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## End of the Year 2012

Every year the last week of school comes along and we find ourselves saying “we’re having so much fun it can’t be time to be done”. And yet we know it is time. My heart is always very full as I sit down to write this last note and reflect on all that has happened over the course of the year. We never tire of the exciting process of growth and change that takes place during the time your children are with us. And the process of sending them out the door always tugs at our hearts but is balanced by the knowledge that they are ready for whatever the next step on the journey will be. And so, in the words of our children as they sing at the close of each day, “we say thank you, thanks for helping...” That word “helping” has huge meaning to us here at PNS! We appreciate your helping hands in the classroom, the delicious snacks you share, your faithful tuition payments, your support of our fundraiser and other special projects, your help as we travel around the neighborhood on field trips and your words of encouragement. We value the partnership with our families and know that we cannot do what we do here without your help. On behalf of the entire PNS staff, thank you for sharing your children with us. It is always a *joy* and a *privilege* to be a part of your child’s early learning experience.

We also acknowledge and thank our board of directors for their work and support throughout the year. We extend our heartfelt thanks to outgoing board members John & Nicole Lozier and Michael Gorski & Heather LaPorte. We welcome Dean & Jennifer Fiihr and Dave & Emily Price to a three-year term on the board.

To those of you moving on from our program, we extend our warmest good wishes for the future. We continue to be amazed at how life can cause our paths to cross again and so we simply say “until next time”. To those of you continuing on with us next year, we look forward to being in touch over the summer and seeing you again in the fall!

**If your child is registered for a class at PNS next fall, *remember that forms and the remainder of September tuition will be due June 1.* Please note- the physical form (if you need one) may be returned any time before the first day of school. Please do not hold off on returning the other forms and fees because you are waiting for a physical/immunization form. If your plans change at any time, please contact the PNS office- 255-3271 or [jvanwyk@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:jvanwyk@plymouthchurch.com).**

Three of our staff members are celebrating graduations in their families this spring. Those exciting milestones and other events this year remind us how precious these years are and how quickly time passes. This may be hard for you to believe when you are deep in the trenches of sleepless nights, potty training and crazy schedules. I’m pretty sure I say this every year, but we mean it from the bottom of our hearts: Cherish the days. Know that we believe in you and the important work you are doing as parents!

Over for more information



Plymouth Nursery School provides for the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of each child in a safe and nurturing environment that promotes learning through play, creative expression and parental involvement.

### **We are saving:**

Paper towel and TP tubes

Any film canisters but especially *clear* ones

Snack sized Pringles containers (look like boats)

Pringles cans- please wipe them out first!

Black trays from frozen entrees

Bubble wrap, especially wrap with bigger bubbles

Printer cartridges- any except Epson

Please leave your donated recyclable items in the red basket next to the cart outside the PNS office.

Stop in over the summer with recyclables or bring them in next fall!

### **Looking Ahead**

**The first week of the 2012-2013 school year will be September 4-7.**

**Just a few openings remain** in the Playtime for Twos classes for next fall if you know someone who might be interested!

**Keep reading all summer!** You might have fun with this list of birthdays of the authors of some of our favorite children's books.

Celebrate with a trip to the library or your home bookshelf to find one of their books!

June 10-Maurice Sendak- we lost this talented author last week!

June 25-Eric Carle

July 14-Laura Numeroff

July 18- Felecia Bond

August 1-Gail Gibbons

August 11-Don Freeman

August 30-Donald Crews

Let your child see you reading for pleasure, too!

**Backyard Basics—** Some ideas on incorporating developmentally appropriate activities into your summer outdoor fun, based on an article from Scholastic Early Childhood Today.

**Babies** need to experience and explore the outdoors through their senses safely! Include them in outdoor activities either as participants (as they are able) or observers from the stroller, blanket, swing or even an *empty* wading pool. Talk to them about what is going on around them; help them to see, touch and smell.

**Toddlers** need space to practice new skills and explore safely! Offer push/pull toys

(wagons, dolls strollers), low climbing structures; sand with lots of digging and pouring tools; buckets, brushes & water for "painting"; bubbles, balls and ride-on toys.

**Preschoolers** need time, space and practice to improve motor skills and to play cooperatively with peers. Offer wheel toys, swings, gardening activities and gear, woodworking tools to use on an old tree stump; spray bottles, paint rollers and trays for water painting; sidewalk chalk; big boxes for dramatic play or to paint; and broken items, like an old wagon, to "repair".

**Early elementary aged** children need freedom to independently plan their activities as well as more opportunities to practice problem solving and cooperation. Provide basketball hoops, jump ropes and balls. Encourage their interest in longer term projects such as planting a garden or building a fort or play house.

**To manage mixed-age outdoor play**, think ahead about potential trouble spots and establish some simple ground rules. And as they play, make the most of the problems that might arise:

- Don't try to solve everything for them. Observe and guide with open-ended questions
- Help strategize ways to figure out the problem
- Encourage them to brainstorm solutions
- Give them plenty of time to experiment. Watch the progress and encourage new ideas if the first one doesn't work
- Praise them for attempts at problem solving. Make your praise specific, rather than the quick "good job"!

And remember: Hearing the words "I'm bored" is not necessarily a bad thing! ☺

### **Homemade bubble solution:**

Fill a gallon jug with water. Add 2/3 cup dishwashing liquid (Dawn works well) and 1 tablespoon of glycerin. Mix well and let sit 24 hours. A large quantity like this lends itself well to pouring it into a big shallow pan or pool and using large wands to blow BIG bubbles!

**Enjoy the summer!**