

CURIOUS & CAPABLE

OCTOBER 2021



THE ROOTS OF OUR FAITH AND CURRICULUM

September at PAS was filled with children exploring their beautiful new classrooms, learning indoors and out, making friends, establishing new routines and growing seeds of faith. As your children transitioned from space to space our halls were filled with their joyful voices singing 'The Seed Song.' Coming back to school or going to school for the very first time can be a mighty adjustment for children and our teachers worked hard to make sure everyone felt at home at PAS. The most effective schools create security and love **first** knowing that until children feel secure they cannot fully grow emotionally or cognitively.

Within our classrooms, pictures of your children as well as family pictures now surround them. Classroom jobs and routines are being established to make each child feel autonomous and confident. They are making choices, working on independence skills and becoming problem-solvers in their rooms. As October begins, visits to our atrium will include learning about St. Francis of Assisi and his love of all animals. They will practice the sign of the cross and hear the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Our virtue, kindness, will be noticed and encouraged through our words and actions. Encouraging kindness will not only make them feel better about the world they live in but even more so about themselves!

In music, Mr. Scott will be engaging the children with exercises that cross the midline. Midline crossing is one's ability to reach across the center of the body with arms and legs crossing over to the opposite side. This is a very important developmental skill that takes practice for children to develop. It is a critical skill required for reading and writing, completing self-care tasks, as well as for sports. The ability to cross the midline is important on a physical level as well as on a cognitive level. Working to ensure the left and right brain hemispheres communicate well happens naturally as children interact and play. For example, when they shovel sand into wheelbarrows during meadow time or paint on vertical surfaces they are exercising both sides of the brain.

Painting will be the primary focus of art during studio time with Miss Julie. The art of painting touches on all areas of development. Painting allows children to explore emotions and find safe ways of expressing them. They naturally want to talk about what they are doing and in so doing they develop new vocabulary and verbal intelligence. Cognitively, both sides of the brain are activated as children make decisions regarding placement, shape, size, color and creation! Socially, they learn to work side by side one another sharing materials and collaborating as they express new ideas. Physically, they are honing their fine motor skills and bolstering hand-eye coordination.



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Our PAS garden has been the perfect spot for your budding gardeners! The children love watching, waiting, picking, washing and tasting our harvest. Thank you for supporting these inquiries by bringing in tomatoes and blueberries for our classes to further investigate and cook with. Carrots and apples will be our harvest for October and I look forward to seeing what they discover next!

May we always see the world through the eyes of a child!

Love,
Michelle Bivens

