

November 2017

History repeats itself...

In the last few weeks we have spent some time in Egypt as you all know. It is great for costuming leading up to Halloween. It teaches us there is such a thing as mummies and skeletons, and that they aren't scary Halloween monsters after all. We learn about so much history, architecture, and ultimately we learn that our Israelite friends in the Bible will spend many years living in an oppressed state of slavery building pyramids for pharaoh(s). We learn that because Egypt is so close to Israel that many stories and more seem to overlap. As we go ahead in our Biblical study we now have a good base of knowledge as to where they are both located. After Joseph is sent there, given up on by his own brothers, he accepts his circumstance, (sold into slavery,) and ultimately grows into a great leader. Many years later Moses will accept his own fate to be raised among Egyptian royalty, only to discover that he cannot escape his Hebrew roots. He too will accept a large role of leadership but now as an escaped Hebrew going back to Egypt to face pharaoh in fear and demand God's people be set free. They cross a great sea that is divinely parted for their deliverance, and just as miraculously is sealed again swallowing up those that could not part with what they demanded. Slavery vs. Freedom. Who will build our cities and pyramids????? Despite all the warnings from God himself the Egyptians continued to push.

Moses and his people are rushed out of the dust of Egypt and literally into the wilderness to now be completely reliant on God's instructions and help. They were delivered from oppression and unhappiness for some 500 years and now released. But released freedom... Isn't always party. It isn't so all matters in life won't be tainted or need rules. Have hardships. It can actually be harder than ever. Change is difficult even under the best of circumstances. Yes they were on their own,, and with Moses as their leader they needed to trust in God MORE than ever! They needed to actually become completely reliant on GOD. For everything they had.

This story has many familiar sounds. This Thanksgiving remember that the 1st settlers here to North America, were also leaving to worship God. They were returning/insisting a firm-following of those same Commandments Moses received to govern them for centuries. They too crossed a great body of water and were divinely guarded. They were homeless wanderers to a new land. To worship God in a way that was not to be corruptible. So they thought. (For a while anyway). They were escaping. They were running from Kings themselves, and they were completely reliant on God for everything.

The story always come full circle for me when after that 1st horrible winter in 1621, (6th worst winter recorded in New England's history,) that in the spring they finally met an educated Native American named Squanto. Squanto has a very real story which essentially has him kidnapped and sold into slavery some years earlier before the Pilgrim Separatists arrived. He too is also shipped to a far away land (Spain/England) and finds himself living among monks. He learned English fluently and miraculously found his way back to New England. His family had suffered a great flu tragedy as did most of the Pawtuxet tribe, and he found himself alone. He was alive however! He made the best of what happened to him. As did our friend Joseph, Jacob's son many, many years ago. And like Joseph, Squanto lives to help out another. His friendship with the settlers is a history maker. He is credited with helping to teach the worn down, weary travelers, now at 50 survivors...30 of those children, make their way to a plentiful and beautiful harvest. The First Thanksgiving. A time of great blessings recognized. And although Thanksgiving will not be recognized as a federal holiday until Abraham Lincoln deems it so, we can still

be in awe that again another moment in history where there is hardship, slavery and separation leads us to coming together and rejoicing the hardships AND the blessings God brings to our lives.
For without the hard times, we would never recognize the abundant.

We thank you for your friendship and for trusting us to bring your child new lands each and every day!
Happy Thanksgiving.
Miss Dawn

Announcements:

Field Trip Smith's Castle:

Tuesday, November 14th 10:15am.

We will be leaving AS²A at 9:30am to make our way over to North Kingstown to visit one of my favorite homes in RI. The home of Richard Smith. It is not "really" a castle however, but, by 17th Century New England, this house could have been considered one! The costumed docents will greet us and tour us through this period home filled with 300 year old antiques. Hay mattresses, chamber pots, and a kitchen without appliances except those used in a fireplace. We will be making butter with our hosts and the children will snack on a some bread and butter.

Tips... If you are bringing infants, please bring a backpack style carrier, the floors are crooked and hallways narrow for strollers. There is a large yard outside if your toddler is wanting to run. And PLEASE add the AS²A LONG SLEEVED SWEATERS. The house is chilly and the coats can be too cumbersome, often I will leave the jackets in the car .We might be back slightly past the lunchtime hour of noon. SO plan accordingly.

**AS²A Annual Preschool
Plimoth Thanksgiving Feast
Tuesday, November 21st 12:30pm
PreK Classroom**

A Sign Up Genius will be going out via your email in the next few days to see how your family can contribute to our annual Thanksgiving Feast! The Feast is attended by the Pilgrim settlers, (PreK Miss Dawn's class,) and The Native American Indians, (PreS Miss Teri's class) in full dress and ready for fun and feasting. Did you know the first Thanksgiving in Plimoth was 3 days long??? Well... We won't keep you that long... however we ask you to join us for the feast at

12:30pm that day and stay for a nibble, or two, and hearing our "Earliest Settlers" belt out a few patriotic tunes. The fun lasts about an hour, as then you are free to hit the road to Grandma's house if you so desire.

