



## *Garden Gazette*

### **November/December 2019**

#### **Upcoming Events:**

November 4: Preschool Advisory Council meeting 5:30

November 11: NO SCHOOL: Veteran's Day

November 20: Parent Meeting Guest Presentation on Nutrition, 5:30 pm

Child Care Provided

November 26: Friends-giving, 11:30-12:30, check your email for dish suggestions

November 27-29: NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

December 13: Parent's Night Out 5:30 to 8:00 pm

December 23- January 3: NO SCHOOL: Winter Break

## **REMINDERS**

**Make sure your child has extra pants, long sleeve shirts, socks, shoes and underwear in their cubby. LABEL ALL CLOTHING**

**Also, please LABEL your child's nap blankets and stuffy with permanent marker or tape and marker. Take home your child's sheet and blanket on their last day of school each week, launder and bring back on Monday.**

At Garden Preschool, we practice an emergent curriculum and believe in a play based, children driven classroom. This article on Reggio Emilia will help give you insight into some of the principles we use at our school, and ideas that inspire our school.

## **What Are Reggi**

### **o Emilia Schools?**

The educational philosophy born out of the ashes of World War II lacks the strictures of the typical North American classroom

By Katherine Hobson



## **Children can guide their own learning.**

“Children aren’t empty vessels who need to be filled,” said Gabriela Garcia, executive director of the Reggio-inspired [Grant Park Cooperative Preschool](#) in Atlanta. Instead, the Reggio philosophy is that “children are competent, confident and capable beings from birth,” she said. But that doesn’t mean that preschoolers are in charge or that the schedule is a free-for-all. Instead, children follow their own interests within a framework of activities directed by the teachers. “The ball is being passed back and forth,” said Jane Racoosin, director of the Reggio-inspired [Beginnings Nursery School](#) in Manhattan.

Often, those explorations will occur when an educator sets up an experience for a small group of children and their reactions lead to a specific topic or theme. That topic can become a curricular thread that is followed for weeks or months. Sarah Wheeler, a Manhattan mother of two current Beginnings students and one graduate, said that even when her children passed through the same classrooms, with the same teachers, the curriculums were different. One child’s class explored sound and music-making, including building their own instruments, as well as planning and building their own multi-tiered garage as a group. When another child was in the same class, they focused on textures, including creating them, measuring them and identifying them in and out of school. That led to learning about Braille and the five senses. Ashley Marotta, in Boulder, Colo., is the parent of three children, one of whom graduated from a Reggio-inspired school and one who will enter her final year at the Reggio-inspired Boulder Journey School this fall. Her youngest child was in a class that focused on the local library after they walked there to visit. When the community was invited to give feedback on a proposal for a new

library, some of the kids attended a meeting, advocating for space for babies and room for wheelchairs.

In that way, the curriculum emerges organically as opposed to top-down, in partnership with the children, and within the context of the community. So instructors at Reggio-inspired schools are flexible and don't start the year with a preconceived notion of what will be taught or when.

Read more at

<https://parenting.nytimes.com/preschooler/reggio-emilia-preschool>

**FYI**

**The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:**

**Absolutely no screen time for children under the age of two, and less than an hour a day for preschoolers.**

**Parents should not give their smart phones to babies in their car seats or strollers.**

**Parents should not play videos for infants and toddlers to keep them occupied.**

**Parents should not take iPads to restaurants.**

**Preschoolers should not have televisions in their bedrooms.**



## Fruit Cornucopias - An Easy Thanksgiving Treat

This recipe for Fruit Cornucopias is an easy Thanksgiving treat that is not only healthy, but enjoyable for kids of all ages.

Prep Time 10 minutes

Total Time 10 minutes

Servings 6

Calories 87 kcal

### Ingredients

- 1 cup blueberries (washed and dried)
- 1 cup Mandarin oranges
- 1 cup raspberries (washed and dried)
- 1/8 cup honey
- 6 ice cream cones (with pointy bottoms)
- 1/8 cup pumpkin seeds (or sunflower seeds, optional)

### Instructions

1. Starting with one ice cream cone, fill the inside with your choice of fruit.
2. Place pumpkin or sunflower seeds inside if desired.
3. With a spoon, drizzle a few lines of honey on the top.
4. Eat immediately or place in the fridge until ready to consume.

### Notes

Not a fan of the fruit in the recipe? You can use any type of fruit you'd like ;)

*Recipe Source:* From Robin Martinez, owner of Kids in The Kitchen