:** *The Fire Engine Book* by Tibor Gergely

## **PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (ages 4-5):**

**In the classroom:** Teachers introduce situations when it might be necessary to dial 9-1-1. Students practice finding 9-1-1 on different keypads, such as cell phones and landlines.

**At home:** Show your child photos of various community helpers and the buildings where they work. Ask him to identify the helpers and their workplaces, and describe the roles the helpers play in our community.

**Recommended reading:** *The Berenstain Bears: Jobs around Town* by Jan Berenstain

We provide many opportunities for students to learn about community helpers. By setting this foundation, they become more familiar and comfortable around the people that make their neighborhoods a better place.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education

