



news@fumns

NO SCHOOL TUESDAY; LISTEN FOR DELAY OR CLOSURE ON WEDNESDAY!

Parent's Role in Learning

She spent every afternoon dancing through the house, her red curls bouncing with every leap; twirling and sliding in dramatic fashion in stocking feet across the kitchen floor. She loved to dance; and yet when I asked my youngest if she wanted to go to dance class, she looked horrified and answered with an emphatic, "NO!" When I asked her why, she was just as emphatic, "I can't go to dance class because I don't know how to dance!"

I think of my daughter's answer when I am talking to parents about their child's transition to kindergarten. Often there is concern that their child hasn't "learned enough" to move on to kindergarten. Parents know that kindergarten is more focused on academics these days. They are concerned that their child hasn't "learned enough" of the academic skills to move on to the place that is responsible to "teach" academic skills. *(Sounds to me like the "can't go to dance class because I can't dance" logic.)*

I remind parents that you can't start building a house until you have built a sound foundation. The role of a developmentally appropriate early childhood program is to nurture the foundational skills that allow a child to access the next level of learning that begins in kindergarten.

Your child's preschool teacher knows that meaningful learning involves encouraging development of the "whole child". It is not just about the brain. It is not just about what your child KNOWS; it is about who your child IS as a learner.

The different areas of development are interrelated and impact a child's ability to handle the academic demands of kindergarten. Social/emotional development impacts learning. Language development impacts learning. Physical development impacts learning; and so on. We nurture a strong foundation when we encourage all areas of development.

Just as the focus of early childhood education is different from kindergarten;

the roles of parent and preschool teacher are different, but of equal importance.

Parents have opportunities to take advantage of "teachable moments" during the course of everyday routines and interactions. You influence your child's learning in ways that teachers cannot. It does not cost money, or require special materials, just an awareness of how to take advantage of daily opportunities. ***CT ELDS Action Guides online give a list of suggestions to parents as to how they can support their child's learning and development.***

Parents are invited to find out how the body impacts learning next **Wed., Feb. 4 (9:15-10:15 am) at our parent workshop, "TOTAL BODY ACTIVATION FOR LEARNING".** *(See flyer for information on how to register for this free developmental workshop.)*

Parents have a unique role in helping their child develop a strong foundation for learning. Little interactions NOW have a BIG impact long term.

JANUARY 26, 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wed., Jan. 28-9:05 am
Kickoff Book Fair Planning Meeting
Everyone Welcome!

- REGISTER FOR NEXT WEEK'S PARENT WORKSHOP:

"TOTAL BODY ACTIVATION FOR LEARNING"

Presenter:
Aubrey Schmalte, OT
from Sensational Achievements

Wed., Feb. 4-9:15-10:15am
(Informational flyer sent with this newsletter / [FREE / Register via online link on flyer.](#))

Childcare available-RSVP for childcare in office by **Mon., Feb. 2.**

COMING SOON

FEB. 2 & 3
SHADOW DANCING
Ground Hog Day Activity
(Special Music for 3s & 4s)



FEB. 11 & 12
VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS





Dear Parents,

Follow Up to Kindergarten Info Series:

Thank you to all who attended our Kindergarten Information Series - Sessions 1 and/or 2. Your questions and insights were helpful to all in attendance.

For those who were unable to attend, we hope to bring you a summary of the presentations in the very near future.

If you have further questions about kindergarten at a Stamford school, we will try to put you in touch with a FUMNS alumni who attends that school. Just leave your name and the name of your school in the of-

fice.

For families interested in finding out more about the magnet schools, see the orientation schedule below. Orientation session will end soon.

If you have any specific questions regarding your child and kindergarten, please do not hesitate to speak with your teacher and/ or the Director. We are here to help you find the information that you need to help you feel comfortable about your child's transition to kindergarten.

Outdoor Play

We plan to go outside everyday. The State of CT DPH encourages daily outdoor play as long as the *combined temperature with wind chill is above 15 degrees.*

Please send ALL of your child's outerwear DAILY. Coats, hats, scarves and mittens. (Please mittens rather than gloves!) ..Plus snow-pants and boots if there is snow on the ground.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL EVERYTHING!!!

Please send shoes for your child to change into when they are inside. Boots are hot and often cause tripping when worn in the classroom. (Sneakers on Wed. for gym.)

FYI

Kindergarten Registration Info:

Kindergarten registration packets will be mailed to you automatically IF your child was born in Stamford and IF you have not changed your address since your child's birth certificate was filed in Stamford.

If your child was not born in

Stamford or if you have changed your address, email Carol Zezima at czezima@stamfordct.gov, Send your name and address; ask to be placed on the mailing list for a kindergarten registration packet.

Packets will be sent in March.

**Dress for Outdoor Play
Everyday!**

**Please
LABEL
ALL
ITEMS!**



Magnet Tours Ending Soon!

Orientation sessions for all Magnet School programs (Hart, Rogers, Toquam, Westover) are ending soon. Magnet schools offer the same curriculum as district schools, but present program with a unique, specialized focus. (i.e. Toquam - social studies approach, Westover - arts & problem solving focus) Attend

an orientation and find out if there is an approach that "fits your child".

Applications accepted until March 2, 2015. Lottery is scheduled for March 17th.!

Orientation Dates & Times:

Hart:
Wed., Jan. 28—7 pm

Toquam:
Thurs., Jan. 29—7pm

Rogers:
Tues., Jan. 27- 7 pm

Westover:
Tues., Feb. 10—7 pm

**Snowdates for all schools listed at stamfordpublicschools.org.*

Health and Safety

SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

We want to remind parents of our inclement weather policy.

