



STEVENS FOREST NURSERY SCHOOL

A COOPERATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

410-997-0808 www.stevensforestnurseryschool.org

October 2011

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President Message: Casey Otten

Dear SFNS Families,

After our unexpected delay we are happily back in school. I hope your children are as excited as my son is to be back in the school routine. The temporary classroom has been a great success so far and the kids all seem to be settling into the new routine. Now that we are moving forward, I am eager to watch our children grow and learn together. Once again, I would like to thank each and every family for the extraordinary patience, support and help through everything. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Festival and the October restaurant night and having a chance to relax and enjoy our amazing SFNS community.

Lastly, I would like to extend a special thank you to my fellow board members for their unwavering support and to Ms. Monica, Ms. Katie, and Ms. Ann for leading us through this transition.

**Great Job on
the Yard Sale
We earned
\$500**

TEACHER'S NOTES:

From Ms. Katie

We have had quite an adventurous beginning to our 2011-2012 school year, but I am so glad we are finally back into the classroom! Although, the Other Barn is not our regular school, it is helping us to meet our social and academic objectives. Everyone has done a great job adjusting to our first week together. Our three's class had a Teddy Bear Tour of the classroom and we even started our rotations using bees to "buzz" from center to center. This is just one of the many steps that we will take in preparation for our four's class and even kindergarten.

This month we will talk about many topics including sharing, Johnny Appleseed, pumpkins and several fun Halloween themes. Our pumpkin patch field trip will be on Friday, October 7th at Larriland Farm. We will need everyone to arrive at school BEFORE 8:45am that day so that we can arrive on time for our hayride. It is a really fun trip so we hope that all of our students can make it. Of course, no October would be complete without a little Halloween parade and a chance to trick or treat with our parents and maybe even some of our friends at the Other Barn.

I want to thank each and every one of our families and friends for being so supportive during our temporary transition. Although we have not had much time in the classroom at this point, it was great spending time with so many families at several of the September play dates. The class coordinators did an excellent job at keeping our classes active, which will only strengthen friendships and bond us closer as a community.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

From Ms. Monica

Wow, in all of my fifteen plus years involved in the preschool setting as a parent and teacher have I experienced the moving of a school to a temporary location. Also, I have never experienced an earthquake followed by two hurricanes back to back to create the kind of weather we have had. Major snow, which brings school closure is about the worst thing, I've ever had to endure. I certainly hope weather-wise that this is it for our school year.

I would like to thank everyone from our current families to even our alumni for all they have helped us with during the past couple of weeks, in donating containers to helping us pack up or load the POD. Also, our building managers at The Other Barn, Sandy and Susan, have gone to great strides to make sure everything is getting approved for us to move into a temporary location there as fast as we can. Also, CA has been wonderful in sending out maintenance personnel to assess the problem when it happened and to begin the necessary repairs as always.

I actually feel that this "experience" as my family likes to call the unexpected has helped the classes become more familiar with each other. The class chairs, Aparna, Sharon and Holly, have been great in planning activities as well as our own president, Casey. I know the children who have attended these events have been excited about them because I have met up with the children in the stores around Columbia and they tell me all about what they have been doing.

Finally, to all the families, I would like thank you for your continued support of our board and myself, Ms. Katie and Ms. Ann as we get the school year started. Whether this is your first year with us or you are in the last preschool year, we want you to know that your children and their experience at school is the most important thing to us. We have so much planned to create a wonderful learning experience, we just can't wait to get started.

Now, that we are in our temporary location, I hope we continue to work towards making our school the wonderful place for children to learn. Ms. Katie, Ms. Ann and I have many wonderful opportunities planned for the children to explore and learn thru their play. We spent this first week in the classroom making and remembering the rules, as well as learning the names of our new friends, and beginning to understand the new routine. We hope you will continue to support us as we work out the kinks of our new location as well as the packing and unpacking that is going to be required of us each weekend in this location.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Inside the Classes



From 4Day Class Chair-Holly

What an unexpected start to the year we've had, with the rain damage, tummy aches and sniffles. Let's hope the worst is behind us.

A great big "thank you" to all the families who have contributed to helping pack up the school and to participating in some of the school's activities. Our kids and families heard some great stories and participated in some educational activities at the library and picnic trip. The field trip to Clark Elioak Farm turned out to be fantastic fun on a gorgeous sunny day. Our 4day class also gathered together at the Columbia Mall for Family Fun Day to listen to stories, sing songs and dance. Afterward, we had cookies and juice at the Nordstrom Café (thanks, Casey). Ms. Katie led the children through their first "show n tell" of the year. The children did such a good job sharing about all the things they brought in.



From 3Day Class Sharon Kemmlein

Who knew our kids would be starting off their school year with so many travels? Pretty soon they'll be settled into class and learning the morning routine. Show N Tell is a new experience and I can't wait to see what they bring in to show their classmates. I'm sure there will be some interesting choices and stories to hear!

From Aparana -2Day Class Chair

Yay! Our 2's have successfully been through their first week of class! Some of us had a chance to co-op and as a parent, I love that there are so many things for the children to do, apart from playing with all those wonderful toys. Of course, it's been a tough week for most of us (next week, for me!) as our children resist being away from their parents. The teachers and others who've been through this before reassure us to be patient and that as the kids get used to the people, activities and the schedule, they will begin to feel more secure. Here's to drama-free drop offs!



Membership: Lori Hall



We still have Opening

2day Class-2 slots

3day Class-2 slots

4day Class-5 slots

If you know anyone interested in enrolling their child in preschool please give them our name and number.

