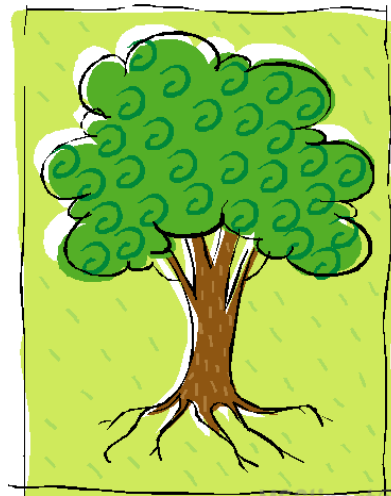


Dear Preschool Families,

Our class is beginning to study trees! We'll be observing and comparing trees to learn about what lives in them, what they're made from, and who cares for them. We hope that this study will help children explore and appreciate nature. As we study trees, we will use literacy, math, the arts, and technology to explore the topic in depth. We will learn important social studies and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations. Please visit the classroom during the study to see all that we are learning.

If you are able to take a "tree walk" with your child, we would appreciate your help in collecting tree parts to investigate. If you can, please take a bag to an area with trees and collect things that have fallen, such as leaves, bark, acorns, twigs, flowers, fruit, or cones. See below for suggestions of other tree parts you can bring in to the classroom.

- a variety of leaves
- small limbs, branches, twigs
- food from trees (fruit, nuts)
- pinecones
- evergreen sprigs or small boughs
- a live, potted tree
- flower clippings (may be kept in water)
- seeds
- tree "cookies" (cross sections of trees that show the rings)
- bark



We need your help to enrich the children's learning. If you work with trees, please let us know. Perhaps you're a gardener, forester, tree trimmer, tree farmer, or nursery worker. Even if your job is unrelated to trees, you can be involved in our study. Extra hands always help!

What You Can Do at Home

You can help your child explore and appreciate nature by learning about trees. Invite your child to talk about trees. Share stories about your favorite childhood memories involving trees and games you might have played around them. Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his or her thinking about trees.

"I wonder why leaves fall from trees."

"I wonder what makes some trees grow so big."

At home, collect parts of trees, and encourage your child to sort them. Your child might also enjoy making a collage by arranging and gluing tree items on paper.

At the end of our study, we'll have a special event to show you what we learned. Thank you for playing an important role in our learning. Also thank you for all of your support! I'm looking forward to start our first study. Please encourage your child to talk about what we are doing in school each day!

**WOW! Experiences
During the Tree Study**

Week of Oct. 19: Site visit to see trees (park around the school)

Field Trip to Trailside Nature Center Wednesday, October 28th

Week of Nov. 2: Site visit to see trees (park around the school)

Week of Nov. 9: Site visit to see trees (park around the school)

Visit from a family member to tell a story about something that lived in a tree

Week or Nov 10: Visit from someone who either grows food on trees or works with tree-grown food

Cooking experience with a family member: Making applesauce

Week Nov. 17: Visit from someone who takes care of trees

Cooking experience with a family member: Make a snack from food that comes from a tree

Week of Dec. 8: **Visit from someone who makes things out of wood**

Week of Dec. 15: **Tree Study Celebration**

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

starting at 2pm

**All parents and grandparents are invited to the classroom to celebrate.
(more information to come)**



If you or a family member are interested in coming in for a **WOW! Experience** please let me know!
More WOW! Experiences will come up, be on the lookout in the Friday Letter. ☺

**Thank You,
Ms. Tracy and Ms. Danielle**