

CT Frogs August 2018 Newsletter

Hello! Welcome to the Frogs class!

We are so excited to begin the 2018-2019 school year! It's already been an exciting and enriching first three weeks! Below, we have some important information and updates to share with you.

Weekly Journals:

We are so happy to share with you glimpses into our week together in the Frog's class through our weekly journals. Sneaking a peek into the world of the Frogs children through our weekly journals and monthly newsletters will support your post school day conversations with your child, as we will share research

concepts and points of interest as they emerge.

Week 1's journal

is a spotlight on the process of *Inserimento*, an Italian word describing the process of multi-dimensional relationship building that each child will experience individually and collectively during the first month of school.

Week 2's journal highlights the children's encounter with the language of light and shadow inside our indoor classroom spaces. (A little tip on what to expect in the weekly journals: More Images! Less Words!)

Weekly Journals can be found in our classroom and on our class Page on the website.



As a class and school wide community we have identified and developed some threads of focus for the 2018-2019 Frog's class school year. As these threads of research unfold and develop throughout the year we will make updates on the projection sheets kept on the bulletin board in our classroom (above the water cubbies), in addition to featuring their evolutionary processes in the monthly newsletters.

Inserimento, A Period of Transition:

Our focus during these first three weeks together is to develop and re-establish relationships with each other,

our materials and tools, as well as our environments both inside and outside of the school building, including the natural world of Cabbagetown Park. We will encourage children to seek and make connections between themselves and their own experiences and acquired knowledge. We will also explore and examine connections



discovered throughout our school community, extended community, and the natural environment. Through these experiences children, educators, and families will identify interests, preferences, strengths, and agreements about how to respectfully live together in and out of these shared spaces.



Birthday Gardening:

We will continue our commitment to celebrating birthdays in a meaningful way which supports our value of relationships and empathy. This year we will continue to develop a birthday garden. The garden will nurse and nurture baby spider plants and vines for each member of the class community. Each birthday plant will be given a name and an origin story in honor of the birthday child which will be documented on a “birthday scroll”. With the support of Ms. Ina we will invest our efforts in the care



and health of our birthday plants while tracking and documenting their growth. We will also explore various theories for how to support healthy growth in our plants such as the benefits of singing and reading to plants.

The children have created the first birthday plant of the year, a baby philodendron, and named it Rainbow Spiderman. We welcomed her to the class community during the first week of school in honor of Raquel's 3rd birthday!



Declarations of Intent: Identity & Interconnection to Nature

Identity Research:

We as GPCP educators are committed to an ongoing investigation of the identity of our school and its impact in the wider community.

Research Question:

We are continuing our research question from the previous two school years, which asks, **What are the different processes children devise to interpret their interconnectedness to the natural world?**

GPCP will forge ahead focusing on exploring the ways in which our core values intersect with the children's interest in nature. Our intent reflects the continued commitment to the wellbeing of our community. We will foster experiences that embrace interconnected values and concepts such as curiosity, respect, diversity, empathy, process and growth, relationships, and research.



A Disposition and Attitude for Research of the Natural World:

We hope to create a context for ongoing heuristic learning through experimentation and investigation of nature while expanding our concepts of tools, systems and resources, what they are, how to use them, and what is their value. We believe the most important resources the children have is each other. Knowledge is always co-constructed from an ecological source. We are excited about learning with your children in our context where diversity of thought, opinion, experiences and perspectives are not just encouraged but also valued and respected.

Reminders & Dates to Remember

- Thank you for your efforts to reduce the amount of germs and sickness spread at our school by remembering to help your child wash their hands upon arrival. Please keep up the great work!
- **School Closed for Labor Day: Sept. 3rd**
- **Workday: Saturday, Sept. 15th**
- **Class Meetings: Thursday, September 20th from 7:00 to 9:00pm**
- **School Camping Trip: Sept. 21st-23rd**
- **School Closed: Friday, September 28th - professional Development Day**

Thank for all of your support! We are looking forward to a great year together!
Amanda, Tiffany, & Nathaniel, as well as Ina (Naturalist), Clara (Spanish), & Mel (Music)

