



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

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 a true 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. October promises to be filled with many activities: color, letter, number, shape recognition, as well as practicing specific skills, such as cutting, using manipulatives, identifying, and writing their names. Please work on these skills at home with your child. Your support and hard work with them is important and appreciated.

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 season of Autumn as well as observing all the 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. Hopefully, our community leaders, our local fire 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 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 their classroom teachers. Of course we can't forget about "Spooktacular Halloween" and all the excitement it brings to the lives of youngsters. To kids, Halloween is almost as important as Christmas. The children will be busy creating "creepy" but fun arts and crafts in keeping with the holiday.

October Events and Activities:

- Fire Prevention Week: 10/3-10/9
- 10/6; Visit From Harrison Fire Fighters and Fire Truck
- PTA/Parent Zoom Meeting: 10/6 Meeting Invites Will Be Sent
- Columbus Day/Great To Live In Harrison Day: 10/11 NO SCHOOL
- Visit from Harrison Fire Fighters: 10/13
- Teddy Bear Day: 10/13
- Scholastic Book Fair/Mystery Reader's Week: 10/18-10/22
- Pajamarama Day: 10/21
- Pumpkin Patch for Four Year Olds: 10/19
- Pumpkin Patch for Three Year Olds: 10/20
- Back To School Night 7 p.m.: 10/21 In House/Virtual TBD
- Christmas Fundraiser: 10/25-11/8
- Trunk or Treat 4's: 10/27
- Trunk or Treat 3's: 10/28



Three Year Old Program

- Themes: Teddy Bears, Columbus Day, Fall, Farm, Fire Prevention, Fire Safety, Five Senses, Halloween, Autumn/Fall, Leaves, Pumpkins, etc.
- Skills: Days of the Week, Months of the Year, Color Recognition
- Letters: A,B,C,D,E, F (Upper and Lower Case)
- Numbers: 1,2,3,4,5
- Colors: Black, Orange
- Shape: Triangle
- Community Helpers: Bus Driver, Crossing Guard, Custodian, Librarian, Principal, School Nurse, School Secretary, Teacher/Assistant
- Religion: St. Francis of Assisi, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Our Families, God's Gift of People, Trusting Others, Halloween (All Hallows Eve)
- Book Suggestions: Awesome Autumn, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You Say, One, Two, Boo, The Run Away Pumpkin, We're Going on a Bear Hunt, We're Going on a Leaf Hunt, Where's My Mummy.

Four Year Old Program

Themes: Bats, Black Cats, Scarecrows, Columbus Day, Dinosaurs, Fire Prevention and Safety, Ghosts, Goblins, Witches, Spiders, Halloween, Pumpkins and Jack-O-Lanterns, Teddy Bear Picnic, Autumn/Fall, Leaves

- Skills: Using Scissors appropriately, Talking in Sentences, Holding and using crayons, markers and pencils correctly
- Letters: A,B,C,D,E,F (upper and lower case)
- Numbers: 1,2,3,4,5,6
- Colors: Black, Orange
- Shapes: Crescent, Triangle
- Community Helpers: Bus Driver, Crossing Guard, Custodian, Principal, School Nurse, Teacher/Assistant, School Secretary, Librarian, School Custodian
- Religion: St Francis of Assisi, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, God's Gift of People, Beginnings, Belonging, Helping, Loving, Belonging to Family, Halloween (All Hallows Eve)
- Book Suggestions: Pete the Cat, Five Little Pumpkins, Room on the Broom, Splat the Cat, What Was That, The Runaway Pumpkin, The Spooky Wheels On the Bus, The Timid Ghosts, Where is My Mummy, One, Two, Boo



Home Extensions for All Students

- Practice name recognition and writing using paper, pencil/crayon, tracing in sand or making the letters with play dough
- Practice numbers 1 to 10. You can collect items in your household and have your children count them. Counting M&M'S is fun as well, and their reward is getting to "munch" on them.
- It is always a good idea to practice cutting, and the correct pencil/crayon grip with your child.
- Read to your child often

Scholastic Book Fair: 10/18-10/22

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 10/18-10/22

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 on 10/30.



TRUNK OR TREAT

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 bring back our annual Halloween Bash, "Trunk or Treat." At this special event our parking lot transforms into a Halloween Extravaganza as costumed kids go from car trunk to car trunk to pick up treats. Our parents embrace the spirit of Halloween by selecting a theme and decorating their SUV'S, pop up tents, or truck beds to the delight of our children. Some themes in the past were: Bat Cave, Superheroes, Candy Land, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Harry Potter, Haunted House, Wizard of Oz, The Addams Family, Frozen and Monster Mash. Put on your creativity cap 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, whistles, etc. Pinterest has many suggestions for "trunk or treat" decorating. And of course we insist that you "Dress Up" for this occasion as well.

On Wednesday, October 27th we will celebrate Trunk or Treat with our Four Year Old Students. On Thursday, October 28th we will celebrate Trunk or Treat with our Three Year Old Students. If you would like to participate in this event by sponsoring and decorating a car/truck, please contact me directly either by phone or email. Let me know what original theme you will be selecting so we have no duplicates and who will be working with you. 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

The Harrison Fire Department will be visiting our school. Our town fire fighters will be showing the children the fire truck, their fire gear, and 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 tell your children that we practice fire drills in school, so they will know what to do in case of a real fire. Otis

Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Fundraiser: This fundraiser ends on October 15th. We started this fall fundraiser on September 20th. Everyone's involvement is needed more than ever. You can support the fundraiser by any of the following:

- Purchase items out of the catalog 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 and show their support.

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

Reminders:

- 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. Sneakers 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 in celebration of Columbus Day.
- Ms. G's monthly School Newsletter and your child's Teacher Classroom Newsletter can be found on our PreK Website.
- Please have your child use the bathroom at home before coming to school and PLEASE WORK DILIGENTLY ON POTTING 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 LAST 24 HOURS. CONSULT YOUR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN AND GET A PCR COVID TEST. QUARANTINE IF INFECTED WITH COVID IS 10 DAYS.
- The Governor of New York State, Kathy Hochul has mandated that preschoolers Must Wear Masks in school. They do not have to wear them when they go out to play.
- Check the School Website for the October Calendar and PRINT a copy for yourself.
- Tuition is due by the 1st of each month. A \$40 late fee will be applied by Smart Tuition if they do not receive your payment on time.
- Be on time bringing your 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 Saint Gregory the Great. To keep your child safe, please 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 of my office.
- If you are late for school, you must come into the building through the glass doors facing Broadway, use the RING DOOR BELL, I will release the door lock so you can enter. Sign In and Screenings will be done in my office. Safety Alarms have been activated at all other doors.
- Remember to sign your child/children in and out daily.
- No one under the age of 16 may pick up a child at anytime
- No toys from home, please. (Ultimately they get lost, damaged or are taken by another student)

