

NEWSLETTER - APRIL

From the Director's Desk

As we begin the month of April, we hope we will all be able to enjoy warmer weather and many beautiful spring days. We have spent so much time indoors and will be excited to spend time outside. Our children strengthen growing muscles when they are climbing, running, playing ball and jumping. This month we will also be taking time to discuss all the changes around us.

In the month of April children will be learning about flowers growing. With spring in the air the children are excited to be learning about how things grow. They are learning about spring by planting seeds, studying insects and the weather. They will also be investigating and observing the life cycle of caterpillars with the hope of releasing some beautiful butterflies. One thing parents can do is take time to point out all the wondrous miracles God shows us in everyday life. You will be helping them expand their language, communication skills and help them to be eager learners.

Earth Day is April 22nd. You can take your child out and show them how to fly a kite. or start riding that tricycle/bicycle . You can also spend the afternoon watching cloud shapes and blowing bubbles. Keep in mind, your child is always learning. We will begin outdoor learning in April as well. Our outdoor tent has arrived and thanks to Angel, our custodian it should be up and ready to use when we return from Spring Break.

During the month of April, the children will also be focusing on ways to keep our earth clean, healthy and beautiful. They will practice the 3 R's: reduce, reuse, recycle. Each class will be decorating their Pre K classroom with colorful art activities using spring themes. Our preschooler's learning has been blooming all year long. All of our students have made so much progress.

This is a fun time of the year but the children still have a lot of work to do to get ready for the four year old program and Kindergarten. Three more months....then the big transitions begin. Summer vacations, summer camps....lots of fun and carefree days. Until then, though, there are still lots of fun and learning actually going on at school. With the warmer weather, and more outside time, we hope there will be fewer colds and coughs. With only a few more weeks to go, it is more important than ever that the children stayed focused and make good choices. And as always....READ, READ, READ!!!

Up and Coming

March 29- April 2: Spring/Easter Break

April 1:	Holy Thursday
April 2:	Good Friday
April 3:	Holy Saturday
April 4:	Easter Sunday
April 5:	School Resumes
	Teacher's Meeting 8:15 a.m.
April 6:	Parent Zoom Meeting 7 p.m.
April 9:	Dante/Chester Studios School Photos
April 20 & 22:	Parent/Teacher Zoom Progress Report
	Conferences (Dismissal 11:30)
	No PM Classes
April 22:	Earth Day
April 21:	Administrative Assistant's Day
April 30:	Arbor Day
	Last Day for submitting EPI School Supply

Orders



State Regulation

All parents have to sign their child in/out every day, and honestly answer the screening questions required due to COVID. Please do not forget, it's very important. Please be sure to use your **signature**.

Security

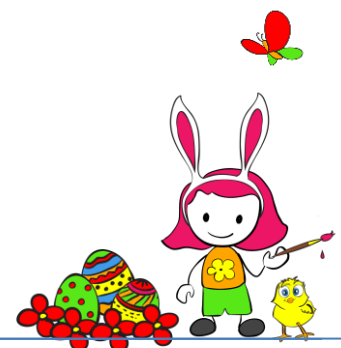
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN ANYONE GO TO A CLASSROOM WITHOUT CLEARANCE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

With the end of the school year not too far off, it's important to remember that Parent/Teacher Conferences can play a very important role in a student's development and academic success. Unfortunately, this relationship is often overlooked, ignored or undervalued. The truth is, teachers and parents often see different aspects of a student's personality. Only by maintaining an open dialogue and comparing notes on the student's achievements or behavior can these perspectives be useful for both.

When parents take advantage of Parent/Teacher Conferences and other opportunities to speak with teachers, it often allows parents to learn of any challenges----academic or otherwise---their child might be having. By the same token, parents can let the teacher know of any special circumstances at home that might have some bearing on the student's performance or behavior.

Let's face it; kids today face a lot of pressure in school. When parents and teachers work together to try and provide the best environment for learning, the child stands to benefit the most. Baby Sitting Services are available in Room 8.



How Can I Tell If My Child Is Ready For Kindergarten?

In general, a child going into Kindergarten should be able to:

- Follow spoken directions and obey rules
- Listen without interrupting
- Get along with others
- Use words to express feelings
- Speak clearly
- Say his or her name and address
- Use the bathroom without help
- Put on (and take off) shoes and coats without help
- Name basic colors
- Count to 5 or 10
- Uses crayons, markers, and scissors properly

As a parent, it is important to:

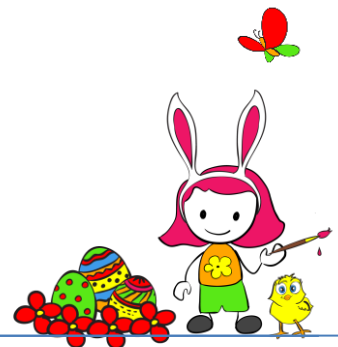
Understand your child. Every child develops at a different rate.

