Dear GAP Families,

By now you have received your confirmation of placement for next term. Please let us know if you would like to be added to a waiting list for more time or if you would like to change your confirmed schedule.

As we enter April we have a few more schedule changes with our teachers to make you aware of. Kisher (currently 10-6 in the toddler room) will be leaving on maternity leave. Beginning April 16th Rosanne (currently 12-6 in the junior room) will move to the toddler room to work 10-6. Patricia will work 12-6 in the junior room except on Wednesdays when Belinda will be there. Also, our beloved Adele (8-1 in the toddler room) will be leaving Grenada mid May to go back to Canada. We are sure going to miss you Adele.

The week of July 12-16, 2010 Grace Lutheran Church will be offering a FREE Vacation Bible School for children ages 3-6 (all children must toilet trained). The hours will be 9am-12 pm and will be hosted at the GAP. Grace Church has offered to reserve spaces for GAP children to participate.

The GAP is proposing Summer Day Camp, July 19-30, 2010. The camp will be open for children ages 3-9 (all children must be toilet trained). The program will cost $300.00 EC per child. (Please note this program will only operate if there is enough interest.) Please let us know if you are interested in either program by filling in the survey forms in each classroom, or by sending us and email.

St. Patricks Day

March 17th saw all the children wear green to celebrate St Patrick’s Day. Ms Kathy gave a performance of Irish dancing which filled the kids and staff with motivation to give it a go. The toddlers, juniors and seniors then participated in Irish dancing lessons under Miss Kathy’s instruction. All of the children gave the Irish dancing their best shot and we may have a few budding performers here in the GAP. We hope you all got a performance at home.

What’s been happening in the Infant Playroom?

Circle time and music time have proved to be two of the most exciting times in the infant room this month. The infants have been singing along to action songs, clapping, dancing and
shaking their instruments. The songs of the month have been, 'row row row your boat' and 'if you are happy and you know it.' The infant room is becoming both very active and wonderfully noisy.

We now have a few more crawlers and walkers. Our ‘big girl’ in the infant room does a great job of bringing toys to those less mobile children and helping clean up, thanks Ella. The infants have also become more verbal, responding and imitating babbling and words. In the afternoons, some of the walking infants join the toddlers for music time and it is thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The infants were spectators for the GAP Sports Day cheering on the toddlers, juniors, seniors and staff. The infant fun day was a success; seeing all the infants win gold medals in swimming, crawling and pushing the trucks. Thanks to the parents who came and cheered their children on.

What’s been happening in the Toddler Playroom?

During the month of March, toddlers focused on numbers 1, 2 and 3. They had a great time playing games to introduce and reinforce number recognition. The toddlers have been exploring the numbers by sorting groups of toys, painting numbers and counting things in the room.

Toddlers use play-dough weekly to help develop their fine motor skills. The pinching, twisting, molding and shaping of play-dough actually help them get ready to write by working out their finger muscles! For sensory fun and exploration we used cornstarch, water and food coloring to turn a solid into a liquid. It feels cool!

During morning circle, pictures of happy and sad faces are used to help toddlers learn to recognize and name emotions. This is all part of our work towards getting children to express themselves independently.

We have been working on our listening skills by playing "Simon Says". Following directions and waiting to make the appropriate response is challenging work for toddlers.

We would like to welcome Laurance and Kanyin to our toddler room.

Next Month we will be exploring “things that fly”.

What’s been happening in the Junior/Senior Playroom?

The juniors completed exploring the Unit “Parts of the Plant” in Science. The children can now identify the various parts of the plant and explain their functions. Tasting the edible parts of the plant was interesting as some of the foods were new to most of the children. To conclude this unit the children will be preparing their own lunch (mashed potatoes, vegetable and green salads and chicken nuggets) on Wednesday April 14th. Please be reminded all donations are due by Monday April 12th.
In mathematics visual discrimination has been the central focus as the children learned the concepts of patterns and sequencing. Their creativity was demonstrated by using different mediums to form their own patterns from their conversations and facial expressions they enjoyed the activities.

The children continued studying the letters P - T in Language Arts. They made paper and play-dough pizzas with various toppings. Pepperoni was their favorite topping. Did you notice the rainbow handprint and the quilt the children made? They displayed excellent cooperation skills to complete these projects. 

Next Month we will be our last two trips to the library for this term, April 9th & 23rd.

Mother's please circle the date, Mother's Day Trip Thursday May 7th.

The Seniors continued to follow Elmer through his adventures in "Elmer and the Dragon" the second book in the "My Father's Dragon" trilogy. The children are excited to learn what will happen to Elmer next in the final book. When they weren't reading, the Seniors were busy building oceans models, creating snakes and caterpillars, studying the world through magnifying glasses, discovering graphing with breakfast cereal, and exploring engineering with their own marshmallow towers. They have also learned about and practiced the importance of communicating and listening to one another.

**Parent Information**

Raising Boys and Girls: Differences in Physical Development
Last updated: August 2008
Babycenter.com

**Gender identity**
Children begin to identify themselves as a boy or a girl as early as 18 months. But it's between the ages of 2 and 6 that they begin to identify with others of their sex and demonstrate play and other behaviors that are characteristic of that sex. Most social scientists agree that an interplay of nature and nurture determines how these gender roles play out.

**Physical growth**
Between the big growth stages of infancy and adolescence, boys and girls grow in height and weight at about the same slow-but-steady rate. There aren't notable differences between the sexes until late elementary school, when girls start to grow taller faster, although boys catch up and exceed them within a few years.

**Motor skills**
Boys' gross motor skills (running, jumping, balancing) tend to develop slightly faster, while girls' fine motor skills (holding a pencil, writing) improve first. Often girls show an interest in art (painting, coloring, crafts) before boys for this reason.
Boys are also more physically aggressive and impulsive, as revealed by studies of their brains. The pleasure center of the brain actually lights up more for boys when they take risks. That's not to say that girls aren't active and risk-taking, only that on average boys are more so.

Verbal skills
More boys than girls are late talkers, and boys use more limited vocabularies. Girls are better at reading nonverbal signs, like tone of voice and expression, which also makes them better communicators early on, as they can connect feelings and words faster.

This is something you can focus on when reading books with boys: Point out characters' emotions, so boys start to notice how others are feeling.

Toilet training
Girls are potty-trained earlier than boys on average, though it's unclear whether this is due to physical differences or differences in socialization. (Mom usually does the training and may be easier for a girl to identify with.) Fewer girls wet the bed, too.