



# STEVENS FOREST NURSERY SCHOOL

A COOPERATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

410-997-0808 [www.stevensforestnurseryschool.org](http://www.stevensforestnurseryschool.org)

November 2011

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## President Message: Casey Otten

Happy November! I hope everyone had a wonderful Halloween and found somewhere to stash all that extra candy. With one month of school already behind us and the Holidays fast approaching, we have so many fun events coming up in November (field trips, Thanksgiving Feasts and the perennial favorite..turkeys from handprints). The transition to our temporary location has been a success; all the children are making great progress. Once again I'd like to thank the members of the board, teachers and families for all the help during the weekend packing and unpacking

Sessions. All this moving has certainly helped me appreciate how easy we have things in our school. Most other co-op schools have to pack up their classrooms daily. That said, I know everyone is as eager as I am to return to our school and we will keep you updated with progress reports as we receive them. The interior work is coming along very well and we will even have some awesome improvements. Bid offers for the roof work are under final review and we should have a start date soon. Thanks to all our families for making this a great Fall so far!

## Teacher Notes:

### Ms. Katie writes:

I cannot believe it is November already! Ms. Ann and I are really enjoying our time with the 3day class. Our friends are doing well adjusting to our new surroundings. October is always fun, but I think we can all agree that everyone of our sweet goblins looked adorable in their costumes. I hope they had as much fun as we did trick or treating.

This month, we will talk about many fall themes including scarecrows, leaves, pilgrims, Native Americans, and Thanksgiving. Our

Thanksgiving Feast will be on November 21<sup>st</sup>. All parents are to return to school at 11:00am so we can have a fun feast in honor of our Thanksgiving tradition. Please check with your class coordinator so that you know what to bring in that day. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions!

Happy Fall!



## A Big Thank You

I also wanted to give a special thank you to Sandy C. and the rest of the staff at The Other Barn for the warm welcome. We hope they are enjoying us there, even with all the noise!

### Ms. Ann writes:

I mistakenly printed the wrong Class Activation Code on the Scholastic Book fliers. **The correct code is GVVYC.** You only need the activation code the first time you place an online order.

**Ms. Monica writes:**

It's getting closer to my favorite time of year-The Holiday Season. It's a favorite time at school as well. Especially when I see the children are showing growth in their personal and social development and are enjoying their time in school. Hopefully, when you are in the classroom, you see the same.

In the 2day class, we are working on colors and sorting and continuing to get to know our new friends and adjusting to the school experience.

In the 4day class, we have been working on AB, ABC, and AAB patterns. We have already completed five letters of the alphabet and reinforcement of those letters sounds at home is encouraged. The letters include: F, E, D, P and B. Hopefully, the children are also able to share some information on the Letter Day animals we have been learning about.

November is also fun since we will be learning about our tradition of Thanksgiving and experiencing life as a Native American and a Pilgrim. To round out our knowledge, we invite the families

To return to school on Thursday, November 17 at 2:15pm for a short program and to be part of our Thanksgiving Feast.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.



## Membership Memos: Lori Hall



### We Still Have Openings in All Classes

If you know anyone interested in enrolling their child in a preschool; please let them know about us.

## Fundraising Fun: Julia McDonough

### Reminders:

**Holiday Wreaths Orders are due NOV. 3rd**

**Holiday Wreath Delivery is week of December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Original Artwork Orders are due November 16th**

**Original Artwork Delivery in early December. Delivery date will be provided Later.**



A BIG thank you to all families that participated in our first several fundraisers. We have earned for the school approximately \$1500 (yard sale \$500, Mum Sale \$675, and Spirit wear \$300) Participation is optional but we encourage your school support, which helps our bottom line at the end of the year. Our current budget projects us with a loss and every dollar in fundraising makes the gap to breaking even a little smaller and keeps tuition from increasing in large amounts.

## Inside the Classes:

### 4day Class Coordinator -Holly Mays

It's getting colder outside and that means we're well on our way through the 2011-2012 school year. The children and staff seem to be settling into our temporary location at The Other Barn. I know co-oping families are enjoying the easier clean-up there!

In class, the students have had a lot to be proud of. They've had several show and tells which the children are increasingly excited about. They have discovered some new things like graphs, making their own snacks, letters and writing, parts of an apple, and spooky fall creatures in preparation for Halloween. The 4day class has also had it's first two "All About Me" bucket participants.

Outside the classroom, the children enjoyed a trip to Larriland Farms, where they went on a hayride and picked out a pumpkin. Coming up in November will be a trip to Sharps Waterford Farm, more special snacks and more great Holiday celebrations.

### 3Day Coodinator: Sharon Kemmlein

It looks like everyone is getting the hang of flying their bee tags around to the class centers. They knew the routine better than I did on my last co-op day! Ms. Katie and Ms. Ann have been working hard with the kids to help them be good listeners and earn their hand stamp each day. They look so proud to come out of the classroom and show it off.

In November, they will continue with more Show & Tell and All About Me days, and getting more practice talking to their classmates. We also have the Thanksgiving Feast to look forward to later in the month.



