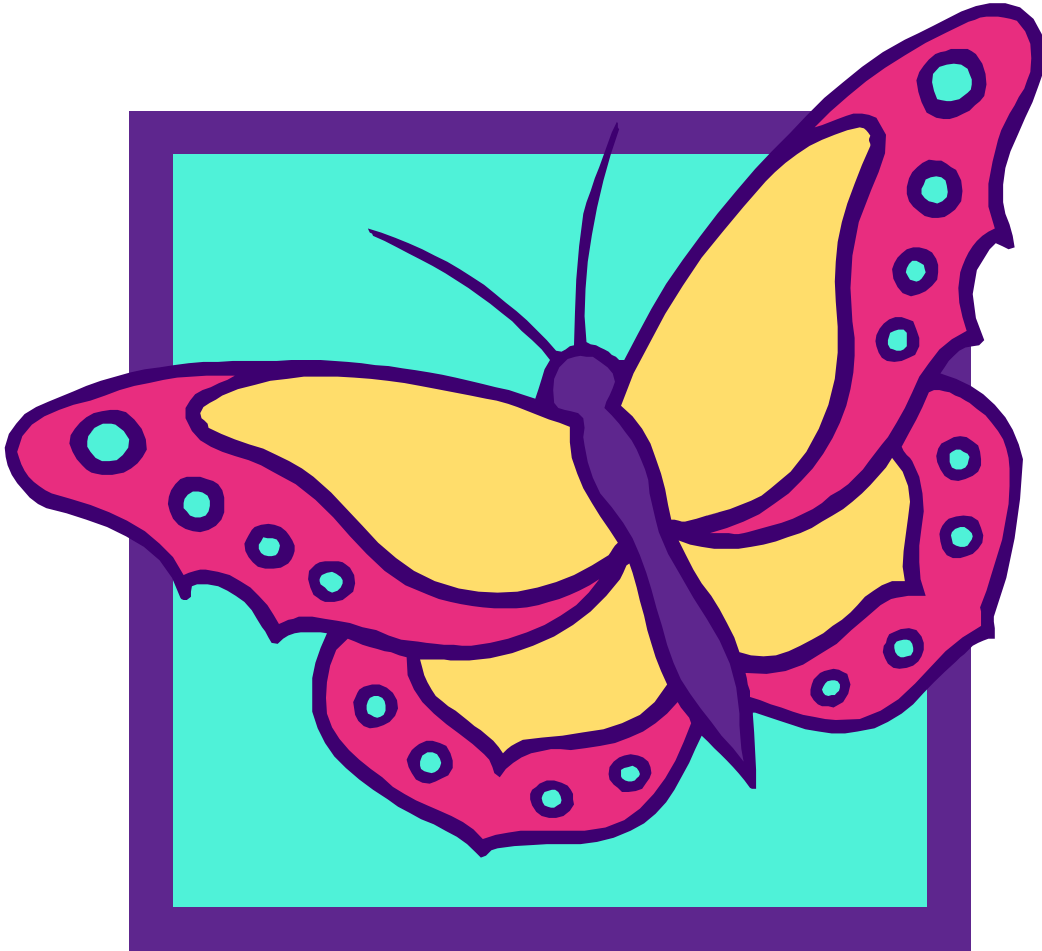


The Butterfly Classroom

Parent Handbook
2010-2011



Little Acorn Preschool & Kindergarten

WELCOME TO THE BUTTERFLY CLASSROOM

Welcome parents and children to the Butterfly Classroom! My name is Mary Poff and I will be your child's teacher for the 2010/2011 school year. I'm excited to start a fun-filled year and for the opportunity to teach your four and five year old children! I am looking forward to getting to know all parents, children, grandparents, and caregivers! I welcome parental involvement, participation, and assistance in my classroom. My door is always open!

MEET YOUR TEACHER'S

My name is Mary Poff, I was born, raised, and have lived in the Vancouver area all my life. A few years ago my family and I decided to move to Woodland to be closer to my husband's work and to live in a small-town atmosphere. We have now been content residents of Woodland for eleven years. I have been married thirty years to my wonderful husband Kirk and we are proud parents of our twenty three-year-old daughter Justine who graduated from WSU in Pullman in December with a bachelor degree in liberal arts.

