

TPCDC Newsletter

May 2016



Director's Notes

Last month, our feature was Kindergarten Readiness, and a big part of this is pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Sometimes this is mistakenly thought to be knowledge of alphabets and/or the ability to write letters, but in reality these skills are much broader and more basic. Essential learning skills for pre-reading and writing include: matching, rhyming, letter skills, print direction, motor skills, and concepts of print and language skills.

The *best* ways for children to acquire these skills actually do not come through workbooks, computer games or learning programs. Instead, children build these skills by having many books read to them, through free art and drawing, by practicing mnemonic devices and through recall story-telling. It is necessary and helpful for a child to hear a favorite story multiple times so they will learn more from each reading. Multiple readings reinforce concepts such as story order, anticipated outcomes, and familiarity with vocabulary and language which helps preschool children in their ability to understand, talk about, and be part of the story. So, when you're reading that favorite bedtime story for the umpteenth time, remember you are creating a good reader!!

The links below are useful tools to help encourage and foster reading skills:

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/pre-reading_skills.html

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/milestones-expectations/get-your-preschooler-ready-to-read>

http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellpract_pract/presch/p_group/reading_print_grp.pdf

Important Dates to Remember:

May 2 -6th- Staff Appreciation Week

May 30th-Memorial Day-TPCDC is Closed

Staff Appreciation Week:

Staff Appreciation Week is from May 2-6th. We have some fun activities planned for our staff during this week with the theme of "Award Winning Teachers". The staff at our center are essential to creating a warm and energetic learning environment for our children. Every kind word and act of appreciation received from you are greatly valued by the teachers. Please see the below information with the daily themes, and ways that you can contribute.



Monday – Children bring cards, letters or pictures for their teachers.

Tuesday: Staff VIP Breakfast provided by the Parent Board

- We believe all of our staff are VIPs. If you are interested in helping with breakfast please email the office.

Wednesday – Children Bring Flowers for the Teachers.

- Children can bring one flower or some flowers to their teachers on this day. It is the thought that counts!
- Everyone (children and teachers) can dress-up with a Fairy-tale theme.

Thursday – An Appreciation Lunch with Teacher Service Awards at 1 pm

- The appreciation lunch will be sponsored by the center, and the office is looking for a few volunteers to help with the set-up. If you are available between 12-1 please contact the office.

Friday – Children bring treats for their teachers. Teachers will dress up as the Most-Glamorous Movie Stars and there will be a Red Carpet Photo booth for Teachers.

- Treat suggestions could be snacks, small gifts or any small token you would like to give the teacher that is thoughtful.

All Week Long – Post Love Notes on the Staff Bulletin Board or Classroom Door.

TEDDY BEARS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Ana

Dear Teddy Bears Parents, as you can see there are flowers everywhere and this is a great opportunity for the Teddy Bears to learn about it. Our May topic will be Different Colors and Flower. The children will continue enhancing their learning about colors as well as learning names of some flowers. While we learn about flowers, we will focus on the colors orange, yellow, purple and red. The children will plant their own seeds to observe how flowers grow as well as do art activities such as coloring, painting and pasting flowers pictures. The field trip for this month will be to Brookside Gardens for the children to see many kinds of flowers and the different colors.



MUNCHKINS NEWSLETTER-Ms. Yanira



For the month of May Munchkins will begin the study on Trees. We will be observing and comparing trees learning about what lives in them, parts of a tree and who cares for them. We hope that this study will help children explore and appreciate nature. We will study trees by using literacy, math, art and technology to explore the topic in depth. We will learn important social and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations. If you are able to, you may take a tree walk with your child and engage them with questions about their environment. May 18th is a field trip to Wheaton Regional Park. May 27th picnic lunch at the park. Please send a brown lunch bag.

RAINBOWS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Corina

The Rainbows theme for this month will be focused on Trees. In the past we studied the outward characteristics of trees and the function of the roots and leaves, in addition to objects made with wood or bark of a tree. However, in this study we will build on the children's prior knowledge to gain more understanding of the characteristics of trees and their role in our lives. This study will focus on building literacy, mathematics, technology and visual arts skills. Parents may help us enhance the learning experience by retelling some childhood memories. Some topics to consider are: how and when you learned to climb a tree, playing and hiding behind a tree, dreaming under the shade of a tree or trying to wrap your arms around a tree. We are so excited to study trees as we enter the month of May!



EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Sherri



Our theme for May is Exercise. Our bodies are made to move and young children are in constant motion. Exercise and movement make children feel capable and confident, release tension and build strong bodies and minds. Children will explore many types of exercise, observe others exercising, learn about mechanics of movement and safety rules. A study of exercise offers a meaningful way for children to use literacy, mathematics, the art, and technology to investigate and interpret their understanding of important concepts regarding physical development, science and social studies. Our show-n-tell theme is **Bugs and Insects**. Each child has been assigned a bug/insect to research for show-n-tell. On the paper provided, children should draw a picture of the bug/insect and with the help of parents write four (4) facts. At the end of the month, we will use the pictures to make a book. On Friday May 13, a special guest, personal trainer Lionel, will visit the Explorers at 10:30am. He will show the children safe and simple exercises and answer any questions the children may have.

BRIGHT STARS, SHINING STARS' AND SCHOOL AGERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Rosa



We are so excited for this month! School will be finished soon and summer is just around the corner. The Schoolagers, the Shining Stars and the Bright Stars classrooms have a lot of indoor and outdoor activities planned. We are going to make arts and crafts for Mother's Day and will continue to work on our garden. Another exciting activity we have planned is to celebrate Beverage Day; a fun day to make our own smoothies and shakes! We will also be conducting many science experiments and much more! Parents please be aware that sometimes we will be going for our walks around the neighborhood; don't forget to apply sunscreen onto your child every day. Also, check out our fun summer program activities and sign your child up if you haven't already done so. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let the classroom teachers know. We look forward to a great month!

