

2023



# Park's Edge Preschool

Put a little PEP in your life!

## A Letter from the Director...

Dear Park's Edge Preschool Families:

'Back to school' at Park's Edge Preschool was filled with excitement this year at PEP's Annual Open House held from 5 to 7pm on Thursday, September 7th. PEP families and visitors were introduced to Ms. Haley Bigger, PEP's new Director in Training. Pastor Joshua Simon also participated in PEP's Open House Meet & Greet. Families were able to tour the classrooms and meet all the dedicated PEP staff. Cookies were served in Kurth Hall by Ms. Haley and Pastor Joshua for families to decorate and eat...yummy! 'Thank you' to all our families that attended. We are ready for a busy and productive school year of fun and learning!

Please be sure to say 'hi' in welcoming PEP's new Director Ms. Haley Bigger if you haven't met her already. Haley is a warm addition to our leadership team at PEP. She is meeting her qualifying period in the first 90 days and will assume the full responsibility of the director's role in December 2023. I will continue at PEP as Emeritus Director until June 1, 2024, when we celebrate PEP's 25-year anniversary.

Food...wonderful food...Park's Edge Preschool is collecting food donations the entire month of October in honor of PEP's 'Love thy Neighbor' food drive campaign and the annual CROP Walk. PEP is collecting nutritious, non-perishable food(s) throughout the month of October. CROP is the acronym for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. It is a positive way to help the hungry in our community by raising awareness and funds for relief and development, as well as offer support to our local hunger-fighting agencies. Once again Park's Edge Preschool classrooms are collecting healthy, non-perishable foods. You and

your child can help by donating healthy non-perishable food items in the bag your child will bring home to fill. The bags will go home Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Now more than ever people in need are depending on your help by donating food to the hungry. Thank you for your generous charity!

Pastor Joshua is a welcome addition to PEP's Literacy Program. Once a month Pastor Joshua Simon is spending time in our preschool classrooms reading to the children theme related books that have been specially chosen by the teachers for him to read to the children. What a wonderful opportunity for the children and staff to personally connect with Emanuel Church's new Pastor. More important is Pastor Joshua role modeling reading to the children. Thank you, Pastor Joshua for reading to PEP's preschoolers!

A Family Friendly 'Trunk or Treat' is scheduled for all ages and will be held in Emanuel Church/Park's Edge Preschool's back parking lot on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-7p.m. The staff from each classroom will decorate one of their cars with a special theme and pass out candy to the children parading from car to car in Halloween costumes. Some of the themes from last year were Baby Shark, Black Cat, and Frankenstein, to name a few trunk themes. The yellow school bus was also decorated as a haunted house. I'm curious what themes this year will bring to PEP's Trunk or Treat. Parents and children will come in costume for an evening of family fun and fellowship. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the 'Love thy Neighbor' food drive campaign. If you would like to bring a bag of candy for the staff to pass out, we would appreciate it. Just a reminder, we are a nut free center. Please R.S.V.P. at PEP's front desk or call (414)427-9561. 'Trick or Treat' at the

Hales Corners care Center for the Shining Stars Group ages 4 and 5 years old. The children will dress in costume and trick or treat at the residential care facility in our community on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am. This is a great experience for all ages to celebrate a holiday favorite...Halloween.

Halloween brings many surprises and traditions to Park's Edge Preschool! Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> PEP's magical pumpkin patch will be right here in our own back field. I cannot explain it but for the past several years pumpkins magically appeared in the back field children of all ages to pick a pumpkin in PEP's very own Pumpkin Patch.

Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> children are 'dressing-up' as their favorite character for an all-center costume parade. The parade time is 10:00 am rain or shine in Emanuel Church's beautiful sanctuary. Staff and children are looking forward to this spooktacular event. PEP families are welcome to come and watch PEP's Halloween Parade. Halloween goodies will be passed out in celebration of a safe and happy Halloween for all ages!

'Food is Love' and Emanuel Church loves you too... mark your calendars now for the annual 'Frazzled Family Dinner' sponsored by Emanuel Church, scheduled for Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>! The Frazzled Family Dinner is an Emanuel Church tradition in supporting families with a family meal to go...and enjoy with your family in the comfort of your family home. Watch for details in the November newsletter...you don't want to miss it! Sincerely, Ellen M. Kvalheim

### Happy Birthday

Harper J.	10/02/2020
Liliana C.	10/03/2021
Norah F.	10/04/2019
McKenna P.	10/16/2013
Cameron S.	10/20/2022
Rori P.	10/22/2018
Kaia A.	10/31/2020



Ms. Ellen	10/07??
Ms. Emily	10/17??
Ms. Sandra	10/04??

