



THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

October 2023

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

Looking Ahead:

- 10/6 P.O.P.S.-Patterson's Family Outing**
- 10/9 Fun Friday Registration Begins - Boo Bash**
- 10/13 No School - Fall Break**
- 10/25 & 10/26 Fire Safety Visit**
- 10/27 Fun Friday - Boo Bash**
- 10/21 Hope Ridge UMC "Beats on the Ridge"**
- 10/30 & 10/31 Halloween Parade & Parties**



FALLING IN TO OUR ROUTINES

I can not believe how quickly the new school year is flying by. Where is time going? Are you feeling the same way? In preschool, social emotional development is an area we focus on every day throughout the school year. We watch to see if and how the children communicate and socialize with one another. We also watch to see how they react to different situations and help them work through them if they are having a difficult time. Opportunities are provided for them to learn, play, share and socialize in large and small group settings, free play and different centers.

The beginning of the school year is always hard to predict. Every morning is different, and every child's behavior could be different from the day before. We hope that your families' transition into the 2023-2024 school year has been an enjoyable experience! We have loved seeing the students' enthusiasm and gravitation towards the preschool environment. Though some separation tears may have been witnessed, please be rest assured that the teachers work very hard to ease any anxiety. It is also incredibly normal for your child to possibly be experiencing a higher level of exhaustion, including a change in mood. Transitioning back into school after the summer or just plain starting school for the first time is always a large transition. They are experiencing a change in schedule, routines and procedures. This is completely expected. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your teacher or myself.

As we enter October, the students traditionally become more comfortable with the classroom routines, teachers, and peers. I have truly enjoyed observing the children begin to take ownership of the school as one of their "safe spaces", particularly as I watch them enter with increasing confidence and familiarity. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting month of October! Many of our classes will be starting to learn about the season of fall, including things like apples, scarecrows and pumpkins. This month the teachers have lots of fall activities and projects planned and you will start to see the rooms and hallway transform.

In the coming weeks the school will be treated to a fun "Fire Safety" presentation from the Concord Fire Department. The classes will be able to observe and investigate a fire truck and an ambulance as long as they are not called out for duty! Finally, as the month comes to a close, will be able to celebrate Halloween with a classroom party! We will also be continuing our annual Halloween parade tradition. After dropping off your child in class, families are invited to head to WFLC to watch as each class will parade around the room to show off their costumes. Once complete, the kids will head back to their classrooms. The teacher will make sure to get a class photo and send it out on Brightwheel. Class parties for our four- and 5-year-old classes will be one hour at the end of class. Parties for our 3-year-olds will be 45 minutes. Please check with your teacher regarding party details.

If you have been with our program in the past, you will be excited to hear that Fun Fridays are continuing! Are you new to our program? Don't miss out on this fun enrichment program. Fun Fridays are offered for your preschooler from 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM on one Friday a month during the school year. The cost is \$15 per session. These are pre-paid and non-refundable. Be on the lookout for when the signup for the session begins. These generally fill up quickly as there are only 14 spots per session. Register at the front door. Payment is required at the time of registration. See the back for more details.

Best Wishes,
Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director

Fun Friday Enrichment Programs

<u>Date offered</u>	<u>Registration Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
October 27	Mon., 10/9	Boo Bash	Ms. Golias, Rm 8
November 17	Thurs., 11/2	It's Time to be a Hero	Mrs. Hildebrecht, Rm #7
January 26	Weds., 1/3	Ahoy, Matey	Ms. Golias, Rm #8
February 23	Tues., 2/6	Once Upon a Time...	Ms. Golias, Rm #8
March 15	Mon. 2/26	Ridge Olympics	Mrs. Hildebrecht, Rm #7
April 19	Tues., 4/3	Mad Scientists of Hope Ridge	Ms. Golias, Rm #8
May 10	Thurs., 4/25	Let's Luau	Mrs. Hildebrecht, Rm #7



