



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Happy Fall Y'All! The air is getting much cooler, the winds are blowing and the leaves are all changing and falling to the ground - looks like Fall is arriving. It is difficult to believe that your children have been in school for nearly a month! They are making great strides academically, socially, and emotionally. We are happy to see them settling in to the daily school schedule and routines at St. Gregs. It is truly a blessing to work with each one of you and your children and we are looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring,

September has been a great month and the children are doing great in their classrooms. As we continue to move forward with our letters and numbers please be sure to reinforce what we are doing in the classrooms at home as well. Please work on color, letter, number, and shape recognition, as well as practicing specific skills such as: cutting, using manipulatives, identifying and writing their names. Learning is a continuous thing and the more consistency the children have with what they are learning, the quicker things will begin to click for them. As I have stated before, we are a TEAM working together for your child's success.

We have many fun activities lined up for the month of October. Over the next few weeks the children will explore and discover the uniqueness of the Autumn season as well as observing all the beautiful changes in nature this time of the year brings.

They will also discuss and learn the importance of fire safety in their homes and in school as well. Hope fully our local fighters of Harrison will come to school and instruct our preschoolers how to "Stop, Drop, and Roll!" Perhaps an extra added bonus will be boarding the Fire Truck and having the privilege of ringing its bell.

The importance of friendships and how to listen and talk about our inner feelings in a positive way will be an instructional objective of our classroom teachers. Of course we can't forget about "Spooktacular Halloween" and all the excitement it brings to the loves of youngsters. To kids, Halloween is almost as exciting as Christmas. The children will be busy creating "creepy" but fun arts and crafts in keeping with holiday.

October Events and Activities:

- 10/4: Feast of St. Francis, Patron Saint of Animals
- 10/5: Parent Zoom Meeting 7 p.m.
- 10/7: Feast of the Most Holy Rosary
- 10/9-10/15: Fire Prevention Week
- 10/10: Columbus Day - No School "Great To Live in Harrison Day"
- 10/11: School Resumes
- 10/12: Teddy Bear Picnic
- 10/19: "Funky" Hair Day
- 10/10: Back To School Night
- 10/21: Smillows Scented Pillows Fundraiser/Sale Extended
- 10/24-10/28: Scholastic Book Fair & Mystery Reader's Week 9 to 11 a.m.
- 10/25: Pajamarama Day
- 10/27: Pumpkin Patch for 3's and 4's> 3's/9:30 4's/ 10:30
- 10/31: Trunk or Treat - Halloween Parade (All Classes Attend)



Three Year Old Monthly Program:

Skills:

- Color Recognition
- Days of the Week in Order
- Months of the Year in Order
- Address & Phone Number (By Heart)
- Name of Body Parts
- Proper Finger Grasp

Letters:

- Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee, Ff

Numbers:

- 1,2,3,4,5

Colors:

- Black, Orange

Religion:

- St. Francis of Assisi 10/4, Feast of the Guardian Angels 10/2, Feast of the Most Holy Rosary 10/7
- Lesson 3: Our Families
- Lesson 4: God's Gift of People
- Lesson 5: Trusting Others
- Lesson 6: Halloween

Themes:

- Bears
- Columbus Day
- Fall
- Farm
- Fire Prevention/Fire Safety
- Five Senses
- Halloween
- Leafs
- Pumpkins/Jack-o-Lanterns



Community Helpers:

- Bus Driver
- Crossing Guard
- Custodian
- EMS
- Farmer
- Firemen
- Librarian
- Policeman
- Principal
- School Nurse
- School Secretary
- Teacher

Suggested Books:

- Splat the Cat at School
- The Giving Tree
- The Story of the Kissing Hand
- Johnny Appleseed
- Awesome Autumn
- One, Two, Boo
- The Run Away Pumpkin
- We're Going on a Leaf Hunt
- Where's my Mummy



Four Year Old Monthly Program:

