

SBJC Early Childhood Program Newsletter

 October 2023

Principal's Note

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we embrace the beautiful colors and crisp air of October, it's heartwarming to reflect on the incredible journey our students have embarked on this school year. The successful transition into school is a remarkable achievement for both our students and our dedicated staff.

Seeing the smiling faces of our students as they enter the school each morning is a testament to the positive and supportive atmosphere we've cultivated here. It's a reflection of the hard work, collaboration, and care that goes into making every day a success.

We understand that the transition into school can be a significant milestone, and we're committed to ensuring that this journey continues to be smooth and enriching for each child. Our dedicated team of educators and support staff is here to provide not only an exceptional education but also a warm and nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

As we move forward into the heart of the school year, please remember that open lines of communication are essential. If you have any questions, concerns, or if there's anything you'd like to discuss, our doors are always open. We're here to partner with you on this remarkable journey.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of being a part of your child's educational and personal growth. Together, we'll continue to celebrate each achievement, no matter how small, and create a positive and enriching school experience.

Wishing you all a wonderful October filled with learning, laughter, and beautiful moments.

Warm regards,
Lorraine Rake
Principal, SBJC Early Childhood Learning Program

Upcoming Events

Coffee & Chat with the Principal 10/20 9:30AM Garfield Early Learning Center (Open to all preschool parents)
Halloween Festivities: Please check with your classroom teacher as each school will host their own activities

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Law

At the South Bergen Jointure Commission, the safety and well-being of our students are paramount, and we are committed to providing a nurturing and respectful environment for all. We would like to take a moment to share important information about the New Jersey Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) law as it relates to preschoolers.

What is the NJ HIB Law?

The New Jersey HIB law is a comprehensive policy aimed at preventing and addressing instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools. It applies to all grade levels, including preschool, because we believe that fostering respectful behavior and a positive school culture begins at a young age.

Preschool-Friendly Initiatives:

Building Social Skills: In our preschool program, we emphasize the importance of building positive relationships, practicing empathy, and resolving conflicts through age-appropriate methods like sharing and taking turns. A big part of our preschool program focuses on building social emotional skills with our youngest learners.

Creating a Safe Environment: We maintain a safe and nurturing environment where all children feel valued and respected. Our teachers and staff are trained to identify and address any behaviors that may be in violation of the HIB law.

Please note information on HIB Law and Policy can be found on our district website at:

<https://www.njsbjc.org/domain/16>

Week of Respect: October 2-6, 2023

The New Jersey Department of Education designates the first week of October as the "Week of Respect." During this week, schools throughout the state focus on activities and lessons that promote respect, empathy, and kindness among students.

What to Expect:

During the Week of Respect, we will be incorporating age-appropriate lessons and activities into our preschool program that align with the principles of respect and inclusion. Our goal is to instill these values in our young learners, setting a positive foundation for their educational journey.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to have conversations with your child about the importance of respect, kindness, and inclusion, not just during the Week of Respect but throughout the year. In our book corner below you can find some books on kindness and inclusion.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the NJ HIB law, the Week of Respect, or our efforts to create a safe and respectful preschool environment, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We value your partnership in fostering a positive learning experience for your child.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and well-being.

Book Corner



Books on Being a Good Friend

Title: "Cows that Went Oink" Author:

Jane Belk Moncure

Description: "Cows that Went Oink" is a delightful and whimsical children's book that takes young readers on an entertaining journey to a farm where things are not quite as they seem.

Written by Jane Belk Moncure, this story introduces children to a farm filled with animals that make unexpected and amusing sounds. It's a playful exploration of the imagination and creativity that captivates the young and the young at heart. With engaging rhymes and colorful illustrations, "Cows that Went Oink" offers an entertaining and lighthearted reading experience that will leave children giggling and wondering about the wonderfully unpredictable world of farm animals."

Here are three books that parents can read with their children on the topic of being a good friend.

2. Title: **"Words Are Not for Hurting"** Author: Elizabeth Verdick, illustrated by Marieka Heinlen

Description: Words are Not for Hurting is a book that teaches young readers about the power of words and the importance of using them kindly and responsibly. Through engaging text and vibrant illustrations, this book demonstrates that words can be used to express love, understanding, and friendship, as well as to solve problems peacefully.

3. Title: **"Share and Take Turns"** Author: Cheri J. Meiners M.Ed."

Description: "Share and Take Turns" is a delightful and educational children's book designed to help young readers understand the importance of sharing and taking turns. Through relatable scenarios and colorful illustrations, the book gently guides children in learning how to interact with others in a friendly and cooperative way. It emphasizes the joy of sharing toys, experiences, and time with friends, teaching valuable life skills that promote positive social interactions. Cheri J. Meiners M.Ed. skillfully presents these lessons in a way that young children can grasp, making this book an excellent resource for parents and educators looking to nurture essential social skills in preschoolers

In essence, these books collectively promote social and emotional development in young children. "Share and Take Turns" emphasizes cooperation and sharing, "Cows that Went Oink" encourages creativity and open-mindedness, and "Words Are Not for Hurting" teaches the importance of using words for positive communication and conflict resolution. Together, they provide valuable life lessons that can help children navigate the complexities of social interactions with kindness and empathy.

Home/School Connection

We're excited to share that October is all about trees in our program! Your child will be busy learning about the wonders of trees at school, and we invite you to continue the exploration at home with these fun and educational activities:

1. **Nature Walks:** Take leisurely walks in your neighborhood or a nearby park to observe the different types of trees. Encourage your child to identify and name the trees they see. Ask questions like, "What color are the leaves?" and "How do the branches look?"
2. **Leaf Art:** Collect fallen leaves during your nature walks and use them for art projects at home. Create leaf rubbings by placing a leaf under a piece of paper and gently rubbing a crayon or colored pencil over it. You can also make leaf collages or paint leaves to explore their unique shapes and colors.
3. **Tree Storytime:** Visit your local library to find books about trees. Read tree-themed stories together and discuss what your child has learned about trees at school. Encourage them to share their thoughts and observations.
4. **Tree Journal:** Help your child create a tree journal. They can draw pictures of different trees they encounter, make notes about the weather, and describe any animals or birds they see in the trees. This journal can be a wonderful keepsake of their tree study. (Please note that "drawings" at this age may just be scribbles, and that is okay. Art for students at this age is about the process more than the product.)
5. **Tree Scavenger Hunt:** Create a scavenger hunt by making a list (the list can and should be of pictures for matching) of tree-related items or features for your child to find during your outdoor adventures. This activity can be both fun and educational. These activities will not only reinforce your child's learning about trees but also provide valuable opportunities for bonding and exploration. We hope you enjoy this month's tree study adventures with your little ones!