As a family, we enjoy camping, weekend beach trips, clam digging, walking, hiking, golf, movies, and biking. Activities I enjoy personally are working out at the gym, reading, and gardening.

I enjoy teaching preschool children because I love their individuality and I find it rewarding and challenging. I feel I relate well to children and I will always strive to be caring and sensitive to your child's feelings and needs.

My name is Joni Morin. I have been married for fifteen years to my husband Jay. We have three daughters. Our oldest daughter, McKenna will be fourteen this year and is in eighth grade at the Vancouver School of Arts. Our middle daughter, Madisyn is ten and our youngest daughter, Marissa will be nine. They attend Felida Elementary School. All three of our girls have attended Little Acorn Preschool & Kindergarten. I also have two dogs, Magoo and Mojo that complete my family.

When I am not teaching, I like to help out in my daughters' class rooms. We also love to go camping as a family. Our favorite spot is the beach. Our daughters are also very involved with the Vancouver Swim Club. They attend swim meets at least once a month and practice nearly every day. This keeps me very busy after school.

I have been teaching here at Little Acorn for four years, but have

been around the school for almost ten years. The school and staff here is awesome, and I am glad to be a part of the Little Acorn community. I look forward to teaching your children and getting to know all of you this year. Every child is unique and I can't wait to get to know each and everyone of them!

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

I've enjoyed working at Little Acorn for the past twelve years, assisting in the classroom three of those years and teaching in the Butterfly Class since October of 2001.

During my years with Little Acorn, I've continued to stay current and take classes emphasizing the latest in education theory. I've participated in many conferences, workshops, and attended After Hours Training. In addition I have completed several classes at Clark College in Early Childhood Education and I am continuing my education.

Additionally, I've participated in related activities outside of Little Acorn including teaching vacation bible school, HOSTS reading volunteer and general substituting with the Woodland School District.

My years prior to working at Little Acorn, I enjoyed volunteering in my daughter's classroom, was active in PTA helping with activities and organizing fundraisers, and assisted with my daughter's Girl Scout troop by helping at meetings and campouts. During my daughter's preschool years, I took a Parent Education Class at Clark College and participated in a Cooperative Preschool, which my daughter attended.

PHILOSOPHY

I believe children learn continually through play and exploring because of their imaginative minds and their natural curiosity of the world around them. I believe this is implemented through appropriate opportunities and activities in the classroom that stimulate curiosity, exploring, discovery, kindness, cooperation, self-confidence, and friendships. I also feel it's important to introduce academic learning in the preschool classroom but I strive to keep it stress free. I feel that it's important to offer options of play that provide opportunities that support a variety of personalities, interests, and learning styles. I strive to look for strengths in all children and build relationships using those strengths. Emphasis is placed on building characteristics and relationships so that children will enjoy school and feel comfortable and confident with academics.

CURRICULUM

As teacher of the Butterfly classroom, I want to create an environment where children feel relaxed and happy so that they can feel free and secure to learn and play. I implement lessons and activities that will motivate children to work cooperatively as a group. I also want my students to have fun playing, discovering, creating, making friends, and being a member of The Butterfly Classroom. Play is indeed the business of childhood and it is through play that children come to know themselves and their place in the world. Children learn through their senses, through their feelings, through their intellect and through interaction with other children and adults. Social skills are an important part of early learning. Relating with others in all aspects of their lives are skills that children will utilize in their school years and in adult life. I will introduce academic learning through reading, games, songs, poems, art projects, science projects, classroom jobs, cooking projects, field trips, and visually throughout the classroom. I recognize the need to educate children to be creative and sensitive individuals who are eager to learn. I strive to develop curriculum that is balanced and that will reinforce these characteristics. My goal is to prepare your child for kindergarten. Some of my lessons revolve around themes such as seasons, friendship, families, animals, nature, health, and safety. I have attached an example of a daily lesson plan and a daily schedule for your review.