Skills:

- Knows Full Name
- Address & Phone # by Heart
- Age and Birthday
- Uses Scissors Appropriately
- Talks in Sentences
- Holds and Uses Crayons, Marker, and Pencils Correctly

Letters:

- Aa,Bb,Cc,Dd,Ee,Ff

Numbers:

- 1,2,3,4,5,6

Colors:

- Red, Black, Orange

Religion:

- Lesson 1: Beginnings
- Lesson 2: Belong
- Celebrating Fall
- Guardian Angels 10/2
- St. Francis of Assisi 10/4
- Feast of the Most Holy Rosary 10/7
- Lesson 3: Helping
- Lesson 4: Loving
- Lesson 5: Belonging to Family
- Lesson 6: Halloween

Themes:

- All About Me
- Apples
- Family
- Friends
- Getting To Know You



- I am Special
- Johnny Appleseed
- School Rules
- Welcome Back
- Columbus Day
- Fire Prevention/Fire Safety
- All Things Halloween: Bats, Black Cats, Scarecrows, Ghosts, Goblins, Witches, Spiders, Pumpkins/Jack-O-Lanterns,

Book Suggestions:

- How Do Dinosaurs Go To School
- Apple Picking Time
- Lucky Leaf
- The Kissing Hand
- Pete the Cat Five Little Pumpkins
- Room On the Broom
- The Runaway Pumpkin
- The Spooky Wheels on the Bus
- Where is Mummy
- One, Two, Boo



Scholastic Book Fair

10/24-11/4:

A Scholastic Book Fair gives kids, parents, teachers and the whole community a chance to come together to celebrate not only the joy of reading, but also the joy of giving back. Every year Scholastic Book Fairs generate more than \$200 million free books and resources for schools while putting books in the hands of children.

Mystery Reader's Week

10/24-11/4:

Reading is an exercise for the mind. It helps children to calm down and relax. Reading also opens doors of new knowledge to enlighten their minds. To promote reading here at St. Gregory the Great Early Childhood Enrichment Program we sponsor a "Mystery Reader's Program." It is a fun way to get parents involved in classrooms. It is also a great way to get students excited about reading. If you are interested please complete and return the "Mystery Reader's Flyer sent home.

Trunk or Treat

10/31

Halloween has always been a favorite celebration around St. Gregs. It is such a pleasure to watch our little ones parade around the preschool in their various costumes. It is a fun filled treat for us all. We invite our preschoolers to join us at Saint Gregory the Great as we highly anticipate our annual Halloween Bash, "Trunk or Treat!" At this special event our parking lot transforms into a Hallo9ween Extravaganza as costumed kids go from car trunk to car trunk to pick up treats. Our parents embrace the spirit of Halloween by selefcting a theme and decorating their SUV'S, pop up tents, or truck beds to the delight of all our children.

Some themes in the past were: Bat Cave, Superheroes, CandyLand, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Harry Potter, Haunted House, the Wizard of Oz, The Addams Family, Frozen, Monster Mash, Ghost Busters, etc. Put on your creativity caps and come up with an original theme, recruit other parents to join you to decorate and provide special treats such as: sealed nutritious snacks, pencils, stickers, crayons, whittles, etc. Pinterest has many suggestions for "trunk or treat" decorating and Oriental Trading as well.



On Monday, October 31st we will celebrate Trunk or Treat with all our students. If you would like to participate in this event by sponsoring and decorating a car/truck, please contact me directly either by phone (914-835-1278) or email (mariarelig@aol.com). Let me know what original theme you will be selecting so we don't have duplicates as well as who you will be partnering with. I will provide you with a list of appropriate items for their trick or treat bags. Together we can provide our youngsters with a "Spooktacular Halloween Celebration." This is also an opportunity for you to catch your little one on camera with their peers and to get involved in one of our many preschool activities/events. Please try to keep scary or demonic costumes outside of the preschool.

