



# Stars



## Gillen Brewer School



As the leaves are falling and the weather is turning cooler, the Stars are discovering, exploring and engaging in their world. Hello, dear parents. I am very happy to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Helene Slavenski. I am the new head teacher in the Star's room. I am an early childhood educator, who provides a safe, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment for all children. I have been serving children and their families for over twenty years in a variety of positions. My focus has always been with early childhood. As a parent of two children and two grandchildren, I firmly believe that you are your child's first teacher. Our class newsletter is an opportunity for you to learn about your child's experiences in the Star's room and at Gillen Brewer.

As a team, Jennifer and I offer a positive approach to learning, where children are enthusiastic and engaged as learners. We know that enthusiasm and engagement have intrinsic value. Your children's interests are explored daily, especially since exploration enhances their memory, comprehension, and selective attention. Our classroom and routine offers multiple learning opportunities for your child to practice and reinforce positive learning. I look forward to sharing each day with all your children and meeting all of you.

## Work Time

Everyday the Stars take part in work time. During this time, children carry out their intentions, interests, develop and imitate play, and solve problems. They also interact with each other and explore materials throughout the classroom.



Work time is intended to provide children with the immediate opportunity to connect their interest with purposeful actions. Even though it is playful, it is also purposeful.

Before work time begins, each child makes a plan of what he or she wants to do with a teacher. Some children imitate the play of their peers, while others will parallel play. When work time is over the children review what they played with. The Stars review by

looking at pictures of themselves during work time or by bringing an object to the circle that they were playing with during work time. Review is a great way for the Stars to recall. This is what we call Plan-Do-Review.



## Group Time

Group time can be done in a large or small group. This is a time when children interact with others while teachers facilitate language and social skills.

The Stars have played with shaving cream



in small groups. They drew pictures and shapes with their fingers in the shaving cream. The small group allows the teachers to focus on helping the kids develop vocabulary and comment on each others' work.

We also have a large group. We noticed how much fun the Stars were having at the sand box in the play-

ground, so we decided to have the children decorate their own special sand buckets with stickers. We did this activity in a large group because the focus was on coming together to share a common activity.



# Playground



The Stars have been discovering the different types of equipment at the playground. The playground is a great place for the Stars to work on their gross motor skills and engage in vigorous, noisy, physical play. The Stars run, jump, hop, and climb at the park. They have also been digging up treasures in the sand box! While at the park, the Stars have been working on problem solving and interacting with others. To help them transition to the park

and then back to school, the Stars will each have their own sand buckets. They will be able to decorate their buckets with stickers, markers, and paint.



# Music



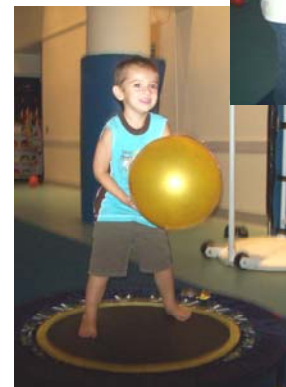
The Stars gather around the rug in the music room twice a week. Robert sings songs, plays the guitar, and dances with the children. During this time the children have a chance to experience different instruments. They have played the guitar, chiquita, and step bells.

Robert also incorporates finger plays, song books, games, movement and puppets into every class.



# Exploring the gym

Every Tuesday and Thursday the Stars go to Asphalt Green for gym with Neesha. While we are there The Stars exercise by listening and moving their bodies to music. The Stars explore a variety of gym materials. Some of their favorite items to play with are: hula hoops, trampoline, basketball hoop and balls.



## Group With Don

Don is a volunteer who comes to Gillen Brewer to share his knowledge of crafts and toys with the students.

Don will be joining the Stars every Tuesday afternoon. During group with Don, the Stars will engage in stickers, building, painting, coloring, gluing, and making bubbles.



## Little Picassos

The Stars have been exploring new materials in the art room with Kate. They have been using chalk, pencils, dot paint, and pastels. You can find the Stars dotting and drawing and in a few weeks to come, they will be using paint brushes. The Stars even have their own sketch books!



## Welcome James!

The Stars have a new addition to their classroom. James is a Senior from Regis High School on 86th Street. He will be joining the Stars every Tuesday.

While James is with the Stars he will engage in daily play and help facilitate language and social skills.



## Welcome Westie and Krystle

Westie and Krystle will be sharing time in the Stars' class room this year. Westie will be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Krystle will be with us on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They have both been at Gillen Brewer for four years in various classrooms of all ages and bring a wealth of creativity, dedication, and fun to every classroom. Krystle and Westie are not only with us part-time, but they are also full-time students working towards their degrees. We are so happy that they joined our classroom on a more permanent basis. Please look for them and introduce yourself the next time you visit Gillen Brewer, they look forward to meeting you!



*Westie*



*Krystle*

## Science

Science is a time where the Stars can discover many types of materials. Andrea, our science teacher comes into the classroom to help the Stars explore science. This is a great time for students to interact with their peers while teachers facilitate language and social skills. So far this year, the Stars have made gook and play dough. Throughout the course of the year, the Stars will take a field trip to the Art Farm and the Pet store.



## Happy Birthday Stars

The Stars started off the year wishing Sam a Happy Birthday. Sam is now 4 years old. The Stars celebrated by designing a party hat for Sam and singing Happy Birthday. With the help of Sam's mom, the Stars ate a colorful treat. A few days later, the Stars celebrated Stephanie's birthday. Stephanie is the speech therapist for the Stars. The Stars decorated a birthday card with stickers for her. We also celebrated by singing Happy Birthday and eating home made cupcakes. They were so yummy!