(School is open for the full day if you still need care, so do not worry.)

The room gets pretty crowded so again if you are bringing infants you may consider the baby packs.

We provide the Collars and Hats for Girls and Boys!

Costume Tips:

Pilgrim Boys: Pants tucked into socks, long sleeved shirt belted. Pilgrim settlers wore black on Sundays only. So, if you don't have much in dark/gray colors then brighter colors will work fine. I have even seen buckles on shoes made from aluminum foil or paper!

Pilgrim Girls: Simple dresses, or Blouse and Skirt. An apron if you want!

It's a very fun day started in prayer, and ending in much to be thankful for.
Please join us for this special time!

Go to PINTREST ... if anything it's fun to look !!!!

Veterans Day Observance

We are closed on Friday, November 10th

Thank you to all the men and women who have fought and died for our safety, freedom, and blessings. America is truly the most blessed land despite what you read and see BECAUSE of those who have fought for her.

It's finally here..The COLD

We are in late fall now. Please remember we do try to be outside most days even if it is just for some air on the junkier days. Children need coats and hats now.

Please make sure all belongings are marked.

Snacks and Supplies:

Please remember your snacks for the month. Birthdays count as your snack day. And I believe we could now use paper toweling again and table wipes. Tissues and Hand sanitizer would be greatly appreciated as well. I was "asked" to request Cheese Sticks sometimes with the yellow and orange swirl (??) LOL. And saltines. Also... they might like pudding cups or the apple sauce sips as something new. Milk and cookies were a BIG hit! We are still working through the

Halloween pretzels and love those!

Cases of small water bottles might be a nice alternative to juice on occasion.

Illness:

If I think someone may need to go home and rest you will get a call from me or the Office. We usually check for fevers here, and the rule of thumb is 99/100 as a low grade fever worthy of a phone call home. If you know or suspect your child might be ill please help keep the spreading of the virus' / infections down by staying home. I've got them washing constantly and using "magic soap" whenever possible. I am also reinforcing keeping hands away from faces, (their own and others,) whenever I see it. I have taught to place a cough or sneeze into their elbow, and blow their nose directly following. Please help me with this. It's hard I know, but the illness' get around quickly and pretty soon we're fighting colds, etc. all year.

Children need to be FREE of fever/vomiting 24 hours before returning to school.

Book Orders:

I have seen many orders coming and going thanks to Elba Marro. If you want to plan a book order for holiday gifts/shopping please let us know so we can send the order home in a way the child will not see it. Also, I may know of some books your child, or the class really enjoy, that you may want to add to your home library. Please feel free to ask.

Conferences:

Loved meeting with you all just a few weeks ago now! I always find out so many fun details about your child, or share a family tradition/story. Thanks for allowing me to know about your lives both here at school and at home. I thank all the parents who helped to prepare the teacher room. It was a treat to walk in and grab a snack or two! In the Spring, you will have the option to speak with me again regarding your approaching Kindergarten year, an upcoming military move, and academics.

AS²A 8th Annual Christmas Pageant December 6th 6:30pm St. Lucy's Church

I am expecting ALL Pre S and Pre K to be with us during this night of sheer joy and fun! Preschool Students will go on first, and then watch the show with their families. They return to the stage for the finale. Students are encouraged to wear **Holiday Attire** or school uniform. There will be more information regarding this night for you going home shortly. The dress

rehearsal is that morning (December 6th) at St. Lucy's at 10am. If your student does not attend on Wednesday you are encouraged to meet us there to understand how they will line up, process and sing, etc. I will only need you there for about 30 minutes. The Preschool meets in the "crying room" to the left of the entrance inside the sanctuary. That is their "Green Room". We ask that someone stay with your child at all times before and during the show when they are not performing.

Preschool has a 6:15 cast call. The show begins at 6:30pm. They are the FIRST to perform.

Looking Ahead:

Christmas Caroling at Blenheim Nursing Home TBA

Class Christmas Party and Pajama Party
Thursday December 21st

Just a hint to mark your calendars. The class will enjoy an all-day PJ party fixed with Hot Cocoa and Popcorn to watch a Holiday movie in the morning.

In the afternoon each class will meet in it's own classroom for a Holiday Christmas Party that the children will exchange their Secret Santa gifts and partake in party food/treats before dismissal.

All families are invited back for the party at 1:30pm.