COMMUNICATIONS

School newsletters, my classroom newsletters, lesson plans, and other communications will be placed on the parent information bulletin board outside my classroom. My newsletters will be updated weekly and can be obtained on the preschool website at www.littleacornpreschool.com. Parents are asked to collect and review the materials on a regular basis. I welcome any suggestions or input you may have. If you need to communicate with me immediately, you may call me at home or speak with me before or after school. Please let me know before school if your child has any outside challenges so that I may help make his/her day more comfortable. In respect to this, if I observe your child having an extra challenging or emotional day, I will let you know.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

I hold an individual conference with parents once a year. Prior to the conference, I will prepare a written report of your child's progress for your

review. You will receive a copy of the report at the end of the school year. Conferences are scheduled so that we can have an uninterrupted discussion about your child and share information that will allow for more sensitive understanding of your goals for your child and to further the learning process. Parents are encouraged to request special meetings anytime you have concerns about your child's experience or progress at school. When scheduling a meeting, please let me know the nature of the concern so that I can be prepared to give you information and respond to your questions.

ATTENDANCE, SIGN IN, AND LATE FEES

Getting to school on time every day is an important habit to teach and develop in preschool for the future success of your child. Please sign your child in and out every day on the clipboard provided outside the Butterfly Classroom. This helps us to have an accurate attendance record, which is especially important for fire drills and field trips. If there are any changes in your child's authorized pick-up routine a note and ID is required. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends promptly at 11:45 a.m. School policy provides a five-minute grace period for pick up; after that there will be a charge of one dollar per minute. Please be on time, as children may become anxious when waiting for that familiar face at the end of their school day.

HEALTH & WELLNESS POLICIES

If your child is ill or unable to attend class, please notify the school or myself and let us know the nature of your child's illness. If your child has contracted a contagious illness or condition please notify the school so that other families can be notified. School policy requires that your child be clear of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for 48 hours before returning to school.

OUTDOOR PLAY & SAFETY

When dressing your child in the morning please keep in mind we like to get messy. Children will participate in art projects, science, and cooking. We will also go outside for at least twenty minutes every day in almost any weather. The Butterfly Class recess time is first thing in the morning at 9:50. Please remember to send a jacket to school with your child. Children need to be dressed appropriately to allow them the freedom and comfort to express themselves and have fun.

Because safety is important to the staff of Little Acorn we have a new policy requiring children to wear a bike helmet if they would like to ride scooters or tricycles on the playground. This is also a good habit to teach

young children as the city of Vancouver now requires bike helmets. In order to lessen the possibility of a lice outbreak we are asking that children bring their own helmet from home. Helmets should be labeled with child's name and hung with the child's coat each day.

DIRECTION

My job is to help your child understand empathy and appropriate treatment of others. This in turn will help your child gain self-confidence and feel good about their decisions. Inappropriate behavior will be handled on an individual basis with positive re-direction. In situations where there is conflict, the teacher and or assistant will help guide and mediate children to communicate and come up with their own solutions to resolve conflicts. With the help and support of my assistant and parents, we can establish a positive classroom atmosphere.

FIELD TRIPS & OUTINGS

The Butterfly classroom will go on several field trips throughout the school year. Please let me know if you have any personal connections, ideas, or special interests for field trips. School policy requires parents to transport their own child; teachers are not allowed to transport children. If this isn't always possible for you, another option is to share rides with other preschool parents. Please pre-arrange this and obtain written consent.

Because I feel diversity is important in the classroom occasionally we will walk to a nearby park. We are lucky to be within walking distance of Shumway Park, which is located across 32nd behind The School of Arts. On days we decide to walk to the park I will let parents know ahead.

Little Acorn is also lucky to be conveniently located across the street from Vencor, which is a nursing home for senior citizens. Since I have been at Little Acorn it has been a tradition for the children to visit the grandmas and grandpas at Vencor monthly to sing songs and chat with senior residents. The children take pride in learning songs and visiting with the grandpas and grandmas and in return the senior residents love and look forward to the children's visits. I feel both seniors and children benefit from these interactions.

PARENT VOLUNTEERING & VISITOR POLICIES

I appreciate parent volunteers and I encourage you to share your talents, strengths, cultural knowledge and interests in the Butterfly Classroom. For the safety of everyone new policy requires all visitors to

sign-in at the preschool office and pick-up a visitor badge to wear while volunteering at the school. At the end of your visit please return the badge to the office and sign-out.

In addition, all Little Acorn parents are required to volunteer 2 hours per school year for each child enrolled. Ideas for volunteer time might be playground/playroom clean-up, carnival, family fun nights, teacher projects, or helping with fundraising events. Please pick-up a volunteer form at the preschool office and keep track of your volunteer hours.

