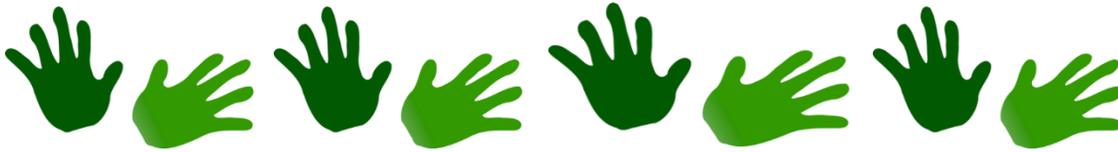


November/December 2020



SESAME SPEAKS!

Dear Families,

Happy Fall families! It has been a great start to the school year. Your children are doing beautifully remembering what cohort they are in, when to log onto remote learning and most importantly staying safe and wearing their masks!

Our teachers and staff are continuing to work hard to bring your children educational and fun learning opportunities throughout the weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your teachers through Class Dojo platform for your class. Please continue to check Sesame Lesson plan website for videos and educational materials. Website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/sesamesproutschool/virtual-learning>

During the month of November, Thanksgiving is celebrated. This year we will be celebrating a bit differently due to the pandemic. Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks with your family for all the blessings you received. A good idea is to go around your table and ask your family what they are thankful for this year.

Lower risk activities for thanksgiving fun this year:

- Having a small **dinner** with only people who live in your household
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
- Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family
- Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday
- Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home
- Make a Thanksgiving craft
- Go on a family walk or bike ride
- Go around your table and say what you are thankful for
- Watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

For the month of November our PreK theme will be ALL ABOUT US. The theme focuses on Who am I and who are the people in my life? What makes me important and unique? What feelings do I have and why? What makes my class important and unique? What makes my family important and unique? Your child will be reading many books on this subject, doing interesting and educational art and science, learning math through our Building Blocks program and many more activities for them to explore and learn about their feelings and why they are unique.

December theme will focus on WHERE WE LIVE. This theme focuses on: Where do the people and animals around me live? Where do I live? Where do my family members live? Where do people and animals live? What types of homes do the people in my city (NYC) live in? How do people and animals make homes?

In December we celebrate lots of different holidays. Some of us even take a winter break vacation! This year we are being mindful of having a staycation with family. Here are some fun ways to still enjoy the holidays at home:

Too Cold to Head Outdoors? Check out these Ideas for Tons of Indoor Fun!

- Go camping! Build tents with blankets and pillows, and decorate with favorite stuffed animals, plastic figurines, flashlights, etc. Snuggle inside and read books and tell stories!
- Hunt for Treasure! Hide “treasure” all over your home and devise clever clues to bring your treasure-hunters closer or farther away from the cache.
- Cook, cook, cook! It’s a perfect time to spread your love for food and nutrition.
- Slime it up! Rather slippery slime over dough? Bubbling slime? There’s so many possibilities! Check out these great resources: <https://epicfunforkids.com/bubbling-slime-recipe-sensory-tubs/> and <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/slime-recipes-4171511>.
- Sensory boxes galore! Grab some plastic bins and fill them with rice, beans, buttons, beads, feathers, slime, or even dough. Hide your favorite toys inside and let the kids dig!
- Make sensory balls. Kids can fill balloons with dough, water beads, glass beads or slime and decorate!
- Bag puppets! Remember them? A paper bag – construction paper and crayons? Bits and pieces of material and imagination and you are on your way to a fantastic puppet show.
- It’s all about art! Plan an art show by challenging your children to draw a picture and then make it come alive with materials from your house or backyard.
- Feeling silly? How about a dance party? It’s a great way to expel some energy, while also having tons of fun – great from the heart and soul.
- The Wow Factor! Bring science right to the kitchen table. Make corn dance or homemade lava lamps. Who doesn’t love a fizzy baking soda-vinegar reaction? Here’s a great resource: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/dancing-corn-thanksgiving-science-activity/>.
- Don’t have a lot of space? Try some simple kid-based yoga videos on YouTube and meditation Apps. In fact, even if you have space – try the yoga and meditation with your children. It’s a great break from your day!

Holidays/School Closed

November 3rd-Election Day

November 11th- Veteran's Day

November 26-27th - Thanksgiving

December 24th-January 1st-Winter Recess

Article on Diversity for the month of November

In the month of November, we celebrate diversity. In a world where we see bullying and stigmatization for being different, **each of us can take steps to create a world where all people are accepted.**

So, how do we teach our children to do the same? During early education and development, a child doesn't notice differences in others. It's not until about three years of age that a child sees that his skin may be a different color than his friend. Around four years of age, children become curious about different hair styles and clothing. At about five years of age, a child may notice the different types of food each of us eat.

When a child is curious about someone or something, it's okay to let them ask questions. Let your child hear an explanation to these questions so they can begin to understand why someone is different from them.

If we tell our children it's not polite to stare or ask questions about a person's differences, they may never learn about the wonderful world outside of their home or classroom. Without knowledge of people's differences, a child begins to create his own understanding of the world and may even decide that he cannot be friends with someone who is different from him.

Everyone is unique and every person has something that makes them extraordinary.

Below are some open-ended questions to talk with your child about people and their differences.

- Ask your child what he likes most about himself, and how can this special something be used to be a good friend to his peers.
- Ask him, what is unique about his friends in his classroom or neighborhood? And, what does he like most of about these differences?

- Ask him, why is it nice to have friends who are different?
- Ask him, what does he think it would be like if all his friends looked and acted just like him?

When we talk to our children about diversity from a young age, we are encouraging them to be accepting of others, as well as themselves. We are all unique- and we should celebrate that!

Books on All About Us:

This Is It by Daria Peoples-Riley

The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh by Supriya Kelkar

Stella Brings the Family by Miriam B. Schiffer

I Love Saturdays y domingos by Alma Flor Ada

Books on Where we live:

***A New Home by Tania Regil**

Ruby's Birds by Mya Thompson

Going Up! by Sherry J. Lee

It's Moving Day! by Pamela Hickman

As the weather is starting to get colder, please make sure you send in the appropriate change of clothes for your child and take home the clothes you sent in. Please label all your children's clothing.

Please refer to the school website, www.sesamesproutschool.com for information regarding resources to help you will Covid-19.

As Curriculum and PKA Coordinator, I am here to assist you and can be reached by email at jaronin@sesamesproutschool.com or by calling the school at 718-271-2294.

We understand that this is an exceedingly difficult time for a lot of families, and we are here to help in any way we can. Please reach out to the front office or to your teachers for anything you might need. All of you should be familiar with the remote learning platform by now. If you are new to remote learning, do not worry, our staff and your teachers will guide you through the process of how to log onto Zoom and Class Dojo.

Our school is a place where all staff members are committed to helping children succeed every day! Your child(ren) will be filled with learning, laughter, smiles and innovations.

A common theme that Sesame has is parent involvement. Our school is a place where strong connections are made between home and school. I highly value these characteristics and believe that our school community will continue that path of excellence with your support and participation.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Aronin, Curriculum Coordinator/PKA Coordinator