

Dear Families,

January 27, 2011

We have just begun a **study of our school**. During this study, the Fours-Kindergartners will learn more about their surroundings and the people they encounter during the school day. Through conversations at morning meetings, interviews, visits with members of our community and trips to explore the building itself, children will have the opportunity to learn about their school and the people who make it such a wonderful place. We hope that this study will encourage a sense of community and help the children understand their place in it.

The school study is an important exploration for four and five-year olds. As we watch the children settle into their surroundings, we find that the more they know about their school, the more confident they are in it. Leaving the classroom to navigate the hallways can be a daunting task to those unfamiliar with their environment. Supporting the idea that school is a safe and fun place to be is part and parcel of this investigation. We will address some of the important concepts of social studies within this context: recognizing changes in the classroom and school environments, locating and describing familiar places in the school, and creating and interpreting simple maps and drawings of the school.

Another aspect of this study will focus on learning about the grown-ups, other than teachers, that help to take care of us at LREI. Interviewing will be an important part of this research, as we decide on pertinent and interesting questions to ask. This will give the children an opportunity to better understand individuals who keep our school clean, provide our daily meals, and help keep our community healthy. Through this study, we hope the children will deepen their understanding of how their many needs are met here at school.

In the meantime, look out for more information to come in our blog as our study unfolds.

Wonderfully and Winterfully Yours,

Diane and Alexia