



## THE SOUTH SHORE NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER



### Nature Center Preschool News

November 2017

November is a busy month for NCP with our first family conferences, the Barefoot Book Fair, Storybook Walk Launch event, and Jumpathon! Please check out the dates section of the newsletter to keep current with what's happening. This time of year we begin to reflect on gratitude. We are grateful for the opportunity to teach your children and the many ways that they teach us, as well. Families are the core of our Preschool and your involvement is very much appreciated.

#### Birthday Books!

For a donation of \$10 or more, your child will have a brand new book dedicated in his/her name to their classroom library. Contact [katiekunevich@gmail.com](mailto:katiekunevich@gmail.com)

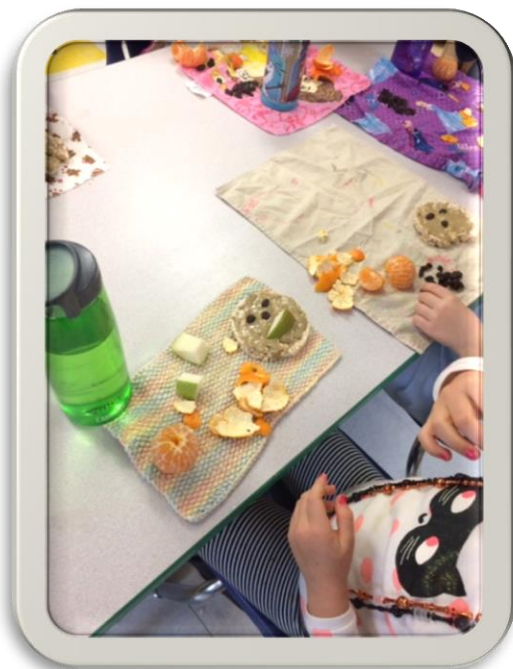
As we get into the colder weather, please continue to label your child's belongings with their first name including mittens and hats. Also, it is helpful if hats and mittens are in coat sleeves and boots are placed below your child's coat. Teachers may miss items inside backpacks!

## Swim

It is not too late to enroll in the NCP swim playgroup at the Emilson Y! Ask your teacher for a registration form.

Nutrition is a very important part of the NCP curriculum. Having young children involved with creating snacks is a great way to encourage healthy eating.

## Did you know?



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[ssymca.org](http://ssymca.org)

## Family Advisory Council News!

The Family Advisory Council is off to a great start. The Savers fundraiser raised over \$245 for NCP, the Jumpathon raising funds for financial assistance is coming up, and the Barefoot Book fair is almost here. The storybook walk committee has put up a new story and there will be a launch event on Nov 10th. Thank you to all the NCP families who help out or participate—we couldn't do it without you!

### Upcoming FAC meeting dates:

November 29<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm

## Dates in November

**Various Dates: November conferences**

**6<sup>th</sup> Registration opens for December Vacation week program**

**9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Barefoot Book Fair**

**10<sup>th</sup> Storybook Walk Launch 10:30-Noon**

**16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Jumpathon**

**22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving break—no school**

### Looking AHEAD

**December 4<sup>th</sup> begins Fall 2018 registration for current families.**

**Dec 25-Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday break—no school**

**Dec. 26-29<sup>th</sup> Vacation week program**

Looking for great books for your young readers? Check out our Barefoot Book Fair November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 9-4pm in Vine Hall or order online at this link:

[https://www.barefootbooks.com/events/view/20360/nature-center-preschool-book-fair/?bf\\_affiliate\\_code=000-2c95-20360](https://www.barefootbooks.com/events/view/20360/nature-center-preschool-book-fair/?bf_affiliate_code=000-2c95-20360)

## Nature Notes

*The shorter days of autumn signal trees to get ready for winter. They stop making food and the green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves. This is when we get to see the true, hidden color of the leaves under the green! So, why do they fall off the tree? A layer of cells called the separation layer builds up at the base of each leaf stem where it is connected to the tree.*

*This layer gets thicker and thicker cutting off flow between the tree and the leaf. Essentially, the tree is slowly 'pushing' the leaf away. Find out more at [www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html](http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html)*

Lunch Bunch is a wonderful extra social time for children. Children eat their lunch together, exchange ideas in conversation, and have additional cooperative play time. Lunch Bunch occurs on Wednesdays and Thursdays from about 12-1pm. Afternoon children may arrive at about 12:10 to allow for morning dismissal and morning children should be picked up at 12:50 so that the afternoon classes can transition to their regular class time. Ask your classroom teacher!



### **November Areas of Learning!**

Science Harvest, Leaves, Life long ago, preparing for winter, nutrition for people and animals

Literacy *Dinosaur Valley*, performing a play, creating a class book

Math Sequencing, patterns, counting

Social Emotional Being inclusive of others, standing up for a friend, problem solving

Fine Motor Handwriting without tears, playdough, small lego

Environmental Literacy Thinking about life long ago, exploring how nature sustains life



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## Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature

Developed by the Nature Action Collaborative for Children Leadership Team, a World Forum Foundation Working Group

*The following is excerpted from:*

[https://connect.worldforumfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/12/universal\\_princ\\_dvd\\_english.pdf](https://connect.worldforumfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/12/universal_princ_dvd_english.pdf)

### For Children

We believe it is important for multi-disciplinary groups of design professionals, environmental advocates, educators, health-care professionals and families to work together to design and support spaces and experiences that help children make connections with nature a sustaining and enriching part of their daily lives.

We believe that regular connections with the natural world encourage children to develop:

- Respect for local cultures and climates and for themselves as a part of nature.
- Feelings of unity, peace and well-being as global citizens.

We believe it is important that children:

- Have daily access to nature-based outdoor and indoor environments in their early childhood programs and schools.
- Be respected as competent, powerful learners and risk-takers who have a voice in what they create and learn through nature.
- Be supported in developing life skills through holistic nature-based learning.

### For Design Professionals

We believe:

- Nature should be integral in the design process of children's indoor and outdoor environments.
- Children's voices (children's ideas and adults' observations of children's use of space) should be central to the design process.
- The over-all environmental and ethical impact of the design should be considered.
- Nature-based spaces should:

1. Respect and celebrate the site's natural assets, local culture, climate and history.
2. Use local, indigenous plants, animals, natural materials and community contributions as much as possible.
3. Provide multi-functionality/multiple possibilities.
4. Stimulate all the senses.
5. Be accessible to all abilities.
6. Inspire wonder and discovery.
7. Be sustainable and able to develop over time.

### For Educators

We believe it is important for educators to:

- Allow enough time each day for children to explore freely in nature-based spaces.
- Understand their role as researchers and facilitators who observe children's interactions with nature and support the emergent curriculum.
- Support children's appropriate risk-taking and adventurous play in nature.
- Provide children with opportunities for silence and contemplation in natural settings.
- Encourage children's development of a sense of wonder and a sense of environmental stewardship.

### For Families

We believe it is important for families to:

- Understand the value of children's daily connections with nature.
- Support children's appropriate risk-taking and exploration in nature.

"A child's experience in the natural world can be as small as helping to plant a roof top garden, sitting under, in, or around the single tree in sight, or listening for the sound of a bird.

Spending time in a natural environment has been documented to improve life and learning in many ways."

**Nature Action Collaborative for Children**

- Enjoy regular experiences in the natural world with their children.



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