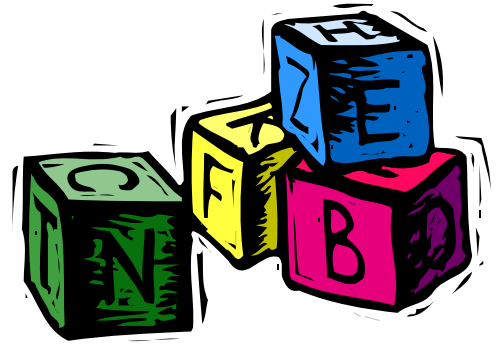


# ST. RITA SCHOOL

## Pre-Kindergarten



May 2014

The school year is quickly coming to an end but everyone continues to be busy in the Pre-K. During the month of May the 3 year olds learned about trucks and vehicles. The children heard **Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site** and **Steam Train, Dream Train**. Art projects included a wheels booklet and a shapes train. The 4 year olds continued lessons on letters, brought in things that fit in their pocket for Show and Tell, ate spaghetti for snack and heard a wonderful story, **Mrs. Spitzer's Garden**. Both four year old classes have been practicing printing their last names and we shared a story on names, **Chrysanthemum**. Story time this month also included **Is Your Mama A Llama?**, **Nora's Stars**, **A Mother's Wish**, **The Watermelon Seed**, **The Very Lonely Firefly**, **Sunflower House** and a special story for the 4 year olds, **Forever Friends**.

The Three Year Old classes enjoyed a unit on farm animals. They listened to the stories **Over on the Farm**, **The Cow Who Clucked**, **Webster J. Duck** and **The Midnight Farm**. The children used cotton balls for painting sheep, crafted construction paper shapes cows and shoe print horses and sponge painted their favorite farm animal. We also sang songs about farm animals and learned the nursery rhymes "Little Boy Blue", "Baa Baa Black Sheep" and "Hey Diddle, Diddle".

The month of May introduced the 4 year olds to a unit on "Friends in the Community". A walk to a neighborhood mailbox helped the classes learn about the mail carriers who delivered their cards for Mother's Day. Story time included **What the Mailman Brought**, **Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms** and **What Do You Want to Be?**. The highpoint of our unit was the Pre-K's annual visit to Paul & Eddy's Pizzeria. The children had a wonderful time making, and eating, their own pizzas. Favorite toppings included pepperoni, bacon and even mushrooms! Many thanks to all the parents who were able to join us and help make these activities safe and fun.

The 4 Year Old classes also enjoyed science lessons on bugs. We read a beautiful new story, filled with actual photographs of bugs, **Step Gently Out**, and an old favorite, **Miss Spider's Tea Party**. The children used magnifying glasses for an outdoor search for bugs. For art, they cut out ant hills and used their fingerprints to add lots of ants. Science centers included magnifying glasses with models for ant and ladybug stages, bug books and bug puzzles and the children also used the classroom microscope to view, of course, bugs.

With the school year ending, many thanks to parents and families for your support and help throughout the year. Special thanks to our *Room Mothers* who provided so much assistance and were always there to lend a hand: Kelly Stewart, Matthew's mom, Danielle Daley, Lily's mom, Kristen Amarone, Allison's mom and Megan Giaquinto, Evelyn's mom. Couldn't have done it without you!

We are delighted to share with you that St. Rita School's Pre-Kindergarten has been voted "*Most Loved Preschool*" for 2014 by Hulafrog New Haven; an area website dedicated to providing families with information on activities, schools, programs and services for children. Special thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Conkling-Schmitz, Jack's mom and the Publisher of Hulafrog New Haven, for her support.

The last day of school for the Three Year Old classes is Tuesday, June 3. The Four Year Old classes end the school year with ***Final Day Celebrations*** on Wednesday, June 4. The programs will be held in the Donnelly Parish Center at St. Rita Church. Morning 4 Year Old Class - 9:00 A.M.; Afternoon 4 Year Old Class - 1:00 P.M. Reminder for those students who will be attending St. Rita School Kindergarten in September; Kindergarten Orientation – Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

School Year 2014 - 2015:

August 25 – Pre-Kindergarten Parent Meetings  
August 27 – Visiting Day – 4 Year Old Classes  
August 28 – Visiting Day – 3 Year Old Classes  
August 28 – First Day of School – Kindergarten  
September 2 – First Day of School – Pre-K 3 Year Olds  
September 3 – First Day of School – Pre-K 4 Year Olds

Visiting the school Library was an enriching experience for the 4 Year Olds this year. Each month the children heard a new story and selected a book to borrow. The children listened to the story ***Clara Caterpillar*** in May. Many thanks to the Moms who shared their time with the classes in the library: Meghan Burns, Devin's mom, Lara Dotson-Renta, Catalina Dotson's mom, Amy Raymond, Eve's mom, Maureen Tuttle, Pearl's mom, Crystal Guistinello, Lilianna's mom, Stefanie Leng, Cooper's mom, Jennifer Schmitz, Jack's mom and Marsha Walsh, Evelyn Giaquinto's grandmother.

Summer offers special time for sharing stories. Here are some suggestions of books to read with your child this summer...

***The Day the Crayons Quit*** by Drew Daywalt  
***Tap the Magic Tree*** by Christie Matheson  
***Sophie's Masterpiece*** by Eileen Spinelli  
***Being Friends*** by Karen Beaumont  
***L M N O Peas*** by Keith Baker  
***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** (or any of the books by this author) by Eric Carle  
***Good Morning, Pond*** by Alyssa Satin Capucilli  
***Make Way for Ducklings*** by Robert McCloskey  
***The Greatest Dinosaur Ever*** by Brenda Z. Guiberson  
***The Selfish Giant*** by Oscar Wilde  
***Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*** by Sherri Duskey Rinker  
***A Frog in the Bog*** by Karma Wilson  
***The Raft*** by Jim LaMarche  
***Bob and Otto*** by Robert O. Bruel  
***Bats at the Library*** by Brian Lies

Finally, some reminders.....

- Clothing being stored in school will be sent home the last full week of school.
- Final Progress Reports will be mailed home the week of June 16, 2014.

***HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!***