



Northfield Nursery School

1401 South Maple Street

Northfield, MN 55057

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www.northfieldnurseryschool.com

What's happening?

March 2008

NNS Parent Board

President

Marianne Moser
645-6715

Vice-President

Gina Ledman
645-6883

Treasurer

Lisa Kelley
663-6081

Secretary

Krista Sorenson
663-0503

Registrar

Tanya Jackson
645-0501

Volunteer Coordinator

Kristy Campbell
663-1811

Special Events

Ellen Trotman
645-8249

Director

Deedee Stevens-Neal
645-8286

We have very few school days in the month of March but we are packing them full of fun activities.

On March 3 and 4, we will be setting up a "bear cave" for the children to sit in and read bear-themed books by flashlight. We will be having teddy bears in the block area, bear sorting at the science center, bears and "caves" in the sand table, (hopefully) snow and polar bears in the water table, and we will be finger painting chocolate pudding on bear shapes at the art table. In addition, we will be having tap shoes and rain sticks at the music and movement center.

During the week of March 10-14, we will be putting the wooden dollhouse with dolls and dollhouse furniture in the block area; putting fountains and tornado tubes in the discovery area; using some new grabbers in the sand table; and experimenting with corn starch and water in the water table. We will also be setting up a shoe store in the dramatic play area and putting out drums and tambourines in the music and movement center. At the art center, we will be cooking pizza muffins, gluing buttons on felt pocket shapes, and dyeing various items. In addition, the afternoon class will be using atomic painters and painting with biocolor on aluminum foil.

During the week of March 17-21, we will put magnets in the science center, put plastic waffle cones and shovels in the sand table, place Easter grass and plastic eggs to match in the water table, and put drums and tambourines in the music and movement center. We will be printing with green peppers, finger painting, collaging with the items that we dyed, and cutting and gluing paper strips at the art table.

Our Featured Author/Illustrator

The author/illustrator for the month of March is Don Freeman (not Margaret Wise Brown as I reported last month).

Don Freeman was born in San Diego, California on August 11, 1908. He was an orphan and there is little information available about his childhood years. He graduated from the Principia High School in St. Louis, Missouri. From there, he moved to New York City, where he worked as a painter and as a jazz trumpeter. He studied art during the day and played in clubs and at wedding receptions at night. Eventually, he turned to art as a full-time occupation out of necessity. Once, while waiting for a subway train, he became so engrossed in sketching people in the train station that he boarded the train without his trumpet. From that time on, he was a professional artist. He made his living sketching his impressions of Broadway theater productions for the Herald Tribune and the New York Times.

His wife, Lydia, was also from San Diego and was an artist. Together they had one son, Roy. After Roy was born, Don turned his attentions to writing and illustrating children's books. The husband and wife duo collaborated on some projects and some Don completed on his own. Don died in 1978 but left behind numerous unpublished works. His son, Roy, has completed some of the projects and so, Don has had some books published very recently.

Our author/illustrator for the month of April is Margaret Wise Brown.

Please Remember:

- To bring your child's bag every day.
- To put a safety pin or clip on your child's bag for important notes.
- To label your child's bag.
- To check your child's locker daily for artwork and notes.
- Bring a coat, hat, mittens, snow pants, and snow boots, all labeled with your child's name.

Thank you!

Wish List

- Paper towels
- Cleaned 2-liter bottles for tornado tubes at the science center
- Cleaned metal lids from the frozen juice cans
- Gallon-size zipper bags
- White copy paper
- Wooden clothespins (the kind that you pinch and they open)

Recent Recipes

Letter Pretzels

Dissolve 1 tablespoon yeast in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup warm water. Add 1 teaspoon honey and 1 teaspoon salt. Add 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup flour. Knead. Separate into 6-8 pieces of dough. Roll into long pieces and form letters. Brush with beaten egg. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake for 10 minutes at 425 degrees.

(from Kinder Krunchies by Karen S. Jenkins)

Peanut Butter Play dough

Mix 1 cup of peanut butter and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of honey. Sprinkle in powdered milk and wheat germ until it is the consistency of play dough. Play and eat! For added fun, use raisins, granola, coconut, and/or crushed graham crackers to decorate.

(from Dribble Drabble by Deya Brashears)

Pizza Muffins

For each person, halve an English muffin. Spread a small amount of bottled spaghetti or pizza sauce on the English muffin half. Sprinkle with shredded mozzarella cheese. (Add meat first, if you want.) Bake in toaster oven until cheese melts. Allow to cool briefly. Enjoy!

Bear Cave Days

On Monday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 4, we will be setting up a "bear cave" in which the children can crawl and read bear books by flashlight. We will also be having some bear-themed art and activities.

We need one adult to volunteer for each class time to be in the bear cave reading books to the children. If you would like to help us out in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher and let her know. Thanks in advance!

A few tidbits...

- We have had a rash of forgetfulness when it comes to bringing snack. If you are not sure when your snack day is, there are extra calendars in the brown mail station in the hallway. If you do forget, please replenish the cupboard with snacks and juice for the next time someone else forgets.
- Unfortunately, Kathy Lansing was offered a job at Sibley Elementary School starting immediately. Marianne Moser will be filling in as teacher's aide on Tuesday and Thursday mornings until Melody Bierman can return to her position. Shari Wadleigh remains in her position.
- We need a family who is willing to care for our gerbil over Spring Break. If you are interested, talk to Deedee.
- We are looking for parents to serve on our 2008-2009 Board of Directors. If you are interested, call the Board President, Marianne Moser, at 645-6715.

Thanks to...

- Shannon Tassava, who volunteered in the Tuesday/
Thursday morning class session (just for fun!)
- All the families that brought clean trash for the trash tower!
- All the families that attended parent/teacher conferences.
- Claire Larson for bringing in their dog, Ole.
- Dr. Becky Johnson for hosting the afternoon class at her dental office.
- Anne Brust for coming to the Monday/
Wednesday/Friday morning class to show the children about dental hygiene.

Upcoming Events

2/29	No School
3/1	Public School Workshop Day Public Registration 9:00-11:00 AM
3/3 & 4	Bear Cave Days
3/5, 6, 7	No School NNS Parent/Teacher Conferences Cooking pizza muffins
3/10 & 3/11	Pocket Day
3/12 & 3/13	(See related article below.) Family Fun Night (More info coming soon!)
3/13	Afternoon Spanish lesson
3/14	Making applesauce green with powdered lime jello
3/17	Afternoon class to Sibley Elementary School for 4 th grade Reading Buddies
3/18	Afternoon class to Sibley Marsh
3/20	No School Spring Break
3/21 - 3/30	No School NNS Teachers attend the Early Childhood Conference at the U.W. - Stout
4/24 & 4/25	

Pocket Days

On Wednesday, March 12 (for the morning and afternoon classes) and Thursday, March 13 (for the morning class only), we will be having pocket day. Each child may bring one special something (e.g. toy) that will fit in his/her pocket. Please make sure that the special item is non-violent. Each child will then have a turn to show his/her class the special item and tell about it. They will then have the opportunity to share the item with his/her classmates or return it to his/her pocket.