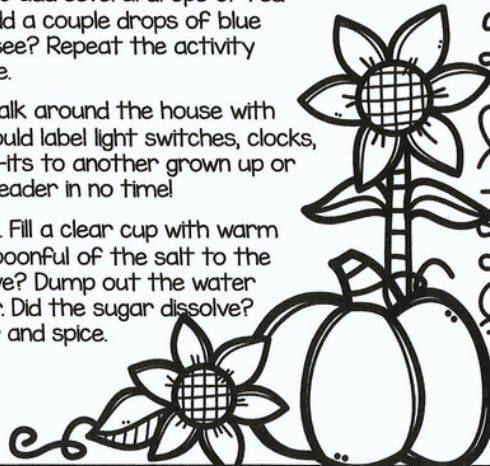
Hope Ridge United Methodist Church Fun Fall Event "Beats on the Ridge" -- SAT, OCT 21, 5:30PM-8PM

You won't want to miss this family-friendly evening featuring the band, "Beats Working!", playing a blend of country, blues, and classic rock music, buy food and ice cream from the delicious JD's Gourmet Hotdog truck, and bring the kids for a costume parade and treats! Event will be in the Hope Ridge parking lot! #hoperidgeumc



October's PLAYFUL Learning Checklist

1. Cut out five little pumpkins from construction paper or purchase five mini pumpkins from the grocery store. Read the book "Five Little Pumpkins" by Dan Yaccarino and then use the pumpkins to act out the rhyme together.
2. Go outside with your child first thing in the morning. Talk about the weather. Is it cold? Rainy? Windy? Brainstorm appropriate clothing given the weather. For instance, you might need a raincoat if it's drizzling. Repeat the activity later in the day. Did your clothing choices change?
3. Gather a red, orange and yellow crayon. Use the three crayons to make fall colored patterns. Red-orange-orange-red-orange-orange OR yellow-red-yellow-red... Invite your child to say the names of the colors you picked. What comes next in the pattern?
4. Look at the calendar with your child and count the number of days until Halloween. Cut a matching number of 1 x 4 inch strips of orange construction paper and staple them together to make a chain. Each morning, invite your child to tear off one of the strips and count the number of days still remaining.
5. Help your child learn shapes by going on a shape walk through your neighborhood. Pick one shape at a time and hunt for it. For example, you could point out rectangular windows or circular manhole covers.
6. Each time that you read a story out loud to your child, spell "T-H-E E-N-D. The end." It's a quick way to help your child learn that letters make words.
7. Grab a pile of counters {pennies, pom poms, blueberries, etc.} Place a few of the counters in a pile. Then place some of the counters in a separate pile next to the first. Have your child count the number of counters in each group. What pile has more? What pile has less? How many more are in the bigger pile?
8. Fill a cup with water. Ask your child to add several drops of red food coloring to it. Then invite him to add a couple drops of blue food coloring. What new color does he see? Repeat the activity with red and yellow, then yellow and blue.
9. Grab a stack of post-it notes and a pen. Walk around the house with labeling common objects with your child. You could label light switches, clocks, chairs... Then invite your child to read the post-its to another grown up or stuffed animal. He'll begin seeing himself as a reader in no time!
10. Gather salt, sugar, flour and a spice. Fill a clear cup with warm water. Then invite your child to add a spoonful of the salt to the cup. AFTER stirring, does the salt dissolve? Dump out the water and fill it again. Add a spoonful of sugar. Did the sugar dissolve? Continue the experiment with the flour and spice.



© Playdough to Plato

Calendar Change

Please note our Bike-a-thon fundraiser that was scheduled for October has been moved to March and will now be a Walk-a-thon. We are working on improving the event from last year and did not want to rush the planning. We want the children, as well as the families, to have the best experience we can provide. We will keep you updated.

Weather Reminder

As long as the weather cooperates, we will head outside to the playground for our large motor time. As the air begins to chill, it is helpful if students have a jacket to put on as an extra layer against the cooler air. This is especially true for those classes that go outside early in the day.

Tuition Reminder

Tuition is due the first of the month.

Online payment is available and encouraged via the Brightwheel application! Please note processing fees do apply for payments made with a debit or credit card.

Checks can also be dropped off in the tuition box outside the preschool office. If you would like to pay cash, please make sure to see us at the front door or in the office so we can provide you with a receipt.

Hope Ridge Preschool, Inc.

"Where Children Love to Learn and Live with Love."

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