### 2Day Coordinator: Aparna Shanbhag

What a dramatic change from the first day of school...the 2day class seems to be settling quite nicely into the routine. The chaos of the first day has now been replaced by the children actually staying, for the most part on their carpet squares during music and story. Also, any crying after drop-off seems to taper off much sooner as the kids find their favorite activity or toys. So far, the bean table has been extremely successful at stopping tears mid cheek.

A reminder to the parents that Spirit Day is once every month (Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> for 2day) and it is an opportunity to show our support for the school by having the children wear their SFNS t-shirts or hoodies.

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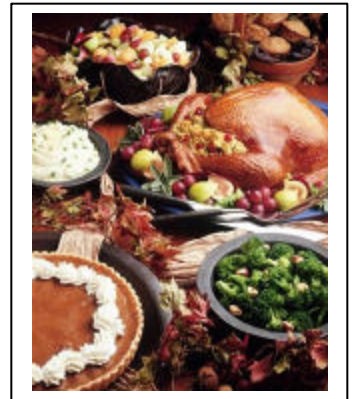
*Tuition due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Late payments are subject to a \$10.00 per month late fee.  
Please add to your check when you are aware that your payment is late.*

## Treasurer Reminders: Diane Imbach

### Payment Reminders:

Tuition is due on November 1<sup>st</sup> (grace period extends through the 5<sup>th</sup>). Late payments are subject to a \$10 per month fee. Please include late fee with your payment if you expect it will be received after November 5<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be

mailed directly to me or dropped off in the black lock box located in the back of the student's folder file during school hours. Please be reminded that ALL cash payments must be made to me in person. Cash should NOT be mailed or left in the box.



## Health & Safety: Ms. Monica



**Please contact a teacher when your child is not going to be attending school!!!!**

**Ms. Monica 301-704-1550 or [monicastamps@verizon.net](mailto:monicastamps@verizon.net)**

**Ms. Katie 410-300-4686 or [thebaushouse@verizon.net](mailto:thebaushouse@verizon.net)**

**Also, if they are out for longer than 3day with an illness; we need a note from you or the physician saying they are fine to be returning to school per licensing regulations.**

**We are concerned about your children and this eases our minds.**

### NEW SIGN IN/SIGN OUT PROCEDURE

Please remember to include your arrival time on our new sign in log. Also, the dismissing teacher will be collecting signatures and time of the children leaving at the end of class. Per our handbook-three (3) late co-op arrivals, child late arrivals or late pickups are subject to a late fee for each time after the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense. This has become a problem lately and we are enforcing this policy! You can avoid warnings by calling and letting us know you are running late.

Ms. Monica 301-704-1550

Ms. Katie 410-300-4686

Please remember your children start to worry when you are not there to get them, when all the other children have been dismissed.



**It's getting colder outside; please start to change the extra clothing in your child's backpack to something a little warmer.**

### **LABEL ALL COATS-PLEASE**

With our bins, it is easy for coats to become mixed up.



## HOLIDAY SHOPPING IS SOON TO BEGIN

Remember:

### Ways to Support Stevens Forest Nursery School

1. Amazon.com purchases can be made thru the Stevens Forest Nursery School Website go to [www.stevensforestnurseryschool.org](http://www.stevensforestnurseryschool.org) click on "Support Us" and you are redirected to Amazon.com proceed as you normal
2. Use your Safeway and Harris Teeter cards when shopping for those Holiday meals
3. Support the school by participating in our fundraisers.
4. Attend Restaurant Nights to avoid of night of cooking during the Holiday Season



## Cheeburger Cheeburger Restaurant Night Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Come out to Cheeburger Cheeburger in Columbia for another fun-filled restaurant night with your SFNS friends! Their burgers are made of all-natural angus beef and they have a huge list of delicious milkshake flavors to choose from. Cheeburger Cheeburger will donate 20% of sales from dine-in or carry-out orders to SFNS. Look for the flyers in folders and by email later in November. See you there!



Accreditation Update: Ms Monica

Just to bring you up to date on our accreditation process to this point. I am just about finished writing up our program improvement plan and timeline. Also, I have been working on a staff handbook and beginning the process of working on school evaluations. Our handbooks both family and staff are being reviewed for content and to make sure we are following the law. Finally, I have met with a fellow co-op teacher whose program has become accredited for clarification on the Family and Community Sections to make sure our plans for this partnership meets accreditation requirements.

