

Full STEAM Ahead!



October, 2020

What Will We Be Doing?

- Hello, my name is Mrs. Burkett (Jessica)! I'm happy to be serving as the STEAM Resource Teacher again this year at Central Preschool as we continue to *incorporate more meaningful STEAM activities and lessons in all classrooms*. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.
- Your preschoolers are naturally interested in many activities that "fit the bill" of STEAM, so we're trying to capture their natural curiosity and excitement to learn, and set them up with a good learning foundation for these subjects.
- STEAM activities help work on all areas assessed under the Creative Curriculum for Preschool (large and fine motor, cognitive, social/emotional, and literacy). They also *build early problem-solving and critical thinking skills*, which are such important skills for them to have and develop throughout their life.
- For the month of October, all classes will be using the book *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins to guide some of their STEAM activities. This is a great book to use to focus on the *math concept of Spatial Thinking*.
- Often in early education, this is the math concept that gets taught the least, but is so important for preschoolers. *Spatial Thinking involves understanding positions in space* and being able to visualize and mentally manipulate spatial relationships (like the progression of being able to correctly place a puzzle piece without having to physically rotate it to see if it will fit).
- Students will be offered several *play-based activities* that will help them work on their spatial thinking skills. Some of these include:
 - Retelling *Rosie's Walk* with 2-D images and/or 3-D pieces.
 - Running an obstacle course of Rosie's Walk.
 - Creating their own obstacle courses.
 - Trying their hand at map-making when they draw a map of Rosie's Walk.
 - Some may even try to create something like a park and then draw a map of it, or vice versa.

2s Classes

- The focus for 2s will be to learn and understand positional words like over, under, through, etc.
- Many of their activities will involve retelling the story and repetition of the positional words and phrases.
- They'll also have fun following Rosie's Walk through an obstacle course!


3s Classes

- The focus for 3s will be on the positional language, being able to demonstrate that they understand it, and then retelling the events in the correct order.
- They may also experiment with creating their own obstacle courses and trying to make maps of them!

Pre-K Classes

- The focus for Pre-K will be to work on translating between 2- and 3-D (i.e. map work).
- They will also work on their sequencing skills as they work towards telling the story themselves either 2- or 3-dimensionally.

~Jessica Burkett

Busy Bees 3's Lead Teacher 
Central Preschool