

Klahanie School
November 2019 Newsletter

Reminders/Thank You

- **NO SCHOOL: Monday Nov 11/ Veterans Honoring, Wednesday 27 or Thanksgiving 28 of Thanksgiving week**
- **Tuesday November 26th is the Klahanie Thanksgiving Meal. Normal schedule, All children and teachers are invited to attend this day together. Photos of our day will be posted in the November google photos album.**
- **Re-enrollment is due December 2019. Please look for that email packet late November.** Please contact Emmy this month with all inquiries regarding re-enrollment.

November Unit Topics

- **Islands, Togetherness, Community Within & With Others:** Exploring what an island is and other land and water masses using songs, poetry, storytelling we will explore being a true Neighbor to one another. PeaceMaker Fred Rogers' work will be prominently featured this month and every month.

How our words are understood doesn't depend just on how we express our ideas. It also depends on how someone receives what we're saying. I think the most important part about communicating is the listening we do beforehand. When we can truly respect what someone brings to what we're offering, it makes the communication all the more meaningful....

We speak with more than our mouths. We listen with more than our ears.

I'm Proud of You (*We sing this with our hands on our hearts in thanks to Self*)

I'm proud of you. I'm proud of you.

I hope that you're as proud as I am.

And that you're

Learning how important you are,

How important each person you see can be.

Discovering each one's specialty

Is the most important learning.

I'm proud of you. I'm proud of you.

I hope that you are proud of you, too!

~Fred Rogers

- **Salmon: amazing life cycle journey**, Pacific Northwest salmon and habitats. This is a very dear unit and we read some amazing books and poetry about the salmon's inspiring life. Please contact Vashon Nature Center co-director Maria Metler (dear friend and previous Klahanie nature specialist) for respectful observation sites. There are some great ones on island and when introducing so much zoology and botany, we also incorporate grace and courtesy of all living things. That includes how to act as scientists using our observation eye, ears and noses when witnessing other methods of life. This does not include touch. I ask that very clearly as part of our empathy exploration and the idea of stepping into another's perspective and request to be alert on numerous levels of practicalities that can also assist in safety experience exploration (non-edible or poison items, delicate habitats or terrain, etc).
- **Giving Thanks:** exploring ways to express our thanks to those we love and the earth. Before our Thanksgiving break we will make a Class Thanksgiving meal as a class over a couple of days, set our table, sing a Thank You song and eat our meal together while teachers serve and Emmy reads Jonathan London's *Giving Thanks*. The meal will be evergreen huckleberry applesauce (picked, peeled cooked by the children, a bit of honey added), smoked salmon and dairy and eggless cornbread muffins. All food, with the exception of the curing of salmon is made by the class. This is a very sweet day.

Dad believes that the things of nature are a gift. And that in return, we must give something back. We must give thanks.....

To me, it's a little embarrassing to say thanks to trees and things. But Dad says it becomes a habit; it makes you feel good. 'Thank you, stars,' I say as we near home. And the stars come out, one by one, as if from hiding.

~Giving Thanks by Jonathan London

We sing the following song:

*Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the friends we greet.
Thank you for the sun that shines.
Thank you for the rains on the pines.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you, thank you for everything.*

- **Orcas:** Like Salmon, we are very honored as an island community to be able to observe first hand the Orca migration led by Grandma, the matriarch of the Puget Sound J pod.

You and family are encouraged to soak up the opportunities to observe these important mammals and supporting their needs in our shared waterways.

- **Owls:** MoMo Brule will share owl information for our native island-winged friends.
- **Turkeys:** parts of the turkey and behaviors, get ready for some funny words coming home.

October 2019 Reflection

Thank you parents and children for such wonderful conferences, what fun sharing about your children. As shared during conferences, your children makeup a kind and inviting group. The leaves are changing and the rain has re-emerged, autumn is fully here. Inside and outside the children are exploring new friendships and with that we are able to support the natural and normal relationship dynamics playing out and figuring out how to open our listening ears and learning to speak from the heart, and what defines a kind leader. We teachers are taking a lot of time to help the children figure out joyful ways to connect with friends and introducing mediation “holding our concentration” complimented with movement stories. There is a great amount of kindness offered and received during class daily. The main focus we leave them with is how kind they are. We explore together that kindness and gratitude will lead to a joyful life on earth and possibility greater connection with others and earth. We continue to build our empathy development with inquiry and listening along with important grace and courtesy response to friends’ questions and actions.

Thank you parents for dressing your kids so weather ready with warm layers and easy to slip on boots! Thank you also for practicing with your child at home ways to put clothing and coats on independently. We use the following technique at school:

“You put your tag by your toes, hands in the holes and your flip it” flipping the coat on by laying coat upside down by child’s toes.

- **PREPARING FOR COLD DAYS:** Please continue packing Full, Regular sized youth Backpacks with the following (name labeled on tags)

- 1. X2 pairs of sweatpants**
- 2. 1 hoodie or sweatshirt/sweater**
- 3. Hand wear (mismatched socks work great!) or name labeled waterproof work gloves**
- 4. Underwear/Long-johns/socks**
- 5. Hat**

6. Rain gear: pants, slicker/coat

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On Going Class Goodness:

- Study and observation of the three woodpeckers who frequent our garden: Downy headed, Pileated and Flicker. Following winter solstice, we focus on native Ellisport winter small birds, owls and eagles.
- MoMo Brule, Rowan’s grandma and Montessorian, will pop-in for naturalist-Montessori unit studies in class periodically as well as visit from incredible retired Waldorf and arts based educators! These visits will occur throughout the school year.
- Thank you Jordan Beck-Vroom for your amazing upcoming Textile Arts Specialist teaching talents in class!
- **We are looking for: A Parent Reader once a week.** We are making this a very initial practice and fun experience based experience for children moving to Kindergarten or 1st Grade in 2020. This time is sitting with an adult to one on one look at together, to nurture the interest in the reading process and practice of one-one breakdown of beginning sentences and initial grammar vocabulary. If you are interested and have time to come into class for 30 minutes a week, please contact Emmy.

- **December-January we will explore the moon and tides: *Emmy's dad Glenn Kellow (Grandpa Glenn) will come to visit and talk about the Pacific Ocean, tides and Pacific Northwest surfing.*** He grew up on the Oregon coast and began surfing at the age of 14 and has not stopped. On this day we might do a walk to KVI where pick up occurs as well. We will keep you updated on the dates and if we need some parents walking helpers.
- Thank you Klahanie School parents for your participation creating a beautiful school vibe of friendliness and kindness!

Community

- **Please contact school if interested in organizing a full meal and toy drive donation to put together for the Food Bank and VYFS for the holiday season and island families.**