

January 2012

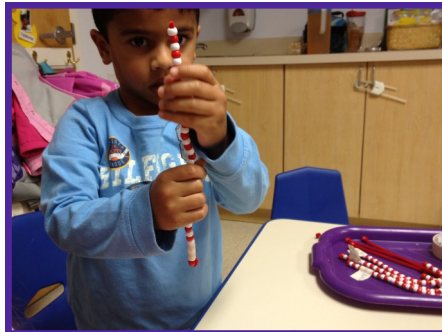


Golden Pond School Newsletter

Calendar Events

- 1/16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day LCPS Closed—All GPS Programs Closed
- 1/18 Full Day Kindergarten Information Night 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 1/19 Kindergarten Enrichment Information Night 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 1/22 Open House For Prospective Families 2012-2013 12:00-3:00pm
- 1/23 Preschool and KND Teacher-Initiated Conferences LCPS Closed-All GPS Programs Closed
- 1/24 thru 1/27 "In House" 2012-2013 Priority Re-Enrollment starts at 7am on 1/24 and ends at 6pm 1/27
- 2/10 & 2/14 Preschool and KND Valentine Exchanges
- 2/12 Open House for Prospective Families 2012-2013 12:00pm-3:00pm
- 2/20 President's Day LCPS Closed-All GPS Programs Closed
- 2/29 KND and KE Fairy Tale Tea 1:00pm-2:00pm
- 3/2 & 5 Preschool and KND Dr. Seuss' Birthday & Read Across America Celebrations
- 3/11 Open House for Prospective Families 2012-2013 12:00pm - 3:00pm
- 3/21 thru 23 Preschool and KND Donuts with Dad
- 4/2 thru 9 Spring Break LCPS Closed - All GPS Programs Closed
- 4/9 Student Holiday LCPS Closed - All GPS programs Closed
- 4/ 25 Spring Sing 6:30 to 7:30 at Broad Run High School

Preschool Math 101



The Three's classes spend time focusing on fun patterning exercises throughout the school year. Patterns are all around us, from the clothing we wear and music we hear, to the repeating patterns found in nature and everyday routine. Patterns exist both in the natural and man-made world. They are an element in art, as well as math and science. Knowledge of patterns allows one to systematize and predict outcomes; a basic math skill upon which many mathematical concepts are based.



The Ducklings of Room One spent the month of December discovering patterns through fun hands-on activities. They made beaded candy cane ornaments for our school holiday tree using red and white beads discovering basic AB patterns. The children also patterned with many other holiday items such as bows, ornaments, candy canes, presents, and bells. After just a bit of practice, the Ducklings began to pattern even when they didn't know they were patterning and were amazed at how often they'd find new patterns!



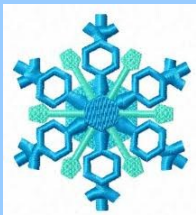
The children also worked very diligently on one-to-one correspondence, focusing on the numbers one through four. Understanding the one-to-one correspondence of object to object is also necessary before a child can carry out meaningful counting and higher calculations.

The Ducklings began learning with a collection of bows and stickers. Their task was to correctly select the number of each item and match the collection with the given number.

Math at Golden Pond School is fun because the children are learning these important beginning concepts through meaningful play!



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Kindergarten and Washington, D.C.



The Kindergarten Enrichment classes wrapped up 2011 by exploring a few of our Nation's most historic landmarks located on the National Mall while learning about traditions in Washington, D.C.

We began the month learning about the Capitol Building and welcoming the Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, D.C. from its long journey beginning in California. The classes were so enthusiastic about reading and searching for shapes in the big book Our Capital. This helped introduce the other monuments we would be learning about including the Lincoln Memorial,

the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the White House.

December quickly turned into a month of designing and building with wooden blocks. It was such a pleasure to witness the construction of these beautiful replicas each class built. The classes were also very busy creating maps of our National Mall which included the Potomac River, the Tidal Basin and the location of each historic structure we had been studying.

The highlight of the month was our trip to Washington, D.C. aboard a large charter bus to tour the Capitol Building and to see the other monuments. We believe it was just as exciting for the teachers as it was for the children. As we entered the city,



everyone started squealing with delight when we recognized monuments we knew. The teachers' delight came as they recalled detailed attributes about each structure they were witnessing.

What a pleasure to observe the theme for December "come to life" for the Kindergarten Enrichment classes!



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Open Houses for New Families

We will host our Open Houses for the upcoming school year on Sunday, January 22, Sunday, February 12, and Sunday, March 11 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Prospective families will have an opportunity to tour the school, see the classrooms and even meet some of the teachers.

If you have friends or neighbors who may be interested in learning more about Golden Pond School, please encourage them to attend one of these events.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We have come to the middle of our school year. This is when we sit down and review each student's progress, strengths and needs. The conferences will help you to determine the appropriate placement for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. Conferences will be held on January 23 at GPS between the hours of 8-5. If you need to change your scheduled time please do so by emailing your child's teacher before January 19th so we can schedule an alternative time. Preschool, Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrichment classes will be closed on January 23.

