

COLE-HARRINGTON'S PRESCHOOL POST

Issue 68

Winter 2017

Dear Families,

Happy Winter and Happy Holidays to you and your family. I have several favorite months but December is the one I enjoy the most. Every year at Christmas time I get to go home to Iowa to spend time with my family. Since our visits are few and far between, we all look forward to these get-togethers. This year I'm saving my Midwest trip for the spring. My brother has triplets; Nolan, Dayna and Colten. They will be graduating from high school soon! I definitely want to be there for that accomplishment! It seems like it was only yesterday that they were in their preschool years.

Being a long distance aunt was certainly difficult for me, especially when they were all under five. Being an Early Childhood Educator I wanted to know about their developmental milestones, their personalities and their antics. Thank goodness I got to hear about their little lives and accomplishments through cards and letters, phone chats, shared photos and videos.

Since I only got to see them once a year, I've tried to give them an idea of who "Auntie Linda" was throughout the year. I'd send them cards, letters and pictures too. I also sent them stories and songs. Back then I put them on cassettes. For Christmas each year, I put together a scrapbook using the photos from the last visit. On each page I'd recreate our time together.

You see I felt that giving these triplets a sense of belonging to an extended family was the greatest gift I could give. I wanted them to know they were and are important to me and I was committed to not let 800 miles get in the way. Today it's even easier thanks to "Skype" and text messaging.

So if you have family members that you want your child to connect with and love across the miles, start now and make them REAL. Your efforts will give your child a sense of belonging to a special group that is part of their history and hopefully their future.

Sincerely,
Linda Feller
Program Coordinator

CONNECTING WITH FAR AWAY FAMILY MEMBERS... SOME ADDITIONAL IDEAS

For Children Connecting:

1. Create a "Kid Telephone Book". Use photographs along with names and phone numbers.
2. Create family videos. Send warm greetings, stories of the family and child accomplishments.
3. Bring out the photo album when making a family recipe and share memorable family moments.
4. Make gifts for distant relatives. Use their photo as gift tags so children know who they are for. Children can connect a name to a face.
5. Tell stories or write a storybook about distant relatives. With your help you will keep their memory alive.
6. Create "I Love You" books. Let your child tell distant relatives why they are important in their life.

For Grown-ups Connecting:

1. Use your picture as part of the gift tag when you mail packages. Children can see who the gift is from.
2. Get doubles of photos and always include a few in your correspondence.
3. Write special notes to nieces, nephews and grandchildren so they know they are important too.
4. Share a story on tape or video. Let the child know you picked it out special for them.
5. Create "I Love You" books. Tell distant nieces, nephews, cousins, etc. why they are important in your life.

SPOTLIGHT ON JEN ANZIVINO

Jen Anzivino graduated from Bridgewater State College with her BS in Early Childhood. She came to Cole-Harrington March 15, 1993, and began her teaching career with toddlers. After 1 ½ years with twos she decided to take on preschoolers and has worked with this age group ever since.

Jen decided to be an early childhood teacher after teaching the toddler group at her church. She found this age group to be exciting and enjoyable.

I asked Jen what she found rewarding about her career. She said, "To know I'm making an impression with children. I truly enjoy them. I laugh with them every day." I then asked her how she keeps her sense of humor. "It's me", she said "It's my nature to be happy and try to have fun with everything I do." Jen also shared what she thinks makes an effective teacher. "Getting down to children's level and interacting with each one individually every day. I truly respect children and make the time to listen, connect and support each child daily." What she hopes children in her group leave Cole-Harrington with are: "Happy Memories!"

Outside of Cole-Harrington Jen likes to travel, and work on various craft projects. "I also like to spend time with my family, especially my younger sister, Rachel and my nephew, Francisco," Jen shared. Jen incorporates her creative interests from home in her work at Cole-Harrington. According to Jen, she's always thinking of new ways to use materials with children. "I'm creative with my activities and think of different ways to meet children's needs."

