



400 West Union Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61704

# The Monthly

# View

## President's Letter

A big 'thank you' to all the parents who helped kick off the school year! Each of us has a committee job that helps keep our school running and creates a wonderful place for our children to learn and play. Already this year we have parents to thank for the fresh mulch on the playground, clean towels for messy hands, class lists so we can stay in touch, bake sale and flower bulb fundraisers to help us keep tuition costs low, healthy snacks, brochures and a website so new families can join us, clean and organized classrooms, and even this newsletter. And the most important thing to thank parents for is...coming to school with a positive attitude and a smile for all! With your involvement, your child's preschool experience won't be something that happens without you. It will be something you create together.

**Terina Carter**

*Mom to Antonio, 4s a.m.*

### Your assistance is needed...

We need a parent volunteer to take photos of student work and upload images to the Art Sonia website. Please contact Julie Lynd ([julietlynd@gmail.com](mailto:julietlynd@gmail.com)) if you are interested. You can visit the Art Sonia website for more information about the project at [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com).

## Calendar

10/7 & 10/8	Picture day
10/9	Rummage sale
10/16	ISU Homecoming parade

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September 2010

# A Teacher's View

## A Note from Miss Mary

The three-year-old classes are off to a great start. The children have been busy painting, playing in the sand, and setting up the tracks. They are making friends and learning to share.

For many of the children this is their first experience in a classroom setting. Despite the anxiety from being away from their parents, I am happy to report before classes are transitioning nicely. They all are good listeners, and are engaged in the lessons and activities. The respect and kindness they have shown in the classroom are a testament of having such caring parents.

I look forward to seeing you all in the classroom!

*Miss Mary*



## A Note from Mrs. Jennings

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting first few weeks of preschool! There were so many new things to do and so many new friends to meet. The children have been learning new skills and enjoying one another. I hope you have made some new friends also. Play dates are wonderful for strengthening friendships.

October will certainly be a month of many changes. Fall has arrived and the leaves are beginning to change colors. Farmers are in the fields harvesting grain and the squirrels are busy harvesting their winter food supply. We will need jackets in the morning and short sleeves in the afternoon. Children who have not been able to write their names are trying to make each letter just right. Scissors and small pieces of paper expertly cut are everywhere. 'Please' and 'thank-you' and 'may I play?' are often heard in the classrooms.

You have an opportunity to have a Parent/Teacher conference in October. I hope you are able to take advantage of this time to talk with your child's teacher. What a wonderful opportunity to get some added insight (and share some) about your child. Each teacher is making plans for your visit.

I am looking forward to this new season!

*Mrs. Jennings*



**Grant Hours**

Does your employer offer grant money to non-profits where you volunteer? Many companies have programs for employees who volunteer their time at non-profit organizations such as our preschool. For instance, State Farm employees who perform 40 hours of volunteer work for the preschool will enable us to receive a \$500 grant. We encourage parents to check with their employers to determine if these types of grants are offered—and if so please notify Beverly or Mary. Parent teaching and your committee points count toward these hours as well as assisting the teachers in collating and cutting items at home.



**Parking Lot Safety**

Our parking lot is shared with the church. Therefore, it is a busy, busy place at drop-off and pick-up times. Please have your child hold your hand if you are walking through and please be extra careful to check behind your vehicle if your car is or soon will be in motion. There have been several close calls already reported this year. Your help is appreciated.



**Picture Day**

Individual student and class pictures will be taken on October 7 & 8. Expert A Photography will be at the school on those days. Picture proofs will be available a short time later. Orders will be accepted on a secure website or by returning the order to the preschool and pictures are expected to be ready by mid November. Siblings may be photographed by appointment—check the office door sign-up sheet to reserve a spot for a sibling. You are not obligated to purchase any pictures. More details to follow soon in your child's cubby!



**Homecoming/Parade Fun**

When the ISU Homecoming Parade steps off at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 16, our school families will be part of the experience thanks to the efforts of Nikki and Todd Williams. Look for more information soon—but start cleaning off those red wagons and pull out your red sweaters and hats now!



**Garage Sale**

Our fall garage sale is October 9 at the Interstate Center. If have things to donate to the sale, we'd love to have them! Please bring clean, working items to the school the week before the sale. No need to price items—we'll take care of that.

**Student Records**

Darci (our Records parent) will be contacting some families about missing items of required paperwork. If you receive a note and have any questions, please contact Darci Kyle at [darci.kyle@countryfinancial.com](mailto:darci.kyle@countryfinancial.com).



## Safe Place

Our school uses ideas developed by Dr. Becky Bailey to re-focus and calm an upset child. This technique also works well with older children and adults. When the emotions of a person overwhelm the body, the emotion takes over and logic is suppressed. A calming period of time can help the brain return to a logic oriented state of mind.

Teachers teach these calming techniques to each class and student. Students are periodically asked to practice these techniques so the skills are not lost.

Our Safe Place is not a punishment. It is a Safe Place where a person can go to use the calming techniques they possess so that they are ready to re-join the group. Usually a calm, quiet voice can engage a child in the calming techniques. Sometimes a gentle touch is needed.

The teachers will be happy to explain this program in more detail or provide you with materials if you would like to develop your own Safe Place at home.