

York Avenue Preschool Director's Corner

September 25, 2019

School is officially underway and it's been a wonderful start to the new school year!



Our **Twos** are busy separating and learning about their teachers, classrooms and new friends. They have done a great job adjusting and our teachers are building trust and connections. Our 2-day, 3-day and 5-day classes have started to visit some specialty teachers for activities such as art, music and gym! All of our Twos students are learning the routines and expectations of school and we are so proud at how well they are doing. The classrooms are full of exciting toys and centers for hands on exploration and fun! Teachers are providing opportunities for both structured and open-ended play, art and sensory experiences.

The **Threes** have started the year with the goal of building their classroom communities. Themes in these rooms have focused around getting to know one another. With "All About Me" the children are discussing their own likes and dislikes- colors, food, songs, toys and games. This then moved into "Feelings", learning about and talking about what it means and looks like to be happy, mad, sad, scared and curious- and more importantly what makes each child feel that way and then how to manage those feelings! Through books and stories such as *The Feelings Book* by Todd Parr, *Glad Monster, Sad Monster* by Ed Emberley and Ann Miranda and *When Sophie Gets Angry- Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang, teachers have been able to facilitate conversations around feelings. The children have had opportunities to "act out" each of these feelings as well as to create faces of different emotions in shaving cream and through drawing and painting. The students have also been taking a closer look at the letters in their names in preparation of starting Letter of the Week activities.

Fours are the "seniors" of the school and have been enjoying their longer school day. Eating lunch with their friends, going to Art Studio and experimenting in STEAM, these classes have hit the ground running! Building a respectful and collaborative classroom community is the focus of the first few weeks of school. Children have had opportunities to share about themselves and learn about their classmates, seeing things some may have in common, and celebrating differences! We've counted letters and graphed names, measured and created height charts and worked together to come up with some class and community rules to create kind, safe and fun classrooms for all. Our Fours have also been busy writing: tracing letters and forming their own when writing and drawing in their journals and "All About Me" books. They also began counting out the days of school, learning about grouping by ones, tens and eventually hundreds!

Although the weather is still fairly warm, we did celebrate the first day of fall on the 23rd. Many classrooms are already engaged in vibrant discussions, exciting lessons and explorations on apples, leaves and all things autumn!

We look forward to sharing more information with our current families at Curriculum Night early next month. For prospective families, we look forward to meeting you during the admissions season!

Warm regards,

Carissa Canovas & Nancy Baldaro

