

Blue Room Newsletter

February 2017

Morning Meeting 2.0 - Our Morning Meetings had grown stale and tedious. As the children's cognitive capacity grows they yearn for longer books, more complex songs, and increasingly intricate conversations. For our younger or more restless children, this extended timeframe can be a big challenge. So should we scrap Meetings altogether? After a problem-solving conversation with Kristi, we felt the Meetings are worth preserving and identified some ways we could re-conceptualize. We feel the practice of engaging the whole group in meaningful engagement is integral to a mindful classroom culture; diverse conversation and storytelling deepens empathetic relationships toward one another through the exchange of perspectives, promotes cognitive stamina, and "school-readiness."

Reminders

- With the arrival of warmer weather, we ask that you put sunscreen on your child each morning and replace extra clothes with more weather appropriate pieces.
- "Home toys" must be able to fit in your child's cubby.
- Check your child's art folder periodically for works to take home.
- Please fill your child's cup with water only.
- Blue Room social at Eventide is next **Thursday, March 2** beginning at 5:30pm.

Photography

This month the Blue Room has delved further into the art form of photography. At the beginning of the year, the children voted to take photos of themselves for their cubby pictures instead of the more traditional approach of educators taking the photos for them. This was a process that some really enjoyed, and others had little interest in. While revisiting this project and the idea of photography, we as educators wanted to try to bring it back into the classroom but in a way that gives the children even more freedom. We decided to speak with them at our morning meeting about keeping the class camera in a place where it would be available for them to use at any time. They were, of course, thrilled at the idea and began snapping photos right away. We didn't know what to expect, but each day found ourselves just as thrilled to look through the (many, many) photos that were taken that day. From the subject matter to the perspective, we felt ourselves sneaking a glance at the world through the lens of a child...