October



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Ms. Holli 10/12/22

youngstar  
Wisconsin's Child Care Rating Program



## Love Bugs

Happy October! Our favorite month of the year! The leaves are changing from green to orange, yellow and red. With the weather being cooler in the morning, please send your child in with socks. Their little feet get cold, and we can always take them off as it warms up. We will be sending home a paper that will say "what does your family like to do during the fall season?" On the paper, describe if your family has a fall tradition. Please return as soon as possible, so we can hang it up in our classroom.

Our babies are sprouting, and we are so excited to watch their development. Ariya has been putting those muscles to work by pulling herself up to a standing position and pulling toys out of a bucket. Our little book worm Cam has been Exploring books and is starting to consistently stand on his own. Declan A has been rocking and rolling from his stomach to his back, as he enjoys his mat time. Cassidy our social butterfly, is scooting all over the room and is attempting to hold his own bottle. Declan P. is

spreading smiles and rolling all over the place and is sitting up from a crawling position. Little Harrison loves exploring the floor and is finding his voice. Hazel, our future musician loves musical toys and is a big fan of bouncing in the bouncer. Evelyn loves to be dazzled by our light up toys and is learning to embrace tummy time. We are so proud of all of our babies and we can't wait to see what milestones they hit by next month. Have a fantastic October!  
Ms. Terri and Ms. Octavia



## Beautiful Butterflies



Our babies have been taking great strides into October. Taking steps, using a lot of sign language like "more", "please", "thank you" and "all done". They have also found their voice by saying "Uh-oh", "Hi", "bye" and "what's this?". You can see their pride as they speak new words to us. We have also been blessed with lots of belly laughs out of this group, their laughs are priceless. Fiona will be our baby of the month. Fiona dances to music, loves the Elmo Book, claps for

everything, and enjoys fresh air while going outside for walks.

This month we look forward to all the fall things: pumpkins, apples and leaves changing colors. With the cooler weather heading our way, please provide warmer clothing like hats and mittens labeled with your child's name, along with shoes that have a rubber sole.

Our focus this month will be self-help skills like holding their own bottles, cups, and utensils. We are also working on helping our non-walkers

take steps and stand by themselves. These are very smart and capable little children. We couldn't be prouder of them. Our parent engagement activity this month will be to tell us a favorite fall activity you enjoy as a family. We would love to post your family traditions in our classroom. We hope you all have a healthy and blessed Fall.

Ms. Julie and Ms. Holli

## Darling Dragonflies

Can you believe it's already October? Just like the leaves changing colors, September has transformed into a new month. Guess what? Half of our class is now learning to drink out of open cups! We've been actively teaching table manners and saying "Please" and "Thank you" with words and sign language.

This month we have chosen Benjamin as our child of the month. He absolutely adores his Poke-A-Dot books and is a huge dog lover. We are all super excited about the upcoming events in October. We are gearing up for Trunk or Treating, the costume parade and the pumpkin patch. We also love all the sensory

experiences that Autumn has to offer.

A quick reminder to all parents: Please bring jackets, hats, and mittens, for your little ones as the weather gets cooler. Let's keep them warm and cozy.

Have a fantastic October!  
Ms. Nicole, Ms. Jacque,  
Ms. Jacinda



## Busy Bees

We had such a fun start to the school year. September flew by so fast. We welcomed Ms. Linda to the Busy Bee room and have had a blast getting to know her.

Thank you for visiting us during open house it was so much fun! This past month we have been working on taking turns and have been talking about what happens in Fall. We can't wait to watch the leaves change colors and jump

into the leaf piles we create. We will be talking about all things Autumn this month. Our focus will be Apples, scarecrows, 5 little pumpkins and having a spooky good time! We can't wait to have a "field trip" to the back field pumpkin patch to pick out a pumpkin to take home. We also hope you can make it to our Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, it will be spooktacular! This month we will be working on flipping our jackets on as the temperatures get cooler. Please check

your child's extra clothes bins to make sure they have weather appropriate clothing here. Keeping clean is hard when you are 2! We would love if you could email [kristin@parksedgepreschool.com](mailto:kristin@parksedgepreschool.com) with a family photo for our family tree. We hope you have a wonderful start to fall and can't wait to learn more!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Linda



## Sunshine Room

Fall is officially here! Though we are sad September has come to an end, we are excited for October and what it brings. First for September, we talked about back to school and what our favorite back to school activities are. We all agreed we love to play with trucks! Next, we learned about our colors. We made so many colorful paintings and collages. We then introduced an all about "me" week. We created our awesome caterpillar of family pictures! Last but certainly not least, we introduced fire safety. We loved using our "Firestick" to learn how to stop, drop and roll. Fire safety was our class's favorite week to explore.