These conferences are "parent only" as we often have more than one teacher conferencing in the same classroom at the same time. Due to this fact, we ask that you plan accordingly for your childcare needs.

We look forward to this opportunity to share information about your child's school experience. Your input, questions, concerns and suggestions are very important to us and we welcome your involvement. Additionally, Tascha Cole, Director of Admissions, will be available as well to discuss next year's class offerings. She will have curriculum details and samples of work to share with you in the front lobby area. Please stop by if you have further questions regarding GPS programs available for next school year.

Kindergarten and First Grade Information Nights

It is a milestone for your family when it is finally time for your little preschooler to get ready to begin Kindergarten! Even though the next school year may seem a long way off, now is the time to begin the process of deciding what path may be the best for them. To assist you in your decision making process, we will host both a Full Day Kindergarten and First Grade Information Night on January 18, and a Kindergarten Enrichment Information Night on January 19. Each event is from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. We will provide you with lots of great information about these programs that GPS has to offer. You will also have an opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers. Teachers and staff will also be available to answer any questions you may have about the curriculum, classroom activities and the admissions process. Save the date!

SAVE THE DATE Golden Pond School's Annual Spring Sing Production

April 25, 2012
6:30 to 7:30pm

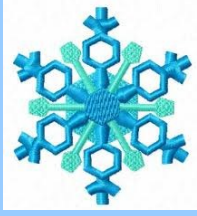
Baby News

Congratulations to the new arrival
of our Golden Pond family

Mason Alexander Neroda
January 4, 2012



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Specialist's Snapshot

Music and Movement with Ms. Foster

January is an exciting and fun-filled month as our children dive into familiar sounds and interpret music as we pretend to ride in vehicles, wiggle like pets, hide like underground animals and twinkle like stars. We parallel each classroom's monthly theme to make our music and movements meaningful.

In the Kindergarten classrooms, we're discovering the importance of steady beat while experimenting with percussion instruments. As we continue to nurture our emergent readers, we are also mastering the chant of Boggis Bunce and Bean which is based upon Roald Dahl's novel Fantastic Mr. Fox. Putting our chant to song further cements the literature into our minds as we act out the events of our tune and enjoy our element of ownership amongst our classroom peers.



How Much is that Doggie in the Window?

Art with Mrs. LaBillois

Happy New Year! In art, we began 2012 by asking the children a simple question. "What is texture?" I was amazed when a few of them answered, "The way things feel." We looked at and touched many different items with different textures. Then we took these items and made rubbings with crayons and oil pastels. The children also worked on Vincent van Gogh's Starry Night paintings. The preschool children explored different textured brushes, while JK and KE children tried Van Gogh's actual brush strokes called "impasto". Over the next few weeks we will be exploring more textures and begin working on our "Art to Remember" projects.

Golden Pond's featured artist of the month is Mason Bozel from the Kindergarten class. Please enjoy his work as you enter through our front hallway.

Art idea for the month: Let your child explore texture around your home. Everyday objects make wonderful painting tools and wonderful texture. Try painting with a fork or a comb!

Spanish with Señora Aldana

Winter is here and this is the perfect time to learn about winter in Spanish. We will be learning about clothing and winter activities. The children will read an interactive book that will teach them winter vocabulary: hat (gorro), scarf (bufanda), coat (abrigo), and boots (botas).

We will have fun dressing up our puppet friend Pablo in winter clothes as the children practice their vocabulary words.

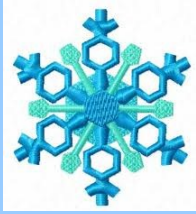
January will bring the opportunity to learn about pets and transportation for the Fours, JK and Kindergarten classrooms. We will play dynamic games such as "Four Corners" and "Freeze Dance."

Every month our vocabulary in colors and numbers will be reinforced and we will also continue learning more verbs as we sing the "Follow Me" song.

Gracias, Señora Aldana.



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Think Red Think Pink



The children at Golden Pond School look forward to a special “students only” event each year when they have their annual Valentine’s Exchange to share with each other. On Friday February 10th and Tuesday February 14th, Golden Pond School will be bustling with Valentine Exchange activities. This is an extra festive day filled with learning as the children create and decorate their Valentine Bags and then look for their friends’ names to “deliver” Valentine Cards! It’s a day that the children won’t want to miss! Please look for details from your teachers through their Class Newsletter regarding a special snack or needs for your child’s party.

It’s a great event for the children!

Friday, February 10

2D Bunnies
2D Bees
Pandas
Monkeys

Tuesday, February 14

3D Bunnies
Leapfrogs
3D Bees
Giraffes
Ducklings
Turtles
Butterflies
Zebras

Tuesday, February 14

(cont)

Bears
Tigers
Lions

PM

Turtles
Tigers
KE
KND

