



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 are excited to go out into the fresh air. Our children strengthen growing muscles when they are climbing, running, playing ball, and jumping. This month we will also be taking time to discuss 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, and communication skills as well as help them to become 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. 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 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 learning going on in 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 stay focused and make good choices. And as always.....READ, READ, READ!!!

Up and Coming:

4/1: April Fool's Day

4/3-9: Spring Recess

April 9: Easter Sunday

April 10: School Resume

April 11: Staff Meeting at 8:15 a.m.

April 12: Parent Zoom Meeting 7 p.m.

April 18: Community Helper Day

April 19: Ice Cream Sundae Day

April 20: St Jude's Trike-a-thon 9:15 to 11:15

April 22: Earth Day

April 25 & 27: Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

Conferences begin at 11:45

April 28: Arbor Day

State Regulation: All parents must sign their child in/out daily, 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 PK 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 progress. 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 to 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.

- **How Can I Tell 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
- Count to 5 or 10
- Use 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 Activities:

Physical activity for young children is an important component of early brain development and learning. When adults 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.
- 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 TV.



- Mow the lawn with a push mower.
- Plant and care for vegetable or flower gardens
- Play with kids---tumble, or dance to favorite music.
- Exercise to a workout video.

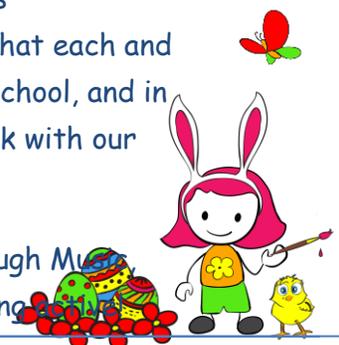
Snack and Lunch Policy:

Snack and Lunch are important parts of preschool 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 it is important to remind all parents to provide their children with nutritious food. 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 then 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 1 through April 7th

April 4th through April 8th 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 theme for 2023 is "Listen Up, Children's Voices Matter." The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. 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 have special theme days.

Monday, April 3th: Music Monday (Sing, Dance, Celebrate, and Learn) Through Music children develop math, language and literacy skills, all while having fun and being



Tuesday April 4th: Tasty Tuesday (Healthy Eating and Fitness at Home and in 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 5th: 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 6th: Artsy Thursday Support children's understanding of art by exposing them to the people who create it.

Family Friday April 7th: (Sharing Family Stories) Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. St. Gregory' applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teacher.

Easter:

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 its 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!

NEW COVID INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING CALLING IN ABSENTEES AND DIRECTIONS FOR RE-ENTRY INTO SCHOOL.

Reminder of COVID Policies:

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT FEELING WELL, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY----THOSE STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN KEPT HOME. WE ONLY ACCEPT WELL CHILDREN. IF YOUR CHILD IS EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS, THEY CANNOT RETURN TO SCHOOL UNTIL THEY ARE FEELING BETTER AND HAVE COMPLETED/FULFILLED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SCHOOL POLICIES REGARDING COVID:

1. ONE NEGATIVE COVID PCR TEST
2. ALTERNATE DIAGNOSIS FROM A DOCTOR
3. NEGATIVE COVID ANTIGEN TEST



*A SINGLE NEGATIVE TEST IS REQUIRED FOR PROVIDER-PERFORMED TESTS
*PHOTO PROOF (INCLUDING NAME, DATE, AND TIME) OF TWO NEGATIVE
AT-HOME ANTIGEN TESTS, 24 HOURS APART. PHOTOS SHOULD BE SENT TO
MS. G AT: mariarelig@aol.com
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION.

