

St. John's Lutheran School

Early Childhood Program

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Upcoming Events

October 28th – 30th

Parent – Teacher Conferences

November 1st

No School – Professional Dev.

November 3rd

Preschool Sings at 10:50 service

November 6th

Veteran's Chapel & Breakfast

Nov. 7th

Cardinals Assembly with Fredbird

Nov. 14th & 26th

Chapel Chats 8:45

Nov. 20th

Chapel & OCC Packing Party

Nov. 27th – 29th

No School – Thanksgiving Break



It's the end of the 1st quarter and what do we see?

Preschool 2 Class –

I spy with my little eye... Fall activities! Lots of fine motor activities and math concepts.

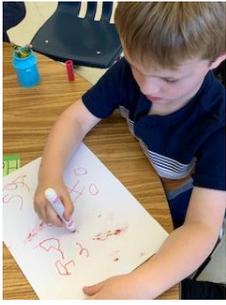


I spy beans, candy corn, and candy pumpkins sorted into jack-o-lanterns at the sensory table. I spy number learning and pumpkin seed counting. I spy golf tee hammering in pumpkins. I spy snipping and cutting, and making fingerprint leaves. I spy counting in books and making a tree on the wall with contact paper.



We are learning more in our social-emotional curriculum about using our words when we are frustrated and identifying our emotions. We are also "reading" and making a book using environmental print.





Preschool 3 class:

We are working hard on writing skills and coloring skills! We are learning the correct way to hold writing tools and how to make small controlled strokes. Some of us are tracing letters in our names and some are copying them from our name tags.



We have many things in our class that help with fine motor strength and eye-hand coordination.



Manipulatives like blocks and playdoh help us with math concepts, spatial awareness, and language development.



Playing in sensory tubs and tables help us to learn about textures, sizes, cooperation, taking turns, and spatial awareness. As we explore fall activities, we have had many awesome things in these tubs and tables!



Coloring inside the lines? Around the age of 3, children start being developmentally *capable* of trying to stay in the lines. This has to do with a combination of cognitive ability, grip, and fine motor control.

Writing my name? The norms for learning to write your name differ significantly amongst our young people and we need to acknowledge this as every child develops at a different rate. Age is not the deciding factor for knowing if your child is ready to write. There are developmental milestones that aide the process – things like midline crossing, visual perception skills (including memory), fine motor skills, understanding the concepts of letters and functional gross motor skills all need to be at a certain level to be able to learn writing.

Why sensory bins? When a child is playing with a sensory bin, they are using multiple senses to learn about the world. Sensory bins teach spoon skills and transferring skills, as well as helping kids learn the best ways to fill certain containers. Children are learning about measurement, estimating, and spatial awareness. The child directs the play, imagines the situations, and determines the tasks. Bins allow students to work with something so exciting, but to remain in control of your body. Sensory bins provide the most amazing opportunity for truly independent, uninterrupted play.



So many things this season are orange. We investigated how to make this color together. Many of us were masters of mixing!





Preschool 4 – Half Day

This class has followed their project of Building and Construction with the topic of Farms. They started with building barns and hen houses and then the discussion grew to include what animals are on a farm, what grows on a farm, what foods come from farm animals, and then mapping out how to design a farm.



They have been writing farm words, making patterns, sorting egg shapes, and spending time in the kitchen area making delicious farm fresh foods!



The class took advantage of the wonderful fall weather to create a farm map by painting in the style of Jackson Pollock. Using farm colors and then “smashing” it out on the map with hammers. So much fun!



October is also Fire Safety month. We are blessed to have an awesome group of first responders at Rock Community. It was wonderful to have them stop by for a visit to help us learn what firefighters do and how they keep us safe.



Product-Focused Art vs. Processed-Focused Art:

Product-Focused Art is when a child begins a project knowing what the end product should look like and they follow a set of instructions to get to their goal. It will have a right and wrong way to work on the project and typically require a specific skill and technique to reach that end goal.

Process-Focused Art is when a child is given an open-ended project and they have the opportunity to express themselves through their work. Though it can end up being a gift or decoration, the artwork turned out is based on your child’s discovery and creativeness.

Benefits of Product-Focused Art vs. Processed-Focused Art:

Product-Focused Art allows your child to practice their fine motor skills such as cutting in a straight, curved or angled line and most importantly how to follow directions and reach an end goal. It is also a great way to teach children about specific shapes, colors, etc.

Process-Focused Art also allows children to practice their fine motor skills, however, how and what they practice ends up being up to the child and how they decide to create. They can practice with their scissors, they can gasp different types of materials, squeeze bottles of paint or glue. With this, it is all about the discovery. This allows your child to focus on being creative and learn to have the confidence to explore and experiment. Processed-focused art also provides plenty of opportunity to problem solve.



Preschool 4

This class is transitioning from their study of farms to the new topic of apples.

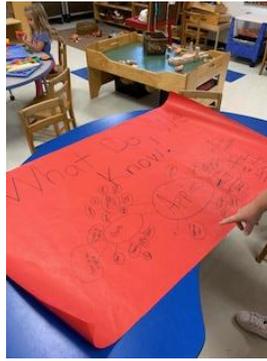
They spent time brainstorming what they know about apples, drawing and labeling parts of apples, and creating apple trees.

They observed how apples reacted when they were placed in soda, vinegar, lemon juice, and plain water.

They graphed responses to favorite apples and made homemade applesauce.

They have also had some fun exploring the letter Pp more in depth with patterns, Mr. Potato Head creations, Playdoh, and Pigs in Pens.

They have also been working on projects for their portfolios which include name writing, self-portraits, bible story drawing, number and letter assessments and cutting skills.



Helping my child learn to pray:

Start prayers with the following phrases:

God, please help...

Thank you God for

God you are awesome because...

God I am sorry for...

Try these activities:

Look through the pictures on your phone. Use them to thank God for all the blessings in your life.

Use a play telephone to talk to God. Tell him about your day, what your struggles were, what you are thankful for was and things that you are worried about.

Let your child draw pictures of people, places, and things that they love. Ask them questions about their drawings. Pray for the things in their picture.

Make time to say prayers at mealtimes and bedtime. Let your child lead these sometimes.



We are looking forward to our time at Parent-Teacher Conferences with you October 28th – 30th. We can't wait to share how our students are growing!