We are ready to 'jump' into leaves week to kick off October. We are looking forward to literally jumping into leaves and seeing all the changing tree colors. Then to quickly follow, we will take a 'bite' of knowledge learning about apples during apple week. We can't wait for our apple taste test and caramel apple making! For the third week we are 'stuffed' with excitement to learn about scarecrows! We are looking forward to making our own class crow. After that we're going to 'carve' out some space to learn about Jack-O-Lanterns and pumpkins. We're ready for our magic mini pumpkin patch! And lastly, we will be 'dressed up' with joy to celebrate Halloween! We are

so ready for our costume parade!

We have been doing great with using our manners and working on our snipping and cutting skills. We are still learning our letter recognition and sharing with our friends. We can't wait to see what's in store for October!

**Class athlete:** Otto and Blayne

**Best Dressed:** Harper and Jack

**Clean up Master:** Joseph

**Super Singer:** Lucas and Molly

**Class Artist:** Finnegan and Kaia

**Fabulous Friend to all:** Delaney and Leo

**Best Manners:** Owen

**Class Bookworm:** Norah and Finn

**Sunshine smiler:** Jordy and Clara

Ms. Mariah, Ms. Kasey



## Fantastic Frogs

Hello Autumn, we are looking forward to a great Fall season. The start of the school year was fantastic. We learned a lot about each other and enjoyed making new friendships.

Some of the highlights this past month were learning our colors in Spanish, reading books about being special, and practicing the stop, drop and roll method. One of the books we read was called "Dream you'll be" by Joseph T. Garcia. A book about imagining all the amazing things you can be when you grow up. We read this book several times during the week of "I am special". Some children said they want to be astronauts,

some

firefighters and some police officers, we even had a child who wants to be a skydiver when they grow up. It was wonderful seeing the children use their imagination.

We have a lot of exciting things planned for the month of October. We are looking forward to our annual gathering of "Trunk or treat" and costume parade at the end of the month. Our themes include "It's Fall", "Applicious time", "A scarecrow adventure", and "5 Little Pumpkins". During the week of "applelicious time" we are asking if each child can bring in an apple. Have your child pick the apple and label the name on the apple. We will be doing apple tasting and charting what apple the child likes the most. This is a fun activity that we look forward to every

year. The chart will be displayed in the classroom for everyone to view.

Now that Fall has quickly approached, we are asking if you can check your child's cubby for extra appropriate clothing. We also go outside everyday (weather permitting) so please be sure your child has a jacket or sweatshirt.

We hope everyone has a safe and blessed month

Ms. Sandra, Ms. Jenni







We are so excited to be back to our normal routine and to welcome fall! Learning about fire safety has been so important for the children. We have talked about emergency evacuation at school and at home. Our favorite activity was fire tag. When a friend got tagged, they had to stop, drop and roll. Through this activity we learned what to do in a dangerous fire situation.

This fall we are looking forward to doing activities with apples and pumpkins. We will be making Ms. Melinda's famous applesauce. We will share the recipe once we make it.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at Trunk-Or-Treat on Thursday, October 27 and our costume parade on Tuesday, October 31.

If you go to the pumpkin farm or apple orchard, be sure to share your experience and photos with us! Let's have a great fall everyone!

Ms.Melinda and Ms.Maria



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### Change of Schedule Form

If you are making any changes to your regular schedule, please fill out the form located on top of the family mailboxes. With all the comings and goings with all the children in our program, it is difficult for us to remember something told verbally. You can also email Ellen ([ellen@parksedgepreschool.com](mailto:ellen@parksedgepreschool.com)) and Kristin ([kristin@parksedgepreschool.com](mailto:kristin@parksedgepreschool.com)), as well as our new incoming director Haley ([haley@parksedgepreschool.com](mailto:haley@parksedgepreschool.com))

## Slithering Snakes



What is a witch's favorite subject in school? Spelling!

