



Monthly Newsletter – November & December 2024

ITBP Phone

We have a dedicated cell phone for you to contact us regarding absences, late arrivals or changes in plans for pick-ups. This phone number will also be used for when we are closed due to inclement weather and urgent information. Please continue to use this number to text absences. (Emails are always welcome!) This phone will be used from M–F from 9 am—3 pm. Please put this phone number in your phone: **425.269.1997**

Social Media Committee – Can you Help?

We are looking for parents who are savvy with social media to help us with our enrollment. We need a boost with advertising and getting our wonderful preschool known to parents looking for a preschool far and wide. If you have this skillset and would like to lend a hand, please contact the office!

Volunteering at ITBP

Thank you to the parents who have signed up to volunteer in the classrooms and on our various committees. We are very excited to have you on campus. If you are still interested in being a volunteer, below are the requirements. For most of you, all you need to turn in is proof of your MMR vaccination or a Titer Test result.

Volunteer Requirements

- ◆ Signed Family Handbook Agreement—google docs
- ◆ Filled out WSP form—google docs
- ◆ MMR proof of vaccination. Your CIS form or Titer Test.

We are collecting leftover Halloween Candy:

Get rid of that extra **Halloween Candy** and **bring it to preschool for donation!** We will have donation box located at the front of lobby for your convenience from November 1-14. Ridwell will donate to Birthday Dreams, YWCA Seattle, Emergency Feeding Program and other local partners working on important missions.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The Tigers and Hippo teachers are looking forward to meeting with you to chat about your child's adjustment to preschool academically, socially, and emotionally. In your family handbook, you will find the goals and objectives of each class. Please remember that we are only 2 months into preschool and a lot of these skills are new to them or it's too early to expose them to your child. It is the late spring assessments when we see their hard work at preschool coming together to achieve these skills. Each class teacher will reach out with a schedule for you to meet. Please know attendance is optional.

In-House Registration for 2025-2026

We will open registration for the 2025-2026 school year when we return from Christmas break. Forms will be in your child's class file folder before break. Please return your registration form and fee the week of January 6. Your registration fee will be deposited after January 10.

[ITBP's Annual Christmas Program](#)

Please join us for the sweetest 20 minutes on the Plateau this holiday season by coming to In the Beginnings Annual Christmas Program on Monday, December 10 @ noon. Doors open at 11:45 am. Refreshments will be served in the lobby afterwards.

[Cocoa & Carols – Faith Event -You're Invited!](#)

Friends and family of all ages are invited to sing Christmas carols and drink hot cocoa on December 15 at 6 pm. Emily Cowgill will be on the piano ready to play your requested Christmas carols. There will be songbooks available so everyone can sing along. We also invite you to wear your best Christmas sweater! Preschool families are most welcome to join in this special event.

[Christmas Service Invite by Pastor Ric](#)

The story of Jesus' birth is set within a larger story – a story of adversity and hope, a story of miracles and surprise, and a story that we have a role to play in today. Join Faith Church on Sundays in-person at 9:00 & 10:30 am, and online at 10:30 am. Plan now on joining us for one of three Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24th. Communion and Candle-lighting at all services.

5:30 pm with Children's Pageant **7:30 pm** with Choir (available online) **11:00 pm** with Choir

[Keep Me Home If...](#)

Please remember that if your child is ill, they need to be symptom and fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child falls ill while in our care, we will need you to answer your phone or text from your teachers and/or preschool's cell phone to let us know you are on your way. It is imperative that you respond to our communication. Please continue to inform the preschool and your teachers when your child is absent whether for an illness or vacation. Preschool cell (text:425.269.1997) or email. We worry when we don't hear from you besides missing your little one. Thank you to everyone for being diligent in keeping your child at home when they have been sick and to those parents who kept their child home an extra day to build up their immune system so they do not relapse.

[Classroom Allergies](#)

Thank you for helping keep those students who have allergies safe by avoiding food allergens in the class. Even though we are a multi-use facility, we do not want the class to witness an Epi-pen procedure.

[Fundraisers for our Scholarship Fund](#)

Jump Jiggle & Jog-A-Thon – Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Brown Bear Car Wash – spring 2025

[Faith Church Community Outreach Event](#)

Blood Drive at Faith Church: Thank you to our parents who have signed up to give blood. You are saving lives with your donation. November 8 from 11- 5 pm.

[Scholastic Books – Holiday Edition](#)

Scholastic Book catalogs have been sent out to parents. All orders need to be entered online by November 15 to ensure delivery for the holidays.

[Green Bag Project](#)

This holiday season, ITBP will kick off our Christmas Magic Giving campaign with collecting non perishable food donations. On November 18, each family will receive a Green Bag along with a detailed list of the items Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank Food Project are in need of. You and your child can thoughtfully fill the bags and bring it to our Christmas Concert on December 10 as part of our program. You can also find this priority list on our website.

Substitute Teachers Wanted

We are looking for more parents who would like to be on our sub list. This is a great way to support the preschool and make some extra cash at the same time. Please contact the office if interested.

