

Kaleido-scoop

*Newsletter of Kaleidoscope School
November, 2017*

Nuts and Bolts

Our Annual Fund Drive

Thank you for your support of Kaleidoscope School through your donations to our Annual Fund. Your contributions help keep our doors open, class size small, and art shelves stocked with materials!

Holidays

We encourage you to think about open ended basic toys for your child this holiday season. You can never have too many wooden unit blocks. A basic dollhouse without a lot of ornamentation can be a castle or a barn. Thrift store cookware can be great additions to sandboxes, bathtubs, and playdough tubs. Lengths of interesting fabrics or trimmings can be inspiring dress up materials. Basic office supplies can be great additions to craft boxes. Hole punches, paper clips, bubble wrap, tape, brads, ticket rolls, post-its are all exciting to use.

And remember, one of the most valuable things that you can give is the gift of your attention. Garden gloves, or a small kite, or a model dinosaur, or a dance party playlist are gifts that can represent an experience you will share with your child.

Ballard Market Receipts

If you shop at the Ballard Market, please save the receipts! We get 1% back as a donation from the store. It adds up! Thanks.

Inclement Weather Policy

It looks like this winter will be a doozy in terms of problematic weather! We follow the lead of the Seattle Public Schools. If SPS announces a morning delay, or late start with no morning kindergarten, we cancel our morning classes. If SPS closes for the day, so do we. We rely on the resources of the district to make this assessment and decision and wish for everyone to have happy and safe snow days, should they blow into town!

Upcoming dates

November 22-24: Thanksgiving holiday– No school

Wednesday December 6, evening – PreK parent-teacher conferences

Thursday December 7, afternoon – PreK parent-teacher conferences

Thursday December 7, No school – PreK class (to accommodate conferences)

December 18-January 1: Winter break, including New Year's Day – No school

Some thought and theory behind the Kaleidoscope Way

Bev Bos (1934-2016) is another one of our role models. She was a shining star in the world of preschool learning. She worked with children and parents. Bev also, notably and intentionally, never stopped learning herself. She advocated for child-centered, developmentally appropriate, play-based programs.

In an interview on ABC's 20/20 she said, "The basics for children are wonder, discovery, and experience. If it hasn't been in the hand, the body, and the heart, it can't be in the brain."

Docia Zavitskovsky writes, "Bev taught us to not only think about children but to follow their beck and call, to fill our classrooms and our curriculum with their delights - constructive, interactive, unending exploration of *how things work, why things are, what does this do, why might that be, how about this.*

She recognized the consummate scientist in every child, providing them with unending opportunities to explore with all their senses."

Bev Bos loved children and understood them in a deep and respectful way. "If we want for our children is a lifetime of excellence - in experience, in ability, in knowledge- we must be responsible enough to wait and look at all sides of development."

Bev Bos advocated trusting children, respecting their timeline for development. A far cry from the societal pressure that dictates that

earlier is better, faster is better. She challenged the myth that better learners are created by pushing academics earlier in our children's lives. On the contrary, she consistently entered the world of the child. She was known to spend all of story time on the first page of a book. If that was where the interest and the conversation was focused, then there was no need to even turn the page. She was gifted at creating an environment that supported child-paced time and opportunities for robust exploration.

She had a dump truck deliver a truck load of sand into her classroom and the children moved it outside over the course of the year, small bucketful by small bucketful. Can you imagine? A big pile of sand in the classroom? Wow! That would be amazing!!!

Another time a broken dryer was replaced at her Center. Her classroom undertook the dismantling of that dryer. What's in there? How does it all work? The kids used real tools and problem solved as they dismembered the machine and took liberated pieces home. The excitement peaked when they figured out how to remove the dryer drum for one lucky kid to take home. The dismayed parent asked at pick up, "What am I supposed to do with this?!?" And Bev responding, "It's not yours, it's your child's, ask her."

Bev always took the child's side. She always encouraged us to notice and wonder. She reminded us of the joy of being life long learners. She truly understood the expansive creativity and unblemished clarity of the beginner's mind.