Hello, and welcome to another spooktacular October! We are thrilled to be underway with another school year, and look forward to learning alongside you all. As you know, September was a month of many changes; a new school year, friends going to middle school, and of course the departure of Ms. Jenele. Ms. Jenele was a fixed point, a constant presence in our school age program, and the woman with her hand on the rudder. While we know she is an irreplaceable facet of our program, Ms. Maria and myself will make every effort to both maintain and elevate the excellence of our school age program. We are both in the process of educating ourselves about the best practices to do so, and would love to hear from you about what aspects of the program you love, and those that could be improved. Now, as we look forward to a future that may not look like the one we expected, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to our school age families, and are always available in these fast changing times.

October is looking to be a very busy month for us at Park's Edge. We will explore the various parts of the harvest, and discover the beautiful transformations of fall leaves and nature. In the middle of the month the Whitnall school district will have two days off, Friday October 13th and Monday October 16th. Please look for a sign up sheet in the school age room to let us know if your child will be attending. Towards the end of the month, as Halloween approaches, our event schedule is jam packed with all manner of seasonal activities. October 26th is our annual Trunk or Treat event, and we hope you'll join us for a night of costumes, trickery, and candy. Lots of candy. All of it actually.

In closing, please remember to send your child with a coat or sweatshirt, as the chill of autumn will turn into the frigid sting of winter in no time.

Thanks for reading, and a happy October to you all!

Mr. Cody and Ms. Maria

# NAC Nook

October 27 is PEP's anniversary date for NAC Accreditation originally awarded to PEP in February 2010. To maintain NAC Accreditation and YoungStar's 5-star quality rating, PEP is required to request a validation visit from the National Accreditation Commission's governing board, the Association of Early Learning Leaders, one year prior to the expiration date October 27, 2024. Presently, we are in the process of preparing for the validation visit expected sometime in spring 2024. PEP families will participate in this preparation for the visit by completing and returning a NAC Parent Survey at Conference Night, Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Receiving and implementing family input is one of the most important elements in meeting NAC quality standards.

Family input is very important to PEP's quality childcare programming. Park's Edge Preschool's Board of Directors is made up of PEP parents, former PEP staff, and Emanuel Church members that have a skill set supporting Park's Edge Preschool's decision-making. Here is the 2023 PEP Board members: President-Stephanie Ziebell\*; Vice-President-Caitlin Merkel\*; Treasurer-Amber Haskin\* (outgoing)/ Jessica Semrow (incoming); Secretary-Megan Larsheid-Skaggs\*; Mike Deml\* and Mary Pelkofer\*. Andy Ackmann\* will be voted onto the board at our November meeting. (The asterisk designates PEP parents past and present.) 'Thank you' to all PEP Board members past, present, and future. Your time, talent and commitment are truly appreciated.

## Important Dates

Monday, October 2– 'Love Thy Neighbor' food campaign starts. We are asking for food donations. Bags will be sent home.

Sunday, October 8– Emanuel Church Pet Blessing. Come after worship to have your beloved pet blessed by Pastor Josh, Emanuel church's new pastor.

Friday, October 13 & Monday, October 16– Whitnall School District has No School. Please sign-up in your child's classroom.

Thursday, October 26– Trunk or Treat from 5-7pm. All are encourage to dress in costume.

Friday, October 27– Shining Stars will be Trick or Treating at the Hales Corners Care Center from 10-11am. Please bring costumes (no weapons please)

Tuesday, October 31– All Center Costume Parade at 10am (all are welcome). Please bring your child's costume (reminder no weapons please).



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FOR EARLY CARE AND  
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## Themes w/ Christian Sub Themes

### Upstairs & Downstairs Themes

10/2-10/6: Falling into Love with Jesus– Song “Jesus Love the Little Children”  
-Even though leaves change, God never does.

10/9-10/13: It's Appleicious Here.  
-Keep God as the apple of your eye.  
-The seed grows and flourishes where it is planted.

10/16-10/20: A Scarecrows Adventure.  
-The harvest fields are ready, the workers are few  
-We must put our hands to the plow  
-Seeds of the Sower.

10/23-10/27: 5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate.  
-Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

10/30-11/3: Having a Spooky Good Time  
- 2 Timothy 1:7 For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.



## Pastor's Note:

O God of all creation, with your spirit you shaped and formed the earth, you gave life to all animals, great and small. We welcome into our lives some of those animals to be our beloved pets. Our pets give us joy with their love for us, they receive our joy when we take care of them. Grant us the knowledge and love to return their love with the best care we can offer them. As our pets are our loving joy, bless them with all your love so they may have happiness and continue to be our constant friend. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Pastor Josh Simon

