

TPCDC Newsletter

April 2017



Directors Note **Kindergarten Readiness and Transitions**

Thinking about when your child will be ready for kindergarten? Believe it or not, the true measure of your child's readiness to enter kindergarten is not knowledge of concepts of print, or math skills or even ability to write. There is strong evidence that children who do well in school are those with strong self-help & independence skills, with well-entrenched social capabilities such as listening, playing well with friends & problem solving, and robust fine motor skills, which are developed through coloring, manipulating playdough, etc. Sometimes parents "rush" children to school, instead of allowing them to gain enough maturity and abilities to cope with the demands of this next level; please give them time to enjoy the fun of early childhood and then later they'll excel as the 'big fish' in the kindergarten pond.

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/what-to-expect-grade/ready-kindergarten>

<https://qz.com/546832/stanford-researchers-show-were-sending-many-children-to-school-way-too-early/>

Remember that most schools hold their Kindergarten Orientation in April - early May. TPES will be held on Thursday, May 4th, Friday, May 5th and Monday, May 8th. Remember, this is the time of year that PreK parents need to finalize their selection of their child's kindergarten, and complete their registration. Please let me know if you need any support with the process, or if you're interested in a Parent Kindergarten Orientation Meeting here at TPCDC. Below is the link to TPES which has lots of vital information: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparkes/>

In order to help parents better understand the various aspects of heading off we will have a "Transition to Kindergarten" meeting on Tuesday, April 18th, from 5-6 pm in the Shining Stars Classroom. Featuring a super panel of current Kindergarten parents we'll talk about the dynamics of this next big step in your children's lives and answer questions. Explorer parents are encouraged to attend, but the meeting is open to all TPCDC Parents.

Important Dates to Remember

April 7th - Public School Closed-TPCDC OPEN

April 10-17th Public School Closed for Spring Break-TPCDC OPEN

April 18th Transition to Kindergarten 5-6pm

April 24-28th Week of the Young Child

April 28th- Children's Performance 5-6pm

TEDDY BEARS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Ana

Dear Parents, the Teddy Bears had a great time imitating animal sounds and actions while learning some facts about them. For the month of April, we look forward to continue learning about animals, but we will focus on Baby Animals. The children will continue learning about colors of the different animals, how they move around, as well as how they are called when babies. All the art activities will be based on the monthly topic where the children will practice language, fine motor, and cognitive skills while painting, counting and naming animal pictures while playing. We will go to the National Zoo Petting Zoo, for the children to have the opportunity to see some animals more closely.



MUNCHKINS NEWSLETTER-Ms. Yanira

Munchkin Families, Spring is finally here! This month we will be talking about Buildings. Children will be expanding their math, literacy, problem solving and prediction skills. We are asking parents to get involved in our study by bringing a picture your home or any buildings of interest. We are also asking parents to study your homes with your child and discuss the materials used. We will be going on a field trip to the Building Museum in DC. On our field trip we will use that time to examine different sizes and shapes of buildings from other decades. We will also, on other days, take



neighborhood walks and take photos of unique houses, building and structures we find along the way. We are looking forward to having fun with buildings.

RAINBOWS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Corina

Boxes?! What could be so interesting about boxes? Our focus in the Rainbow room for the month of April will be about Boxes. Studying boxes gives us a great opportunity, while playing, to strengthen mathematics skills by measuring, counting, adding, subtracting and sorting boxes; at the same time sharpening our visual skills in spatial perception. Additionally, we will continue increasing vocabulary by using and naming the variety of boxes used in daily living. It would certainly add or enhance to our classroom and learning experience if you, a relative or friend in our community would come into the classroom to share a story, book or anecdote of an experience or story you may have had related to a box.



EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Arly



Spring is finally here! This month we have a lot of outdoor activities planned. Our spring theme will be “Clothes”. We will learn about different kinds of clothes and how they are made, the variety of fabrics, and how clothes have changed over time. Our Show - N - Tell theme is: “Your Favorite Clothes”, so please bring in an item related to this topic: a T-shirt, pajamas, pant, skirt, dress, etc. We will visit the Fire Station, the Post Office, the Police Station, The National Museum, The Discovery Theater, Jo - Ann Fabrics, and George Washington University Museum & the Textile

Museum. April is the last month for resting in the Explorers classroom. On April 1st, we begin using the calendar to count down the days until we reach May 1st, the official start of staying up all day. We celebrate ‘No More Naps’ with a special afternoon snack and a story. Please remember to check your child's cubby for extra weather appropriate clothes, like T-shirts, pants, underwear, socks, etc.

SHINING STARS NEWSLETTER – Mr. Rosa

For this month, the Shining Stars class have planned several outdoor and indoor activities to welcome Spring. We will be celebrating Earth Day (April 22nd) by doing special projects to demonstrate how much we care about the future of our planet. We are planning to clean our back playground and to plant some flowers and vegetables. We will also be doing neighborhood walks and much more.

*Please don't forget our field trip to the Circus on April 7th.

*Spring Break camp will be from April 10th – April 17th. Please sign your child up if you have not done so already!

*Week of the Young Child: April 24th – April 29th.



BRIGHT STARS AND SHOOL AGERS NEWSLETTER- Ms. Dorothy



Hello April! Aren't we glad to see you! There is so many indoor and outdoor activities we have planned this month. We will be tasting fresh veggie and fruit smoothies and creating a spring mural on our back fence. The last MCPS professional day is on the 7th, Spring Break is the 10th-17th and field trips trip are planned and will be posted. The Week of the Young Child is 24th -28th, National Jelly Bean Day and Earth Day are on the 22nd. We will be chatting on how we can improve our Earth.

Week of the Young Child

We will celebrate the Week of the Young Child on the week of April 24-28th, with special activities in the Center. There will be fun projects for the children to do in the classrooms, emphasizing the joys of being a child. We will also be doing our annual Children's Performance for the BIG finale of this special week! We encourage all families to attend!!

Week of the Young Child Events

April 24-28, 2017

Monday 4/24	Tuesday 4/25	Wednesday 4/26	Thursday 4/27	Friday 4/28
<p><u>Sports Day</u></p> <p>Wear your favorite team shirt or jersey.</p>	<p><u>Sensory Fun Day!</u></p> <p>Get ready for a day of messy fun! (Please make sure that you dress your child to get messy)</p>	<p><u>Costume Day</u></p> <p>Dress up as your favorite character</p> <p> (Non- scary and no weapons please)</p>	<p><u>Pajama Party Day</u></p> <p>Wear your most comfortable pajamas!</p>	<p><u>TPCDC Shirt Day</u></p> <p>Wear your TPCDC yellow shirt today!</p>
<p>Breakfast w/your child 7:00-9:00am</p> <p><u>Pot Lunch Sign Up</u></p> <p>Sign up in your classroom to bring an item to share for our Pot Luck Lunch!(Wednesday)</p>	<p>Breakfast w/your child 7:00-9:00am</p>	<p>Pot Luck Lunch</p>	<p>Story Hour for children.</p>	<p><u>Hands Around TPCDC</u></p> <p>Throughout the week we are asking all families to make hand prints that will be displayed around the center</p>
<p>Olympic Day</p>	<p>Teacher Performance (for children)</p>		<p>Special Snack</p>	<p><u>Children's Showcase</u></p> <p>Come and watch your child(ren) perform. Starting at 5pm!</p>

