

WELCOME
TO
ST. THOMAS
EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Your Friday Newsletter from St. Thomas Early Learning Center

September 23, 2011

Today's Newsletter will feature our 4 year olds.....Pre-K students

The quotes you will read below are from Chip Wood in his book Yardsticks, a great resource book for parents and teachers.

"Fours are ready for everything. They are explorers and adventurers and are soaking up the world of knowledge with incredible speed. Parents and teachers need *vast amounts of energy* to keep up."



- enjoys dramatic play, music, and role playing
- enjoys pretending, often with imaginary playmates
- pretending goes far beyond "playing house" to more elaborate settings like fire station, school, shoe store, ice cream shop





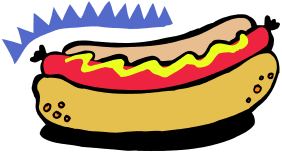
“Outdoor play is essential for fours; they should spend at least ¼ of their school day in physical activity. This is an age where much learning is transmitted through the large muscles. Learning goes from the hand to the head, not the other way around.”



- changes the rules of a game as she goes along
- likes to talk and carries on elaborate conversations
- capable of feeling jealous
- persistently asks why
- loves to be read to



“Paper and pencil tasks should be kept to a minimum for four year olds. They learn best through their own play, by being read to, by acting out stories, by manipulating clay, paint brushes, finger paints, building blocks, math materials.”



Next week is our much anticipated *Hot Dog Picnic & Art Show on Wednesday, Sept. 28*. **Parking is going to be our biggest challenge**, so come early and park safely. We have permission to park at the Church of Latter Day Saints on the southwest corner of Dexter and George Bush Dr. You may park anywhere in our own parking lot, on side streets in the surrounding neighborhood (but not on Dexter Dr.), and please remember *not* to park in any personal driveway areas near the school. Try to carpool that day, and families are urged to bring only one car. Can't wait for you to come, enjoy chapel with us at 11, be amazed at your children's art work, and enjoy hot dogs with us beginning at 11:30. Bring a picnic blanket or folding chairs if you like. We'll furnish everything else!

We are looking for a few volunteers to help set up on the morning of the Hot Dog Picnic. If you can help, please contact either Julia Truss at jjtruss@verizon.net or Meg Anderson at anderpics@gmail.com. Thanks!!



the difference
can make.

BoxTops for Education...

a note from our Coordinator, Hilary Guillen

Next week a complete list of products that have BoxTops coupons on them will be sent home in your child's folder. This list may appear a bit overwhelming, but it is a great resource to take a look at. One tip is to sit down with the list and read through it, highlighting products you regularly buy or would consider switching to. Then keep this BoxTops list with your grocery list or coupons for a few weeks until you get familiar with the BoxTops products. This helped me a lot when I first started supporting schools with BoxTops purchases. Remember... clipping even just a few BoxTops a week will really add up if our whole St. Thomas family pitches in.

A second list you will receive is a complete listing of online merchants who will donate eBoxTops to our school per \$10 spent with them. I would suggest doing the same with this list...take a moment and look through it, highlighting vendors you regularly shop with or would consider shopping with especially with the holidays approaching. Then join box tops online and begin your online shopping trip at the BoxTops Marketplace at www.btf.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Hilary Guillen at guillenmom@verizon.net.

Thank you for supporting the ELC!



Finally, "Growth in children is uneven. Like the seasons, the tides, the turning of the earth on itself and around the sun, the birth and death of stars, the music of the universe---there is an ebb and flow to life that is mystical and spiritual. Babies are calm at one time of day, fretful at another. Children are more compliant and obedient at one age, more resistant and difficult at others. Learning seems to come in spurts and be followed by periods of consolidation. Sudden spurts of physical growth are obvious, and are followed by periods of little physical change. This shifting back and forth is a normal part of the life cycle and appears to continue into adulthood." *Chip Wood in Yardsticks.*