

## **Bixby Preschool Traditions**

*While preschool offers rich and exciting activities each day, it is our Bixby Preschool traditions that stand out and make our school so special.*

**Birthdays (crown making and singing)-** It is always a special day celebrating a birthday at Bixby. The birthday child starts their day making their very own birthday crown! This birthday crown draws special attention throughout the day! During our lunchtime we light candles and sing Happy Birthday making it a true celebration. Families are welcome to bring in a special treat which is always a favorite among the children.

**Group Time costume decorating and parade-** A favorite Halloween tradition is making costumes that represent our group names. We have to get creative as the children have named the groups themselves! We parade to Morning Star to say a spooky Halloween hello then return to Bixby to parade around the upper grades! It is so much fun having the big kids guess our group names from our costumes.

**Gourd hunt-** The gourd hunt is not only a preschool tradition but a whole school favorite of Bixby. With a howl, the children hunt for the gourd that speaks just to them! We can hide our gourds all day long making a game out of the hunt and at the end of the day bring them home.

**Pumpkins in the pool-** The preschoolers face's say it all when they see real pumpkins floating in the pool! The spooky music and disco ball set the mood as we enjoy a Halloween pool party.

**Portrait Gift making-** Our preschoolers have the biggest hearts and biggest smiles. In December we decorate picture frames to put our pictures in to surprise our families. The children put lots of effort into their colorful and unique creations, they wrap them with excitement as a gift for their families.

**Valentine Bag Decorating-** At preschool we encourage friendship and love. We show our affection to friends with specially made Valentines brought from home. At school we decorate Valentine bags to take home our Valentines that were made with love.

**Earth Day cleanup-** We are nature protectors at Bixby. The children care for their surroundings when we go on our walking field trips. In honor of Earth Day, we head out into the community to clean up trash! We talk about the importance of keeping the Earth clean! Community clean-up doesn't end on Earth Day- we venture out into the community several times throughout the year to clean up the neighborhood. We are community helpers!

**Art Show-** We are real artists at Bixby School! The Art Show is a collaboration of special artwork created by Bixby preschoolers.

**Portfolio Night-** It's a special event to commemorate a busy year. Families are invited to join us for an evening viewing the children's portfolios. Portfolios are a collection of pictures and artwork representing all the fun we had throughout the year.

**Graduating preschoolers end of the year field trip/tie dye t-shirts-** It is always bittersweet saying goodbye to friends who are moving on to kindergarten. We make sure to pay special attention to these children at the end of the school year to support their next adventure and let them know how special they are.

**Last day of school special activities-** The last week of school is a fun week full of special activities celebrating a wonderful year! Special meals, lunch at the park, and dance parties mark the end of the school year. And of course, it wouldn't be the last day of school if we didn't have a countdown to the last minute!

**Read Across America day activities-**

Preschoolers bring in their favorite books to share with the class. We celebrate a wonderful day of literacy!

**International Dot Day-**

International Dot Day is a celebration of courage! It is a great day to connect and collaborate, and also to celebrate self-expression.

**Week of the Young Child-**

The Week of the Young Child is a special week to focus on and celebrate our youngest learners. Each day there is an activity that highlights Early Childhood Education! It is a fun week full of preschool activities!

*At Bixby, we embrace all cultures and family traditions. Some of our favorite times are when family members come in to share celebrations and special traditions from their homes. We welcome all families to reach out to the teachers to set up a time to share about your families and special traditions.*