

# Curious and Capable

Nurturing the journey and spirit of the whole child



September at PAS focused on transitioning back to school, developing social and emotional discernment, strengthening cognition, supporting language and literacy as well as physical play. Social and emotional development during the preschool years revolves around socialization. Socialization is the process in which one becomes aware of behaviors and actions that teach skills necessary to contribute within a group. It sets the foundation for self-expression and assists children to become capable and confident. Your children have been exploring themselves, developing friendships and gaining independence since our first days back at school. They have enjoyed drawing self portraits and noticing what makes them and their friends unique and special!



Language development refers to children's emerging abilities to understand and use language. Virtually everything we do in life is related to literacy and language. From the time we are born, our efforts to communicate are evident in our movements, our cries, and our attempts to make eye contact. Language skills are receptive—the ability to listen to and understand language—and expressive—the ability to use language to communicate

ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Children's language ability affects learning and development in all areas, especially emerging literacy. For your preschoolers, language and literacy are distinct domains. They reflect children's growing skills as they begin to grasp differences between spoken and written language, as well as how they are connected. Integrating language and literacy into your children's days happens consistently and organically at PAS. Conversations around lunch tables, morning prayers, problem solving, storytelling, songs, letters recognition and writing help to build proficient language development. Their school environment, rich in social interactions with constant and meaningful back and forth exchanges, fosters intentional language and comprehension.



The children have also been introduced to September's fruit and vegetable exploration: blueberry and tomato. They have spent time in the garden observing and counting our tomato plants and had sensory explorations in classrooms. By sensory exploration we mean intentionally and actively using all of our senses to interact with and experience a food. This process leads to the growth of neuronal connections in the brain, making way for thinking, processing memory and problem solving. Posing questions such as 'What is inside?' encourages scientific predictions. Within our Early Sprouts Curriculum, children extend their cognitive skills further by comparing, measuring and patterning which are the foundations for mathematics. In addition to incorporating science and math, Early Sprouts helps expand their growing vocabulary by comprehending descriptive words, such as, squishy, crisp, slippery, oval, sweet, tart, and smooth.





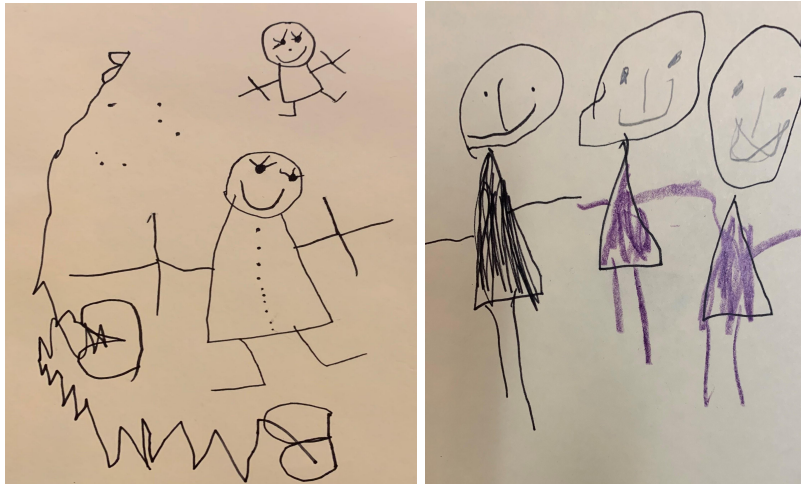
Creativity and the arts abound with Miss Julie and Mr. Scott instructing art, music and movement. Exploring visual art forms and expressing creativity builds their cognitive processes. Art fosters intellectual development and some benefits are: stimulates both sides of the brain, increases memory, attention and concentration and introduces children to new vocabulary and spatial concepts. Miss Julie introduced the studio space, materials, as well as, line and shape to the children during their studio time. We have created more opportunities to paint by adding blank canvases to the Pray and Play Meadow where the children can paint and create whenever they choose! Miss Julie has also added an outdoor art table to encourage creativity and rich inspiration from the beauty of nature.



Music plays an important role in our culture, most especially for children. Music allows children to communicate without words and also strengthens their auditory proficiency. In Music, Mr. Scott introduced the children to drums. Experimenting with sounds, beats, patterns, rhythms and music is essential to creative development. Music has a significant influence on intelligence and emotions and research has shown that music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including cognitive development, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work in harmony together. Dancing to music helps children build motor skills while allowing them to practice self-expression.



Teachers introduced our Big Read Book: **“When God Made the World”** in their classrooms. This month reinforces our study of the self and exploring our uniqueness. We are celebrating all the similarities and differences and appreciating one another for just how God made us; one of a kind and exceptional!



***Each of our faces, bodies, and traits, our skin tones, our features- God did create. God made some people shy and some people loud and some who thrive in the middle of a crowd. Some make music, and some like math, and some are prone to blazing their own path. But always remember, ‘cause this much is true, God had a purpose for making you YOU. (Turner)***

Teachers will be sending the book home with your children to read together over the coming weekends. We will have a family story form to complete so that we can learn more about our PAS families. Please send a picture of your family back with the book and sign and date the inside of the front or back cover. We want to commemorate that you were a part of our first BIG READ during the school year!

We thank you for a great start to our school year. Your children color our days with joy and happiness and for that we are so thankful! May God continue to bless PAS.



***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” - Galatians 5:22***