Scholastic Books Starting this Month

In your folders this month you will find information on a wonderful way to provide reading opportunities for your children and help the school obtain books for our library. Each month you will receive the catalog flyers from several Scholastic Book Clubs. You can either place an order with a check in Ms. Ann's folder or go on-line with our school code to place your order using a credit card. Either way, the school is eligible to earn free books for the month and obtain points to use on future book and educational material offered by Scholastic.

Monthly participation is optional!

Fundraising Fun: Julia McDonough



www.shutterstock.com - 26234611

Mum Flower Order Forms Due October 6

Mum Flowers will arrive on Tuesday, Oct. 11 in the parking lot of The Other Barn near temp school location for your pick up. Please make arrangement to pick up your mums on this day. We have no storage for them if they are not picked up. Time info will be sent in an email.

Original Artworks order forms will be distributed later this month.

Health & Safety: Ms. Monica

REMINDER:

**CO-OP FAMILIES ARRIVE
8:45AM OR 12:15PM**

**CHILDREN DROP OFF
9:00AM OR 12:30PM**

**TEACHERS WILL OPEN DOOR TO
ALLOW CHILDREN INTO
CLASSROOM**

**PLEASE DROP OFF & PICK UP
CHILDREN
ON TIME**

**WITH OUR ARRIVAL HANDWASHING
ROUTINE TAKING LONGER DUE TO OUR
BATHROOM LOCATIONS WE NEED ALL
CHILDREN TO ARRIVE AT ONE TIME
AND FOR PICK UP, THE TEACHERS NEED
TO LEAVE ON TIME TO PICK UP THEIR
OWN CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.**

**PICK UP TIME IS
11:00AM 2DAY
11:30AM 3DAY
3:00PM 4DAY**

Please make sure that your child backpack has the following inside it each day for school

One ziplock bag with a complete change of clothes (pants, shirt, underwear, socks) and their name on outside of bag

One ziplock bag with a small water bottle, nutritious snack without nuts, and a small toy (car, coloring book/crayons, game, etc)

For 2day class: please remember diapers or pull-ups as well as wipes

Also make sure your child's name is on the top area of the outside of backpack.

**Please send the children to school
with shoes that will stay on their
feet .**

NO FLIP FLOPS, please!

Social Committee:



**Come Join Us
Wednesday, October 12
5:00pm-9:00pm**

At

Mimi's Café

**For a Social Restaurant Night
Flyers are in your folders**

**Remember a portion of all sales is
earned by the school**

SFNS Fall Festival Fun

**Come spend Saturday, October 22
From 11:00am-1:00pm**

**With all the families at our spectacular fall
social event**

**More information regarding this event and
needed help will be forthcoming in your
folders during October.**

Things to do in October

PICK YOUR OWN FARMS:

Larriland Farm: www.pickyourown.com

Sharp's at Waterford Farm: www.sharpfarm.com

Larriland Fall Festival-each weekend in October www.pickyourown.com

Kings Contrivance Halloween Happenings:

Scarecrow Making & Hayrides - Sat, October 22, 11am-1pm. Come join the fun with neighbors and friends at this popular annual event. Bring some old clothes and two pairs of pantyhose (optional) to make your scarecrow. We provide the straw.

Halloween Happenings - Fri, October 28, 5-7pm. Wear your costume and enjoy free entertainment and treats at A mherst House. Followed by trick or treating in the village center.



FAMILY FUN

Festival

Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, 5-8pm

River Hill Garden Center

Voted **Best Garden Center/Nursery**
In 2010 by Howard Magazine Readers!

12165 CLARKSVILLE PIKE | CLARKSVILLE MD 21029 | RIVERHILLGARDENCENTER.COM | 410.531.3303

Featuring
Wild Willy Woo Woo
Urban Bar-B-Que
and **Live Music!**

The poster features a row of colorful flowers (purple, red, yellow, orange, red, yellow) and a large pumpkin in the bottom left corner. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the event name and date prominently displayed.

Kids Nearly New Sale

SATURDAY, October 8th • 8am - 1pm

FREE ADMISSION

Howard County Fairgrounds

Exhibition Building (Int 70, exit 80)

140 booths with new & different families from Fall Sale I,

crafters and services selling kids stuff.

NB - teens/adult sizes (high school kids)



Used Rubber Stamp Sale

Featuring Stampin' UP! Products

Stamps and accessories

Saturday, October 8, 2011

9:00am-12:00pm

Ridgely Run Community Center

8400 Mission Rd

Start a new hobby or add to stamp addiction with great prices on stamp sets and accessories to make homemade cards or for use in your memory albums.



OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Do you have a plan?

Fire Safety Checklist

_____ I know two ways to get out of my house:

_____ and
_____.

_____ My family has decided on a meeting place. It is

_____.

_____ We have tested the batteries in our smoke alarm.

_____ The local emergency number is posted near our telephone.

It is _____.

Oakland Mills Cultural Arts Festival

Live Music

Children's Crafts

Festival Food

**Health
Screenings**

Vendors

...Much, Much More



**Saturday,
October 15, 2011
11:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.**

**Oakland Mills Village Center
5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045**

**Contact: 410-730-4610
ocaadmin@columbiavillages.org
www.oaklandmills.org**

RAIN OR SHINE



**Sponsored By
Oakland Mills
Community
Association**

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
click on "Support Us" and you are redirected to Amazon.com
proceed as you normal

2. Please bring your Safeway and Harris Teeter store cards to the General Orientation meeting. We are participating in their education funding programs this year and will be collecting your store card information to start earning money for our school. Registering your card through these programs does not give us any access to your account information.

Thank you for your support!