Parking Lot Safety

Please keep your children safe after school while near our parking lot. We've witnessed a few near misses lately!

Mission Work at Preschool - We are Saving the World!



For many years, ITBP has provided opportunities for our families to be good stewards to our environment. Through recycling and reusing, we offer programs for families to collect and return everyday household items to the preschool. ITBP will collect, box, and mail/turn them in to Ridwell and other dedicated recycling companies. These small gestures of conservation that you can do at home with your family will instill the importance of taking care of our planet for all creatures great and small. **Your children will learn through your actions and our lessons that they too can make a difference.** Thank you ahead of time for your future participation.

Year-Long Opportunities to Recycle

Recycling Squeeze Pouches

Do you buy squeeze pouches? Help keep the squeezed pouches and lids out of the landfills! Drop off all your empty snack squeeze pouches at preschool. All brands welcome and are recycled by Terracycle. Look for the drop box by the Tiger Class cubbies.

Spent Batteries

We have a bin in the office near the volunteer sign-in/out clipboard. Any time you have used batteries, please don't hesitate to drop them off.

Hard Plastic Lids – Get the kids involved!

It's amazing how many hard plastic lids can't be recycled in your regular recycle bin. Keep a bag handy and throw in your lids from milk cartons, water bottles, detergent, etc.(no soft bendable lids will be accepted). Kids will learn just how something so little can add up to something so big!

Issaquah Food Bank Green Bag Project

We will kick off our newest project in December to support this endeavor through collection of non-perishable food donations three times during our school year. Bags will be distributed to each family.

JJJ Body Safety Talk

On Tuesday, November 12, Teacher Katie will have a brief discussion with our students regarding Body Safety. You are all welcome to join and observe. Simply email Teacher Katie at Katiels84@gmail.com if you're interested so she may provide you with the time your child will be in her class. See the attached information below detailing what will be covered.

Attn PreK and Tiger Friends: NEW Added Months for Friendship Hour!

We will offer Friendship Hour for December-February! These sessions will be held indoors with a center/craft theme for the next 3 months. December signups will begin November 25. Stay tuned and sign your Prek or Tiger kiddo up for a little extra holiday free time this December. We do need a minimum of 12 students for this program.

Tidbits & Calendaring

- **9:30 am** is start time - please be on time
- Please continue to **sign-in/out** your child
- **Parking Lot Safety**—please keep your child with you while in the parking lot – please use main parking lot only)
- **Tuition is due** November 1. Still time to drop off 7 checks to the office or let us know if your bank is mailing the tuition in. Due on the 1st of the month and late on the 8th
- **Friendship Hour ends on Nov 21 and Resumes on March 4** – registration goes out in Feb 2025
- **ELECTION DAY! Please Vote** – Tuesday, November 5
- **No School: Veterans Day Observed** – Monday, November 11
- Distribution of **Green Bags** to Families – November 18
- **Thanksgiving Class Celebrations:** Bunnies & Hippos – November 22; Tigers - November 21
- **No School: Happy Thanksgiving** – November 28 & 29
- **Christmas Program** - Monday, December 10 @ noon
- **Christmas Break** – Monday, December 16 – January 5, 2025
- **First Day Back** – Monday, January 6

Jump, Jiggle and Jog Body Safety Announcement from Teacher Katie

On **Tuesday, November 12**, I am going to have a brief discussion with the preschool children regarding Body Safety. You are all welcome to join and observe. Simply send me an email if you're interested so that I may provide you with the time that your child will be in my class. In our 5 minute talk, we'll cover the following:

Good Strangers and Bad Strangers. A stranger is someone you don't know. Good strangers might be police officers, security guards, teachers, store clerks, moms at a playground. These are people you can ask for help if you need it. Examples of "bad strangers" are people who want you to follow them or help them. Most adults are good strangers.

What to do if approached by a bad stranger. Always Check with your parents or the adult in charge before going anywhere with anyone. Never accept treats or toys from a stranger. If someone tries to force you, run the other way and scream, "This is not my Mommy/Daddy!" over and over so a good stranger helps you.

Good touches and Bad touches. Examples of good touches are high fives, hugs, fist bumps, handshakes or pats on the back. Examples of bad touches are anyone other than mom, dad, doctor or trusted adult touching you in the swimsuit area. The preschoolers will see a poster with children in swimsuits and we'll discuss how anything covered by the swimsuit is considered private. We will not go into anatomy - simply leave it with private areas remaining private.

Good secrets and bad secrets. Good secrets are fun and temporary - like a surprise cake for mom or a Christmas present. Bad secrets are someone telling you to keep something secret forever from Mom or if someone touches you in the swimsuit area.

What to do if there's been a bad touch or you have been told a bad secret. Always tell you mom or dad or a trusted adult. If they're not around, you can tell a teacher or grandparent. It's always the right thing to tell someone.

A time and place for everything. There's a time and a place for us to be undressed - at home or in the bathroom. We never drop our pants at school unless we're using the potty. When you're done in the bathroom, do a quick check! Hands washed, pants up, ready to go!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions and let me know if you'll be joining. My email address is **katiels84@gmail.com**