SHARING

I believe sharing is important and exciting to preschool children because it gives them the opportunity to share something that is special to them. Children can learn to listen and respect others, while the sharing person experiences self-confidence from a sense of interest and joy from classmates. Sharing days will rotate, depending on the days your child attends. To help keep the interest of others the children will take turns sharing, I will post whose turn it is each week in my newsletter. To make sharing fun and challenging I would like sharing items to pertain to our alphabet letter of the week. Parents when it's your child's turn for sharing please help them gather a few items that start with the letter of the week.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are special and I would like to recognize your child's birthday in a manner that is meaningful to all the children in the Butterfly Class. Please see me beforehand to coordinate your child's special day. If you wish you may gather together some photographs of your child as a newborn and at his/her first birthday, second birthday, etc., as well as a couple of special photos. If you choose you may use a poster board to mount pictures and write about your child's likes and dislikes, favorite activities, or memorable experiences. Seeing the pictures and hearing the brief commentary helps the whole class to develop an understanding of growth and the meaning of birthdays.

If you plan to provide a birthday treat for the children in class please consider a healthy snack or prize for each child rather than a sweet snack. If you are planning a birthday party outside of school please do not send personal party invitations to school.

I'm looking forward to a fun-filled year in the Butterfly Class.

Teacher Mary



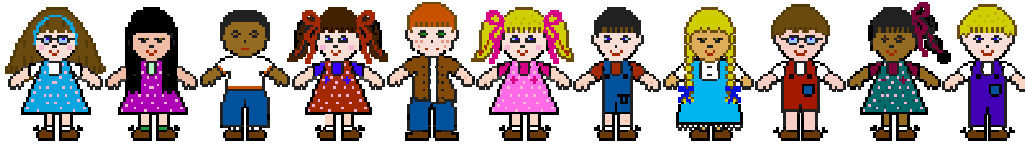
Butterfly Class Daily Schedule

9:00-11:45

- **9:00 a.m. DOOR OPENS:** *Welcome!*
- **9:00-9:30 GROUP ACTIVITIES:** *Games, math manipulatives, puzzles, portfolios, play dough, writing practice, sensory table. (30 Min.)*
- **9:30-9:50 LEARNING CIRCLE:** *Welcome song, story, pledge of allegiance, introduce projects for the day, discussion and questions of the day, sharing. (20 Min.)*
- **9:50-10:15 RECESS:** *(25 Min.)*
- **10:15-10:30 SNACK TIME:** *Wash hands, set tables, sing thank-you song & have snack. (15 Min.)*
- **10:30-10:35 SILENT READING:** *(5 Min.)*
- **10:35-11:20 FREE PLAY:** *Science projects, cooking projects, art projects, pretend play, easel painting, & portfolios. (45 Min.)*
- **11:20-11:30 CLEAN UP:** *Pick up classroom toys. (10 Min.)*
- **11:30-11:45 CLOSING CIRCLE:** *Classroom jobs, poems, songs and movement, stories, games. (15 Min.)*

Butterfly Class Weekly Lesson's & Daily Activities

November 17-21, 2008



Weekly Theme:

Friendship

Sensory Table:

Flour, bowls, spoons, measuring cups, funnels (math) (social/emotional)

Creative Art:

Friendship Wreath (group activity) (sensory) (language/literacy) (social/emotional) (Monday & Tuesday)

Friendship Bracelets (buddy activity) (fine motor) (social/emotional) (Wednesday)

Best Smile Picture (social/emotional) (language/literacy) (Thursday & Friday)

Learning Circle:

Story: Little Mouse and the Big Red Apple (friendship/sharing)

Song: Playmate Song (buddy activity) (social/emotional)

Story: It's Mine (taking turns/sharing)

Song: Make New Friends

Story: Extraordinary Friends (friendship/working together)

Game: Friendship Circle Game (group activity) (social/emotional) (Thursday & Friday)

Story: Jamaica's Find (friendship/honesty)

Science, Math, & Cooking:

My Thumbprint (buddy activity) (science) (social/emotional) (language/literacy) (Wednesday & Thursday)

Extra Extra:

Letter of the Week: I (language/literacy)

Sign Language Word: Ice Cream (language/literacy)

Morning Sharing People: Amelia/Thursday & Daria/Friday (social/emotional)

Homework: Good Friend Tokens (group activity) (social/emotional)