COMMENTS FROM THE CHILDREN ABOUT JEN

Andrew "She teaches me how to be nice."

Ella "She makes cookies and she makes cards with me when I am sad."

Serena "She helps me make gifts."

Thomas "She reads books with me."

Max "She draws with me at the art table."

Gabby "She plays in blocks with me and helps me when a friend knocks down my building."

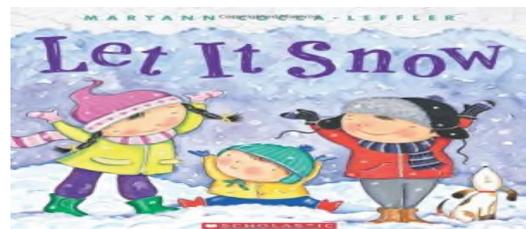
STAFF NOTES

- * On December 4th Jen Anzivino, Lorraine Anderson and Linda Feller attended the training, *Live Joyfully* by Jeanine Fitzgerald. Jeanine shared that in our society our stress level has increased to dangerous levels. This can be seen in children too. This causes a decrease in our own happiness. The secret to happiness according to Jeanine; 1) Be grateful for what you have, 2) Live your life with values, principles and integrity, 3) Have purpose in your life and 4) Forgive past injustices.
- * Lorraine Anderson is also taking an online course titled; "Everyone is Welcome" which is about ensuring our program is welcoming and respectful to all families and children.
- * Lilly Ferguson is taking an online training on how to support children with special needs.



SAVE YOUR HOLIDAY TRASH

When the holidays are over, recycle the used wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbon, holiday cards and tinsel for creative open ended art projects. With a little glue, some scissors, and construction paper your child can turn these scraps into beautiful collages, decorations and cards. Maybe your child will want to save their work to give as gifts for "Holiday 2018" or maybe they'll want to display their work in their room or on the fridge or maybe they'll just want to experiment with the glue, and or scissors. Just remember, for young children the end product is not as important as the process. For them art is an experiment, their discoveries are endless.



UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 4-8 Cookie Making and Decorating
14 Last day to donate Gifts for Kids
15-22 Pick-up Gifts for Kids
22 Pajama Day and Hot Cocoa
25, 26 Christmas Break, CH Closed



January

- 1 New Year's Day, C-H Closed
3-5 Show and Tell Days
15 Martin Luther King Day, C-H Closed
18 Metro South Gymnastics Field Trip



February

- All Month Families invited to Small Group Time
5 Children's Pizza Party Lunch
14 Valentine's Party
27 Yoga

March

- 16 Lucy the Leprechaun Visits
19 Walpole Dentistry- Dental Hygienist Visits



COLE-HARRINGTON EXTENSIONS

Activities that Extend Cole-Harrington's Curriculum and Content in the Home

Math Activities

- ◆ Ask your child to count how many holiday decorations you have at home such as wreaths, menorahs and holiday cards.
- ◆ Ask your child to compare the height of people in your family. Who is the tallest and the shortest?
- ◆ Give your child a popsicle stick or a piece of ribbon. Ask your child to measure the table, the rug or their bed. How many popsicle sticks long are they?
- ◆ Ask your child to find all the red objects in their toy box or all the toys with wheels. Explain how they are the same or different.
- ◆ Ask your child to give you three toys, three crackers or three books. Use other quantities with different objects in your home.
- ◆ Ask your child to find shapes inside your home and outside too.

Science Activities

- ◆ Observe and record changes that take place outside in the winter.
- ◆ Measure the amount of snow on the ground.
- ◆ Record daily and count how many sunny days, cloudy days, and snowy days in a week or for the month.
- ◆ Ask your child to take apart a ballpoint pen or flashlight. Then ask them to put it back together again.

WINTER REMINDER

Please dress your child for the weather.
We try to go outside twice a day weather permitting.

Thank you