Fire Prevention Week

10/9-10/15

The Harrison Fire Department will be visiting our school. The fire fighters of our town will be showing the children the fire truck their fire gear as well as talking about fire safety. I would encourage you as parents to discuss fire safety with your children and "have a Fire Safety Plan" for your home. This includes designating a meeting place outside the house, preferably at a neighbor's home. We practice fire drills in school, so that our students will know what to do in case of a real fire.

Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Sale

9/19-10/14

This Fundraiser ends on the 14th. Everyone's involvement is needed more than ever. You can support the fundraiser in any of the following ways:

- Purchase Items out of the catalogs for you and your family
- Share your fundraiser on social media by email, or text on www.ShopFund.com
- Ask neighbors, co-workers, friends and others to purchase items to show their support

Please know your assistance this year in particular will make a huge difference and thank you in advance for your participation .



- Great To Live in Harrison Day: Join in the parade and festivities celebrating the community of Harrison. October 10th
- Funky Hair Day: 10/19
- Gel it! Spray it! Style it! Color it! Create your "own" amazing "funky hair style" just for the fun of it!
- Back To School Night: Tentative Date: October 20th Further information will be coming soon.
- Pumpkin Patch: 10/27th All our students will have the opportunity to visit Saint Gregory the Great's own private pumpkin patch and select a "mini" pumpkin of their own to magically decorate and create their own Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween. I do need some parent volunteers for this project, please contact me either by phone (914-835-1278) or email (mariarelig@aol.com) if you would like to be a 'helping hand.

Reminders:

- All "New COVID Protocols and the Re-Admission Policy to return to school" is on our school website: stgregoryearlychildhood.com.
- Although the weather is changing, our Pre K students play outside every day. Please be sure to send in appropriate clothing for your child to go outside. Label each item of clothing your child wears. It is amazing how many blue, black, or pink jackets, hats, etc. show up in one classroom.
- Please make sure that your child comes to school each day wearing appropriate shoes. No Crocs Clogs, Sandals, or slippers. Sandals are best.
- Please review the materials in your child's folder daily. Folders contain children's work as well as other important information from the School Director or Classroom Teacher.
- School will be CLOSED on Monday, October 11TH for Columbus Day.
- Please have your child use the bathroom at home before coming to school and PLEASE WORK DILIGENTLY ON POTTY TRAINING YOUR CHILD!
- If your child will not be in school, please report their absence to Ms. Gaudelli directly, either by email or a phone call between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.



- PLEASE DO NOT SEND SICK CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A FEVER, VOMITED, HAVE DIARRHEA OR DISPLAY COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE OLAST 24 HOURS. CONSULT WITH YOUR PRIMARY CARE PJYSICIAN AND GET A PCR COVID TEST. QUARANTINE IF INFECTED WITH COVID FOR 5 DAYS.
 - Check the school website for the October calendar and print a copy for yourself.
 - Tuition is due by the 5th of each month. A \$40 late fee will be applied by Smart Tuition if they do not receive you payment on time.
 - Be on time bringing you child to school and picking them up.
 - Be aware of snack and lunch policies. We have many children with severe food allergies. NO NUT OR NUT PRODUCTS, PLEASE! Provide nutritious healthy snacks and lunch. NO JUNK FOOD PLEASE!
 - Safety is a priority at St. Gregory the Great. To keep your child safe, pleaw make sure they are well supervised anytime you are outside the building with them. Children may not play on the front lawn, the playground or the rocky areas outside my office.
 - If you are late for school, you must enter the bulding through the glass doors facing Broadway, Use the door bell and I will release the door lock so you can enter.
 - Safety Alarms are activated at all interior doors for the safety of all our children when classes are in sessions.
 - Remember to sign your children in and out daily.
 - No one under the age of 16 may pick up a child.
- No toys from home, please. Ultimately they get lost, damaged or taken by anot

