

Summer Science News

April 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

This year's SummerScience program meets from May 27 through June 9th. We meet Monday-Friday, from 9:30 – 12:30, the costs is \$195. The days are similar to the “regular” year, but there are differences that you should take into consideration before registering – more about that later. This little note comes with a general overview of the program. Details about the mechanics of teachers and totes and carpools and such will come home with news of your child's “acceptance” or “deferral” on May 7th/8th. If you wish to register, fill out the attached form and return it by May 5th.

We'll number registration forms as they are received in the office. If we have more applications than we can accommodate we'll give preference to older children (4's and 5's) and younger children whose teachers judge to be able to operate in the SummerScience environment. Children who are deferred initially will go on a waiting list. If spaces open up (and they have in the past) we'll notify parents.

For those of you who haven't experienced SummerScience through your child's participation, here's a look at the day. We design a program that puts a science spin on many things that children love to explore – “life in a dead log;” the chance to take-apart and examine in innards of small appliances and invent something new; exploring properties of various materials; learning about and building habitats for animals; drawing, creating, and constructing; finding colors in nature; examining life found in the grass within the boundary of a hula hoop; transforming ingredients into something yummy, and mixing ingredients to make something gooey; talking about it all; . . . and on and on. SummerScience centers are set up downstairs, cooking, sensory, and story and music times are held on the ground level.

Each child is assigned to a small group that meets together with their teacher or teachers for a beginning circle time, a daily walk-about (fulfilling some Sciencey mission), a cooking or sensory experience, and lunch/recall time. At the end of the day all the children assemble upstairs for a group story and sing/dance along. Children will be put in their current teacher or assistant teacher's group, if that teacher is participating. Each day they will also take part in a center time and playground time with children in theirs and other groups. Your child's teacher will be present during those larger group times, but may be in charge of a particular center in the room. Most children are happily busy working in and moving between activity centers, but the youngest children, and/or children who need a teacher at their elbow to help them choose, engage and persist in a task will not benefit to the extent an older more independent child will. If you wonder about your child's readiness, ask his/her teacher before enrolling (or saying anything to him/her about coming to SummerScience). Next year is another year.

Further details about the first day of SummerScience, carpools, etc. will be sent home with your notice of “acceptance.”

Enjoy the spring blooms!

Mary-Catherine Deadman