

Swans' Classroom News

September 2017

Greetings Swans Class Parents!

As we are approaching our seventh week of school, we have seen so much development both within the children, and the classroom environment. The first year children are navigating their way around the classroom with confidence and taking ownership of their space with the help of the second year children. The second year children (older children OR this group of older children) have been excellent role models by demonstrating to their friends how to walk back from the playground to the classroom and how to sit during meeting time. Friendships amongst the first and second year children are also blossoming.

New Exploration in Our Community

In the beginning of September we started visiting both, the Ecosystem Farm and the Botanical Gardens. We will continue to visit them on a regular bases. Every Monday we will be picking up our CSA at the farm, which is on



Bouldercrest, in East Atlanta. **We will continue to visit the farm on Mondays till the CSA ends at the end of the year.** Children love visiting the farm where Smudge the pig lives. Braxton, who visited the farm before Irma, and then after, asked **“what happened to Smudge during the storm?”** Farmer Kirsten explained that Smudge stayed safe by staying in his house during the storm. When estimating how many chickens live on the farm, **Zac said “I think there are 10,000 chickens! Roosters and chickens don't fly”**. Every child will have an opportunity to visit the farm.



Our first trip to the Botanical Gardens was on Tuesday September 19th, and we will continue visiting the Gardens with different children. The children were very fascinated with the construction area in the gardens.
Bryce: “We're building a strong house”
Isla: “We're trying to build a house so the big bad wolf won't get us”



Milo: “I'm building the door”

We would LOVE something like this at our playground!

Natural Material Collection

We have noticed how much children love collecting natural materials either from their walk to school or out on the playground. Instead of having the natural materials living in their individual cubbies, we now have a designated place where their beautiful collections can live and be enjoyed by all. The children's collection is located in the front of the room. Please encourage your child to



bring in their treasures and add them to our growing collection. So far we have three cicadas and a luna Moth. Children have enjoyed exploring the material with the digital microscope. Collecting and exploring the natural materials help the children interpret the interconnectedness to the natural world.



Messaging

Children have already been utilizing their writing note books, which are located in their journal mailboxes. Each child has their own journal which is personalized with their picture. This helps the children keep track and create ownership with their own journal. The journal is a great place for children to express their thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to place wishing tree notes in their journal cubbies.

Weekly Routine - Music Monday

We are so delighted that Ms. Mel joins us every Monday from 9:30am-10:00am on the playground for music. Ms. Mel is not only playing favorites, but she is also introducing children to new songs like the Sound of Music and the introduction of syllables in both music and writing.



Drop off occurs **AT THE PLAYGROUND** at 9:00am, unless you have signed up **and paid for early arrival**. Early arrival begins at 7:30am. Children who arrive to the Swan's Class between 7:30am and 8:30am will leave the classroom and head to the playground with Ms. Esther at 8:30 am. If you are dropping your child off for early arrival between 8:30 am-9:00 am, please drop your child off at the playground. This will help make the transition easier. Please refer to the family handbook for cost and information regarding the Early Arrival time.

Please remember to sign your child in and out daily on the attendance sheet, and please check to see if there will be a field trip on the days your child attends school. If your child is going on a field trip, their name will be highlighted on the attendance sheet. In addition, **field trip form** must have a parent/guardian signature to allow children to leave the campus for the Garden and weekly CSA pickup. These forms will be at the front of the classroom for early arrival, and out on the playground during drop off time.

There is also a sign in sheet for children to practice writing their name each day.

Important Reminders:

- Always lock the classroom door upon entering or leaving the classroom
- Please bring your child's JOURNAL (new word for our Portfolios) back to school so that we may add more pages.
- Please check your child's cubby to make sure they have two sets of weather appropriate clothing.
- Please make sure that all clothes, cups, and containers are labeled with your child's first name and last initial.
- Please send fresh WATER every day in your child's labeled water bottle. Remember to take the bottle with you at the end of the day for cleaning.
- This year, parent helper days will also be your child's share day. On share day, your child is encouraged to bring an item from home to present to the class during afternoon meeting. The children take a lot of pride in this experience!

- If you are still working on potty training, please share with us the strategies that you are using at home so that we can be consistent in implementing them here at school. Also, make sure that your child has enough changes of clothes and pull-ups for extended day.
- Please send 3-5 family photos for us to laminate and keep in our Safe Place. This will support our home/school connection, giving the children a tangible form of security.
- We encourage your child to bring in loveys or blankets from home either for extended day or for our Safe Space in the back of our classroom. Please no toys from home.
- Our class monthly letters are posted on our class page in the GPCP website and shared through the school newsletter that goes out bi-monthly. You can access your child's class page from the website at any time, by clicking the "Classes tab" and choosing your respective class. In our class page, you can also access the email addresses of all GP Swans' families. You can email families individually or as a class group. Please be aware that all school related matters need to be communicated through the website.

Please feel free to communicate with us directly by emailing us at: liz.lootens@gpcp.org, natalie.rosbottom@gpcp.org & esther.chambers@gpcp.org

Calendar:

- **School closed for Fall Break:** Monday through Wednesday, October 9, 10 & 11
(children return to school on Thursday, October 12th)
- **Stroller-K Run/Walk Benefit:** October 21, 10am Roswell, GA
Join GPCP staff in support of Project Infinity's first fundraiser
- **Family-Educator Conferences: Oct. 23rd-27th**
- **Halloween Parade: Tuesday, October 31st @10:30am**

We've enjoyed your time as parent helpers and look forward to spending time with you in the classroom and in the community! ~ The Swans Team (Liz, Natalie, and Esther)