

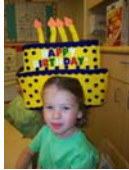


# October in the Tadpoles Room

## Gillen Brewer School

Happy Birthday to Troy (October 10/29) and Marley (11/4)!

Volume 1, Issue 2



## Lily and Mr. G Visit the Tadpoles!

The tadpoles have spent much of October learning about pets. In culmination with this unit, we've had visits from two dogs, Lily and Mr. G. Lily is owned by Nina and Mr. G is owned by Gay. These dog/owner teams are part of the "Pet Partner Project" in collaboration with the ASPCA and Delta Society. The dogs are trained and certified through the Delta Society and we are working with the ASPCA through their Pet Humane Education Program. These visits have been a great success! The Tadpoles have completed and practiced the A.S.P.C.A.'s dog bite prevention program. As part of this program, they have learned the appropriate way to approach a dog they would like to pet. They learned and practiced the following steps with Lily and Mr. G:

1. Ask the owner, "Can I pet your dog?"
2. Ask the dog if he would like to be pet by allowing him to sniff an open palm, face up, underneath his nose.
3. Pet the dog using a gentle hand on his back.

The children practiced these steps first using stuffed dogs brought into school. Then they were put to the test when real dogs came to school. The Tadpole teachers and the A.S.P.C.A. staff were so impressed by how well prepared the children were to pet the therapy dogs. It is our hope that the Tadpoles will be able to generalize these skills when approaching dogs in public.



Tommy lets Lily sniff his hand before petting her.



Marley asks Gay if she may pet her dog and approaches with an open palm.



### Reminder

**It's getting chilly out! We will still continue to go to the roof and the park as the weather gets cooler. Please send your child to school with LABELED hats, gloves, scarves and mittens.**

## The Tadpoles Learn About Recognizing Emotions in Animals

Through our work with the A.S.P.C.A., the Tadpoles have also explored recognition and expression of feelings. In an effort to help the Tadpoles better understand appropriate times when they can approach dogs, we studied several pictures of dogs in various states of emotion sent to us by the A.S.P.C.A. The students discussed how they thought the animals were feeling, and whether or not it was a

good idea to pet the dog at that time. We examined the way the dogs body looked. How was its tail positioned? Was it showing its teeth? Was it crouching its body? We saw dogs that were angry, surprised, upset, silly (playful) and happy. The children enjoyed dramatizing these feelings as well. We played an impromptu game of charades, where they took turns

acting out "dog feelings and let their peers guess how they were feeling. We also discussed whether or not each dog in a different state of emotion was appropriate to approach to pet. Again, our goal is to have children generalize the skill of being able to detect if a dog is ready to be approached.

## Hands Time with Gina

The Tadpoles have been working on “Mat Man” this week! Mat man is part of our “Handwriting Without Tears” program. Following the Mat Man song, children used wood pieces and the blue mat to create the Mat Man figure. This floor activity develops body awareness, position concepts and pre-drawing skills. Children were previously introduced to the proper names of the wood pieces, which they will be using in the future to build letters. They used big lines, little lines, big curves and little curves when assembling Mat Man.

The Mat Man activity is also a lesson in listening and singing as the children wait for their turn to add a body part. Turn taking is an important skill in social interaction.

Following the Mat Man activity where the children used wood pieces, the Tadpoles took turns drawing Mat Man on a large piece of paper. They sang the song and each took a turn drawing a part of Mat Man’s body.

In the coming weeks as we review Mat Man, the children will be drawing their own individual Mat Men. It is

interesting to compare pictures of figures they have drawn before learning about Mat Man and pictures afterward. After practicing Mat Man, many of the children improve spatial awareness and organization of body parts.



Harry makes Mat Man’s head from two big curves.

## Cooking with the Tadpoles!

The Tadpoles enjoy cooking as a weekly activity. Cooking encompasses many key learning experiences, such as sequencing, filling and emptying and recognizing objects by sight, touch, smell and taste.

Each week we begin cooking by going over the recipe and the various ingredients involved. After examining the ingredients, the class matches the ingredients, to the corresponding visuals shown in the recipe. We also

may take a look at new tools used in the recipe, such as a fancy apple peeler, or a garlic press. In addition, we may use this time to sample some of the ingredients by tasting, touching or smelling them.

Each child is then assigned to a specific job, such as cracking the egg, dumping the flour, or putting the tray in the oven. They are given visuals to hold on to that they can match up to the recipe so they know when to

be ready for their turn.



Sander uses the apple peeler!



Marley adds brown sugar to the dough.

## The Tadpoles Participate in the Penny Harvest



For the second year, the Gillen Brewer School will be participating in the Common Cents Penny Harvest. This year, our class will be working with the Lion Cubs to raise money for the A.S.P.C.A. We’ve been learning about the things that pets need to survive, and have decided to help those animals that don’t have their basic needs met.

After some discussion, the children are beginning to understand how sad it can be for animals to live without food, water and a warm place to sleep. After helping care for Nina and Mr. G during their visits to our classroom, the Tadpoles have a greater understanding of what it takes to care for a pet. We’ve introduced the A.S.P.C.A. to the class as an organization that helps take care of

pets with no one to take care of them. Seeing the “cat room” during community walks has helped them to see how the A.S.P.C.A. cares for animals in need.

Please discuss the Penny Harvest at home and support your child by helping them fill the small bags sent home with them. We will be measuring contributions on a daily basis!

## Schedule of Events

### • Home Visits-

We will be conducting home visits through the month of November. We will be discussing possible dates for home visits at your parent conference. These visits occur after school and last about one hour. Two teachers (head teacher and assistant or a therapist) will attend the visit. These visits are meant to build context for conversation with your child when making home/school connections. Additionally, teachers and therapists can get an idea of how your child spends his or her time, the activities he or she prefers and assist with any schedules for routines.

Please consult the calendar to the right and identify dates you are available for home visits. We will send you a completed schedule upon coordination.

# November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 No Home Visit	2 Lily comes to class	3	4
5 Marley's Birthday!	6 Mr. G comes to class	7	8 No Home Visit	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 No Home Visit	16 Lily comes to class	17	18
19	20 Mr. G comes to class	21 Pennies due! Class Feast	22 Half Day-No Home Visit	23 Thanks- giving	24 No School	25
26	27	28	29 No Home Visit	30		

## Work Time in the Blue Room

During Work Time the Tadpoles enjoy playing with a variety of materials. Children may choose to participate in an activity at the table during Work Time, or play in an area on their own. They are becoming pros at making plans and following through with them, as you can see on the right!

