



WELCOME
TO
ST. THOMAS
EARLY LEARNING CENTER



**Your Friday Newsletter from St. Thomas Early Learning Center
November 4, 2011**

The Gardens

of St. Thomas Early Learning Center

Growing with all the right things :



good soil sunshine water fresh air



The Children

of St. Thomas Early
Learning Center



Growing with all the right things:

Good teachers Love Respect Safe Environment and plenty of sunshine!



A Parenting Class just for you!

The Autism Spectrum: What does it look like in a young child??

A personal perspective from a Mom who has two children with this diagnosis.

Join us for this hour to hear Mrs. Sarah Foster discuss her personal experiences, and tell us ways that she has found to create success in their family life.

Mrs. Foster spoke to us last Fall and many parents have asked that she be invited to speak again. It will be a valuable hour for ALL parents.

Babysitting Service will be provided in the Nursery.

NOTE: WE ARE PROVIDING THESE PARENTING WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PARENTS & COMMUNITY. ANYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

November 14

7:00 – 8:00 PM

Parish Hall

UPDATE ON THE FORT!

Getting Closer...but we still need your help



As of today, the school has received \$2,585 in donations towards the goal of \$3,000.

Many thanks to parents, Board members, and teachers for helping us raise funds to rebuild the fort. Children love to climb! Children **NEED** to climb! **We need your gifts to collect all that is needed to build a wonderful and safe new climbing structure.** Please send in your tax-deductible gift today. *On behalf of the children....Thank You!*



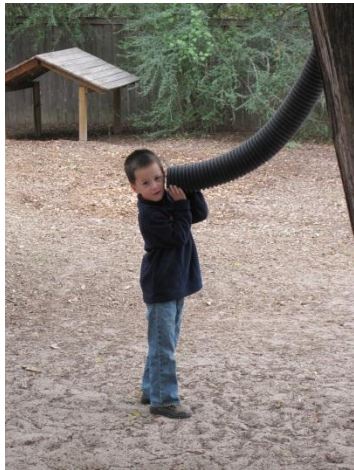
(workers tearing down the old fort last month)

Our goal is to rebuild it for the Christmas Holidays



Picture Re-Takes will be Monday, November 7 beginning 9:00 a.m. for all MWF children who missed or need a picture retaken.

If you have a child who only comes on Tuesday-Thursday, and you want a picture taken, please bring them by the school between 10 and 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 7. These beautiful school pictures are taken by Scott at Brenham Portrait Gallery, and he does a wonderful job of capturing the children’s expressions in a natural way. He will also do a sibling portrait if you ask him. He will not be coming on Tues, so plan to do this Monday morning if you want one.



Sometimes our volunteers go to “great heights” to fix things for our playground. That’s Manda Rosser, parent and Board Member, in the tree re-stringing the St. Thomas ELC telephone! Wow—above and beyond!



Macaroni & Cheese

“Sharing with others at Thanksgiving”

Please begin sending in boxes of Mac & Cheese to your child’s teacher **beginning November 7.**

This is our Fall Service Project, reminding us what **being thankful** is all about.

Candy Tithe at Chapel this week



Children were happy to give their Halloween Candy Tithe!

A Look at Our History.....**News from 1971**

St. Thomas Early Learning Center opened its doors in 1964 as a single kindergarten class with the **Rev. William Oxley** as Headmaster and Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Now as we are in our 47th Year, the school has been led by **Valerie Woodcock, Laura Calvin, and Mary Skow** as Heads of School and; enrollment has grown from one small class of Kindergarteners and one teacher to 120 students with a staff of 20.

Below is an excerpt from the **HOUSTON CHRONICLE "Texas Sunday Magazine", September 12, 1971** and features St. Thomas Early Learning Center's barnyard animals on the grounds of the school. "Besides learning about the individual animals, **Mrs. Betty Pettit**, a kindergarten teacher, believes that children can learn to love, to relate and to communicate with people through a loving relationship with a pet."

News from Former Students: Where Are They Now?

THANKS to these families for writing in their **ALUMNI NEWS**

My 48-year-old son, **Robert Zipp**, is a venture capitalist in San Francisco. I believe he was the first ELC graduate to graduate from high school.
(Margaret Ann Zipp)

Summer Brewster is at Sam Houston and will graduate in May 2012. **Shea** is at A&M going into building construction and should graduate 2013. **Tanner** graduated from Sam Houston and works as an online consultant for Stylecraft Builders. **Chase** graduated from A&M at Galveston, works at TDI-Brooks as a Marine Biologist researcher and is in Graduate school at A&M. **Cassie and Ame** are both in Austin. Ame graduated from Cornell. Cassie is getting married in April of 2013 and works at Bess Café in Austin. **(Toby Brewster)**

Lauren Smith started at age three in Mrs. Brown's class and has fond memories of the school. Our favorite memory however is watching Lauren sit on the floor with **Mrs. Sagong in Silvey House**. Lauren would tell her stories and she would write them word for word. Lauren is now 13 and in 7th grade at AMCMS and still remembers and loves Mrs. Sagong. **(Beverly Smith)**

Dillon Garrett is a freshman at UNT, majoring in Jazz Performance on the trombone. His sister, **Sydney Garrett**, is a freshman at Consol (making straight A's in AP courses!)

"I still have a photo of Dillon as *George Washington* on my desk. And the photos of Syd when she was the Christmas star in the Kindergarten Class. Those were such special years. At this moment, what I remember most fondly of the St Thomas years has to be the community. We knew all the parents of the other kids in the classes. We knew that if our child went to another child's home, there was a great confidence in that knowledge." **(Bill Garrett)**

THE CHILDREN'S MENAGERIE:



Alumni Here do you recall a child? Sandra and Alice Davis, we were instructing on the things being done in the College Station, St. Thomas Episcopal Church day school, which operates its own zoo. Right? (Dillon's Mom says her son is reading an African proverbs book which he had some down on a shelf.)
By Annie White
(Houston Chronicle Staff)

An undecorated child who can't grade on a set has a problem if he's left to fend for himself. (Dillon's Mom says her son is reading an African proverbs book which he had some down on a shelf.)
He can't have a rabbit now, or sheep, but what if he really wants to keep his pet? He's got to go to the pet store.
The class at St. Thomas, in fact, is free and open air. (Dillon's Mom says her son is reading an African proverbs book which he had some down on a shelf.)
All learning at St. Thomas, in fact, is free and open air. (Dillon's Mom says her son is reading an African proverbs book which he had some down on a shelf.)
This message is operating under the traditional name of the Child and Adult Psychological Center, a part of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church, a non-profit, non-commercial, dog school. For all kinds of all kinds, students who require the care of the

The lending zoo at College Station



I would love for our alumni to send in your memories, and your children's experiences for this featured page each week. **Let us hear from you!** Mary Skow..... mskow@stthomaselec.org