

TPCDC April Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

April 3-10

Spring Break Schools
Closed – TPCDC Open

April 20-24

Week of the Young Child

Dear Families,

The Family Concert that took place last month was a huge success. Although the weather outside was a little frightful the fun inside was delightful! The children really enjoyed the performances and the dance party synchronized by the deejay. This event raised over \$3200 to support the Professional Development Fund. But, the best part was the community spirit and fellowship that came from everyone being together for an afternoon of fun and laughter. A big thank you to Lauren Williams and Patrick Burns (mother and father of Delia in the Teddy Bears), Jen Striegel (mother of Alice in Rainbows) and Jenny Johnson (mother of Juna in Explorers and Willa in Munchkins) for coordinating this event. We would also like to thank the many parent and teacher volunteers who labored to make the event run so smoothly!

Diaper Bank

A big thank you goes out to everyone that made contributions to DC Diaper Bank! With your help we collected diapers/pull-ups and wipes along with other baby supplies for families in need in our community! Still have items to donate? E-mail Lisa (lisagrossman@hotmail.com) or visit www.dcdiaperbank.org for a list of drop off locations in Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

Week of the Young Child

We will celebrate the Week of the Young Child on the week of April 20-24, with special activities in the Center. There will be fun and zany projects for the children to do in the classrooms, and generally much emphasis on the joys of being a child.

Week of the Young Child Events April 20-24, 2015				
Monday 4/20	Tuesday 4/21	Wednesday 4/22	Thursday 4/23	Friday 4/24
Sports Day Wear your favorite team shirt or jersey.	Crazy Hat/Hair Day Wear your silliest hat or most outrageous hairstyle.	Costume Day Dress up as your favorite character (non- scary and no weapons please).	Pajama Party Day Wear your most comfortable pajamas!	Wild & Crazy Socks Wear your most colorful and unique socks.
Breakfast w/your child! 7a-9a	Breakfast w/your child! 7a-9a	Pizza Lunch – Do not bring lunch for your child today, It's a PARTY!	Story Hour for children.	Special Snack
	Teacher Performance (for children)	Olympic Day	Fence Mural	Children's Showcase – Come and watch your child(ren) perform.

Promoting Social Emotional Development

A child's social-emotional development is as important as her brain and physical development. It is her desire to connect with others that motivates her to learn. Her sense of who she is in the world deeply impacts how much and how well she learns, as well as the quality of the relationships she builds with others. In this section you will learn about how social and emotional development unfolds and how you can support this critical area of a young child's growth. Healthy social-emotional development entails the ability to form satisfying, trusting relationships with others, play, communicate, learn, face challenges, and experience and handle a full range of emotions. It is through relationships that young children develop these skills and attributes. Starting from birth, babies are learning who they are by how they are treated. Loving relationships provide young children a sense of comfort, safety, and confidence. They teach young children how to form friendships, communicate emotions, and to deal with challenges. Strong, positive relationships also help children develop trust, empathy, compassion, and a sense of right and wrong. To learn ways you can support your young child's healthy social-emotional development, explore the following resources: [Birth to 12 months](#), [12 to 24 months](#), [24 to 36 months](#).

Classroom Updates

Teddy Bears

The Teddy Bears have had a great time talking about zoo animals. They are naming most of the animals in pictures and imitating the sound each makes. To continue engaging their interest, in the month of April, we will talk about Baby Animals. Our goal is for the children to develop knowledge of the different names of baby animals and some of their nature. We will talk about ducklings, kittens, and calves, just to mention a few. To help the children to develop their fine motor skills as well as their vocabulary, we will do art activities such as: painting, coloring, and pasting. We are also looking forward to going to the petting area at the National Zoo. This will allow the children to have the opportunity to see the animals in a realistic environment. We wish you all an enjoyable spring.

Munchkins

We are ready to have lots of outdoor fun with friends! This month we will be learning about rain, the names of flowers and bugs and spring songs. We will have two field trips 4/13 - Black Hills Nature Center and 4/29 - Brookside Gardens. Additionally, we will participate in fun activities such as making an umbrella, flower trimming, collaging, planting seeds, finding worms in the dirt and mud, make butterflies and green grass spider paintings.

Rainbows

We know that healthy food helps children to grow, develop and learn. During the month of April we will introduce a new study on Healthy Food. Throughout this study the children will explore, identify and compare similarities and differences by tasting a variety of fruits, vegetables, breads and dairy products. In addition, the children will use their imagination and practice new concepts in learning areas. We will pretend to sell and buy food. We will reinforce math concepts such as too much, too many, less, more and few. Moreover, they will become aware of the importance of consuming healthy fruits and vegetables daily. We will take this opportunity to visit a grocery store to see the different sections, like the deli, dairy and produce areas. During snack time parents are encouraged to share their child's favorite snack. For art we will make vegetables and fruit prints and create a collage of our favorite food. To promote literacy and language skills we will read the following stories: The Enormous Carrot, Creepy Carrots, Farm Alphabet Book and Eating the Alphabet Fruit and Vegetables. By the end the children will have gained many fun and educational experiences relating to healthy foods!

Explorers

Finally we are in spring mode and the Explorers are excited to see the plants growing! Our April theme will be "Let's Explore the Ocean." We will dive into the deep ocean and discover plant life and sea creatures, big and small. We will explore a mysterious shipwreck, count the treasure from a sunken chest and experiment with what sinks and floats. We will pretend to swim in the ocean caves as we explore this exciting world of water. Our Show-N-Tell theme is "Ocean and Earth.", so bring items related to the ocean or earth (fresh flowers, pictures of sea creatures or other items related to this topic). We will visit PetSmart to observe small water animals, the National Museum of Natural History and the movie theatre to see Monkey Kingdom. We started the rest time countdown calendar on April 1st with naps ending on May 1st. Our big center-wide event this month will be the week of the Young Child. Stay tuned for details of this special, fun filled week! Please remember to check your child's cubby for extra weather appropriate clothing.

School Agers

April is here! Please keep in mind that our School-age Programs have new email addresses. Please use the respective email addresses for any communication regarding our programs (drop off/pick up auth., trip permissions, absenteeism, etc.). The email addresses are as follows: **School Ager** – tpcdcschoolagers@gmail.com, **Shining Stars** – tpcdcshiningstars@gmail.com and **Bright Stars** – tpcdcbrightstars@gmail.com. This month we will be concentrating on the spring season! We will be paying special attention to flowers that bloom during this time. We will also be preparing ourselves for the April 24th Children's Performance. We will be learning, practicing and perfecting our moves to perform for all who attend. The following are the specially planned activities and field trips we have planned for spring break (April 3-10):

Date	Activity	Time	Items needed
6-Apr	Pajama Party	All Day	pajamas sleeping bag/blanket bag lunch favorite book shoes
7-Apr	Discovery Theatre	9:00am	yellow t-shirt tennis shoes brown bag lunch extra bottle of water
8-Apr	Belle Zigler Park/Busboys & Poets	10:00am	NO LUNCH NEEDED! yellow t-shirt tennis shoes
9-Apr	Chillum Splash (Indoor) Pool 10	10:00am	yellow t-shirt brown bag lunch extra bottle of water swimsuit towel extra change of clothes plastic bag (for wet clothes) swim shoes, crocs or flip flops
10-Apr	BounceU	10:00am	MUST WEAR SOCKS! yellow t-shirt tennis shoes brown bag lunch extra bottle of water