- If Stamford Public Schools cancels school, FUMNS is closed.
- If Stamford Public Schools has a delayed opening, FUMNS delays AM classes by 90 min.: PM-regular sched.
- If Stamford has early release, FUMNS does not have any PM classes or programs.

For weather information go to www.stamfordpublicschools.org or 203-977-6600; Channel 12 and WEBE 108 after 6 am.



A HEALTHY WINTER AT FUMNS

Everyone has heard the news that this year's flu shot is not as effective as hoped against this year's strain of flu. This means that we must be extra vigilant to keep our school community healthy and safe.

- Keep your child home when they are sick....and until they have *completely* recuperated.
- Call the school if your child is sick. Let us know what symptoms your child is experiencing.
- Wash hands frequently at home; and make sure your child and you use hand sanitizer before you enter the classroom. THANK YOU!

EXPIRING/EXPIRED* PE FORMS

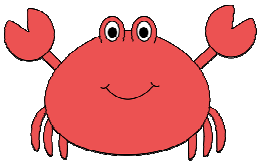
| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 12/16/14 | Vihann P. |
| 1/10/15 | Serena L. |
| 1/14/15 | Isha K. |
| 1/22/15 | Brooke & Lauren M. |
| 1/24/15 | Nicholas L. |
| 1/30/15 | Donnie H. |
| 1/31/15 | Thomas K. |
| 2/10/15 | Santiago K. |
| 2/11/15 | Saanvi S. |
| 2/12/15 | Ellie M. |
| 2/21/15 | Anton L. |
| 2/15/15 | Owen G. |
| 2/26/15 | Elizabeth B. |
| 3/3/15 | Kiera M. |
| 3/3/15 | Luke C. |

Please replace within 30 days of expiration to continue attendance.

Parent Association News

IT IS TIME TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR OUR ANNUAL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR! (March 16-20)

This year's theme is *"Under the Sea; An Ocean Full of Books"*.



Our first planning session is Wednesday, Jan. 28; 9:05

(after AM drop off) Please stop in and see how you can help make this year's book fair another wonderful success. For more information, contact Lenore Mallett.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE:

If your child was not present for School Photo Day, please let the yearbook committee know so we can get an individual picture from you.

There are two ways you can submit photos for consideration:

1. Email pictures in **ACTUAL SIZE** to Kathleen Rosseland (krosse35@me.com)
2. Go to: community.lifetouch.com and use **Activation Code: JTVFKT**

Currently accepting photos of :

- Holiday Celebrations
- 3s Starlight Story Time
- Upcoming woodworking sessions

Please include event and children's names in the file name. 3-5 photos per event please.

HELP-



ING

HANDS: _____ If you know of a family facing a challenging situation (new baby, illness, etc.), please call or text Amy Notter at (203) 559-6244 or email amy.notter@gmail.com.

Let us know how we can help.

Contact Amy if you would like to add your name to our Helping Hands volunteer list.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER (Sat., April 11) is looking for dinner hosts for our most popular, all adult social event of the school year. Need to be able to seat an additional two couples besides yourself. For more information, contact Darcey Trudeau or Liz Romaniello ASAP!! *(Funds from GWCTD support our scholarship fund.)*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST NURSERY SCHOOL

42 Cross Rd.
Stamford, CT 06905
Phone: 203 327-6644

Email: fumns@aol.com
Director: Jamye Smegal Email: fumnsdirector@aol.com
Treasurer: Carolyn Conte Email: fumnstreasurer@aol.com
Administrative Assistant: Colette DeNicola



Bucket Fillers



*We are back and looking for many
bucket fillers in 2015!
Will your name be on our list?
How will you make FUMNS a kinder,
more compassionate place in 2015?*



We respect the importance of child's play!

FUMNS Teaching STAff 2014-2015

Threes Classes:

Mon./Wed./Fri (AM)

Head Teacher:

- Brooke Nilsen

Assistant Teacher:

- Maureen Ronan

Tues./Wed./Thurs. (AM)

Head Teacher:

- MaryBeth Pascarella

Assistant Teachers:

- Megan Janik
- Tara Wilson

Tues./Wed.Thurs. (PM)

Head Teacher:

- Giulia Pirri

Assistant Teacher:

- Bernadette Salvatore

Maintenance:

- Jose Pedroza

Fours Classes:

5 Day 4s (AM) - Room 1:

Head Teachers:

- Myriam Little
- Suzanne Rice

Assistant Teacher:

- Carla Carey

5 Day 4s (AM) - Room 3:

Head Teacher:

- Debby Michelotti

Assistant Teachers:

- Kathy Emerick
- Bernadette Salvatore

5 Day 4s (PM) - Rm. 3:

Head Teacher:

- Lisa Girden

Assistant Teachers:

- Kathy Emerick (M-Th)
- Bernadette Salvatore (F)

Special Programs

PreK Plus (4s)

- Coordinator: Brooke Nilsen

Enrichment Programs:

- Art (4s) - Tara Wilson
- Science (4s) - Maureen Ronan
- Creative Kids (3s)-Brooke Nilsen

Gym:

- Jo Szczepanski

Music:

- Jamye Smegal

Special Needs Consultant:

- Lisa Girden

Administrative Team:

- Director - Jamye Smegal
- Asst. Director- Brooke Nilsen
- Admin. Asst. - Colette DeNicola
- Treasurer - Carolyn Conte