

## **PRESCHOOL**

2007-2008

During the preschool years, children encounter an enormous variety of experiences, a wide range of developmental growth, and challenges of all kinds. We provide new and exciting experiences for The Grammar School's youngest children five full days per week. We stimulate children's curiosity and encourage their expression through music, art, drama, physical skills, and a variety of language games and activities. We emphasize the development of positive social skills as an integral part of each day. Our preschoolers learn to care for each other and for their environment, and they enjoy being a part of the larger school community.

Our day begins with ample free time for exploration, experimentation, and discovery. A child may choose from options including blocks and LEGO, clay, workbench, the sand/water/seeds table, books and puzzles, painting and drawing, dramatic play, trucks, dolls, and puppets. Each morning also includes a creative project set up and ready for small group involvement. After cleanup, we gather for our morning meeting where we talk about the day's events. Snack time is next, followed by recess, sharing, and story time. Each day at sharing, children enjoy the chance to show us a particular object, tell a story, or share some special information. Just before lunch we play a variety of circle time activities involving word games, songs, movement, rhythm, and music. We end the morning with our closing circle followed by another recess, with pick up at 12:30. Our afternoon program begins at 12:30 and offers opportunities for continued free play, a quiet story/rest time, art activities, snack, and more outdoor play until pick up at 3:00. Each day includes playful activities involving counting, selecting, comparing and contrasting, language, sequencing and patterning, and identifying. Emphasis is always on having fun.

Throughout the year we explore various themes, and choose art projects, stories, songs, word games, cooking experiences, circle time, and sharing to support and expand these themes. Some examples include: All About Me; The Life of the Butterfly; Nature Around Us; and Oceans. We enjoy regular interaction with the kindergartners and first graders. We take occasional field trips to a variety of local sites. We experience a wide selection of music, rhythm and movement activities as part of our regular curriculum. And we take pride in the celebration of our accomplishments through special events, the presentation of dramatic performances, and the display of our projects for everyone to appreciate.

At The Grammar School Preschool, our curriculum is embodied in all the different components of each day. We explore a lively variety of theme ideas. Our schedule balances rest with large- and fine-motor skills activities. We enjoy activities that promote social, language, and cognitive development, and the physical design of our space allows children to play comfortably individually, with another playmate, or in larger groups. At TGS Preschool each day offers opportunities for focused attention within an environment of rich and fascinating variety.