

October 29, 2009

Dear O'Hara Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten families,

Our first two months of school have been wonderful ones at O'Hara Catholic School! We love your children and thoroughly enjoy helping them develop. Some of the learning that we have been doing in September and October is described below. The activities are more advanced at Pre-Kindergarten than at Pre-School and are always developmentally appropriate for each child.

Literacy

Our program inspires a love of reading and helps each child develop his or her natural curiosity. Through books, we have been exploring characters, story plots, and vocabulary. We are also developing critical thinking skills by predicting story outcomes. We are learning letters and sounds to help us build our pre-reading skills. "Dramatic Play" gives us many creative opportunities to work on our speaking and communication skills.

Community

We talk daily about being part of a community. We discuss how much Jesus loves everyone and how our friends see Jesus in our hearts. We have learned to share, wait for our turn, be good listeners, and respect the feelings and needs of others. Our "Circle Time" gives us the opportunity to share with one another and participate in classroom discussions.

Religion

We have learned several prayers and Bible stories. With this year's school theme of being the light of Christ, we talk about how people can see the light of Jesus in us when we are kind. We have also learned about Mass and what to do at Mass to show our love to God.

Physical Development

We have been improving our fine-motor skills, dexterity, and spatial awareness as we learn to hold and manipulate small objects. Through our P.E. & music classes, recess, and Pre-K Park activities, we are developing our large-motor skills, body control, eye-hand coordination, and rhythm.

Science, Math, & Exploration

Our engaging science activities have provided many opportunities to explore as we've developed our cognitive skills and an appreciation for God's creations. We have had a lot of fun examining, comparing, classifying, measuring, and hypothesizing. Counting, sorting, graphing, patterning, and simple number concepts have helped us further develop our reasoning skills.

Art, Music, and Spanish

We have learned to sing several songs, clap to a beat, incorporate hand movements, and experiment with sounds and tempo while developing a love of music. We have explored colors, textures, art techniques, and various media while being quite creative with art and producing some true masterpieces! In Spanish, we have learned our numbers to ten, some colors, and we've listened to charming storybooks in Spanish.

As you can see, we are having a lot of fun in Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten, and the children have learned so much in just two months! Our parents have been a great help, and we truly appreciate you. Thank you for sharing your precious children with us!

April Demers (PreK-A)

Darlene Gangle (PreK-B)

Karen Gescher (PreS)

Jan Yturri (PreS)