- Avoid comparing him or her to others.
- Don't try to pressure your child to learn new skills before he or she is ready.

Be Patient. Many children going into Kindergarten don't have all the skills listed. But most will develop them.

- During the summer before school starts
- During the first few weeks or month of Kindergarten

Learn more about Child Development.



Earth Day

Earth Day is a special day that celebrates the Earth. It's celebration began on April 22, 1970, in San Francisco, California. Every year, the United States and over 100 different countries join together in celebration of Earth Day. It is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. On this special day, we remember to appreciate nature and learn ways to protect our environment. We try to find ways to help keep our planet clean and protect our natural resources. Three great ways we all can eliminate waste and protect our environment are: **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**

Did You Know?

- The average American uses 650 pounds of paper each year...100 million tons of wood could be saved each year if all that paper was recycled.
- Recycling one aluminum can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

Play and Learn

Playing in the sandbox, blowing bubbles, finger painting---these favorite childhood pastimes are more than just fun. They also teach your youngster the skills they can use in school.



More Ways to Increase Physical Activity

Did You Know?

Physical activity for young children is an important component of early brain development and learning. When adult's model and teach the importance of physical activity, young children are more likely to adopt a lifetime of healthful practices and behaviors.

- Recruit a partner for support and encouragement. Take a daily walk
- Get the whole family involved---enjoy an afternoon bike ride with your kids.
- Walk up and down the soccer or softball field sidelines while watching the kids play.
- Walk the dog---don't just watch the dog walk.
- Clean the house or wash the car.
- Walk, skate, or cycle more and drive less.
- Do stretches, exercise or pedal a stationary bike while watching television.
- Mow the lawn with a push mower
- Plant and care for vegetable or flower gardens
- Play with the kids---tumble in the leaves, build a snowman, splash in a puddle, or dance to favorite music
- Exercise to a workout video

Snack and Lunch Policy

Snack and lunch are important parts of a Pre School student's day. The foods you give your child for snack or lunch should be nutritious and ready to eat. After seeing the decline in fitness and the increasingly poor diets of many young children and reading many articles on the topic of children's health and fitness. Please do not send in junk food such as cookies, cupcakes, chips, or foods with artificial flavors.

Please supply your child with an appropriate beverage, for example: water, milk, 100% fruit juice. Anything with nuts, traces of tree nuts or peanuts, or products processed on shared equipment with Peanuts or Tree Nuts are not permitted in the school environment. Please read the ingredient labels on your food products carefully. Also, use portion control. Your children have tiny tummies and do not require an overabundance of food for their snack or lunch. Much of what you give them goes to waste. Our goal is to help your child learn to enjoy eating healthy foods. The healthy eating we're teaching now will benefit them for a lifetime.



Week of The Young Child

April 12th thru April 16th has been designated the Week of the Young Child. This annual celebration is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The theme for this year is Teaching and Teachers Matter. Today we know more than ever before about the importance of Children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

It is important to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of environment---at home, at child care, at school, and in the community---that will promote their early learning. To celebrate this week with our children we will be have special theme days.

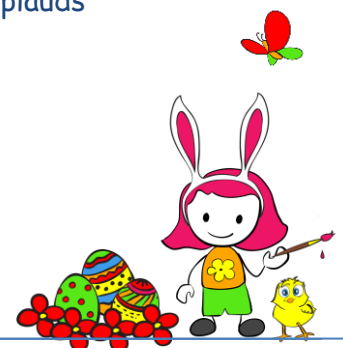
Monday, April 12th: Music Monday (Sing, Dance, Celebrate, and Learn) Through music, children develop math, language and literacy skills, all while having fun and being active!

Tuesday, April 13th: Tasty Tuesday (Healthy Eating and Fitness at Home and School) This fun food-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science and more. With the rise of childhood obesity, you can encourage healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and at school

Wednesday, April 14th: Work Together Wednesday (Work Together, Build Together, Learn Together) When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills.

Thursday, April 15th: Artsy Thursday (Think, Problem Solve, Create) Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their own hands.

Friday, April 16th: Family Friday (Sharing Family Stories) Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. St. Gregory's applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teacher.



Easte

Easter is not just about bunnies, baskets, treats and egg hunts. It's about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the real reason we celebrate Easter. Many holidays have become very commercialized and this one is no exception, thus making it so much more important for us to use fun ways to teach our children it's true meaning.

It is very important to remember that although Easter is the time of the year set aside to specifically celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection, this truth should be taught and celebrated throughout the year, and not just Easter. That being said, I hope you and your family have a WONDERFUL and BLESSED Easter!

Ms. Gaudelli