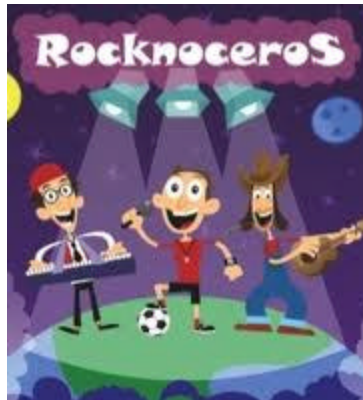


## Things to Do in November

Lively Arts at The Other Barn-November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Performance is Rocknoceros

(Mention you are part of SFNS at the cost is \$4.00 per person)



Going on Sale at The Other Barn in November:

The Polar Express Tickets

Shows: Dec 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:30pm

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:30pm and 7:30pm

And

Breakfast With Santa Tickets

Sat. December 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00am & 9:45am

### Howard County Crafts Spectacular

Howard County Fairgrounds

Fri Nov. 4-Sun. Nov. 6 9am-5pm

### Maryland Christmas Show

Frederick Fairgrounds

Nov. 18-20 and Nov. 25-27 10am-6pm

### Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade

Ellsworth Dr. to Sligo Ave in downtown Silver Spring

November 19 9:30am-12 (noon)

### Gingerbread House Contest and Show

Darnall's Chance House Museum

14800 Gov, Oden Bowie Dr.

Nov. 25-Dec. 11 12pm-5pm

### Holiday Festival of Trains

B&O Museum

Nov, 25-Dec 31

10am-4pm Mon-Sat 11-5 Sun

### Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Watkins Regional Park

Mon-Sun 5-9:30pm

### Tree Lighting Ceremony-

Santa House next to Catonsville

Firehouse

Saturday, Nov. 26 6:30pm

### Winter Holiday Model Train Show

Turf Valley Resort

November 26 9am-4pm

November 27 10am-4pm



## *Annual Holiday Open House 2011*

**Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm-10:00pm**

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am- 3:00pm**

Do you want to give something different this year for holiday gifts?

Do you want to give a special keepsake, which the recipient  
will know you put a lot of thought into?

Do you want a fun evening out with friends while you are eating,  
having wine and winning great prizes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions... this open house is for you! Bring a friend!



Purses            Tote Bags            Cosmetic Cases  
Duffle Bags Insulated Lunch Bags  
Baby Gifts            Hand Towels  
Back Packs Fleece Blankets            Apparel  
And so much more!  
Cash, checks and credit cards accepted!

**[www.TacoBird.com](http://www.TacoBird.com) [TacoBird@comcast.net](mailto:TacoBird@comcast.net)**

**8725 Cheshire Court, Jessup, MD 20794**

**Make sure to look for us on Facebook!**

**301-498-3543**

# November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>Daily Celebrations For November</b>		<b>1</b> All Saint's Day	<b>2</b> All Soul's Day	<b>3</b> Housewife's Day	<b>4</b> King Tut Day	<b>5</b> Book Lovers Day
<b>6</b> Marooned w/o a Compass Day	<b>7</b> Bittersweet Chocolate w/almonds Day	<b>8</b> Cook Something Bold Day	<b>9</b> Chaos Never Dies Day	<b>10</b> Forget-me-not Day	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	<b>12</b> Chicken Soup for the Soul Day
<b>13</b> Sadie Hawkins Day	<b>14</b> Operating Room Nurse Day	<b>15</b> Clean Your Refrigerator Day	<b>16</b> Button Day	<b>17</b> Take a Hike Day	<b>18</b> Occult Day	<b>19</b> Have a Bad Day Day
<b>20</b> Universal Children's Day	<b>21</b> World Hello Day	<b>22</b> Go For A Ride Day	<b>23</b> Eat a Cranberry Day	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>25</b> Black Friday	<b>26</b> Shopping Reminder Day
<b>27</b> Pins and Needles Day	<b>28</b> Red Planet Day	<b>29</b> Square Dance Day	<b>30</b> Stay At Home Because You Are Well Day			

### **It's Toddler Time!**

Your tiny tot's demands, desires, and demeanor can be perplexing. Here's what's going on inside that little head.

#### **Uh oh-I'm losing control!**

Tantrums often happen because 2-year-olds don't have coping skills and can't calm themselves down once they start getting worked up. Knowing your child's stress threshold and when to step in to prevent a tantrum from starting is key. Quietly offer a snuggle after a tantrum to reassure him of how much you love him.

#### **I do it!**

Toddlers experience frustration because their physical and verbal abilities have not yet caught up with their brains -they can't always express themselves or take part in "big kid" activities the way they want to. Help your child work through a rough patch by asking, "It seems like you're angry-how can I help?"

#### **My way or the highway**

At this age, kids realize that they're individuals and want to prove it, so yours may start demanding or refusing certain foods, outfits, and more. He may also start refusing your help with things like completing puzzles. He still needs your help though, which causes a conflict within him between wanting your assistance and wanting to grow up. Try to empathize with his struggle. Offer help when he seems like he needs it, but try not to push it too hard.

#### **I'm still your baby.**

Just as children strive for autonomy, the idea of doing things on their own can be scary. Your toddler may try to behave like a baby by reverting to habits such as drinking from a bottle to avoid new responsibilities. As you encourage him to try things on his own, lay on the love and attention so your child knows that you're always there to support him.

#### **No!**

Your toddler probably says, "No!" just about as often as he says "Me!" He's recently realized that he can test your authority. Avoid this issue by offering limited, appropriate choices and giving fewer direct commands. Also, try to limit your own use of the word "No".

Sources: Michelle Borba, Ed.D., Alice Sterling Honig, Ph.D., Susan A. Miller, Ed.D., and Joshua Sparrow, M.D.

# **Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!**