

CHICKADEE NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Dear Parents,

Looking Back...

March began with a birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss. Through all the excitement there was loads of learning. We conquered a rhyming word literacy lesson, cooked our own green eggs & ham, created crazy hats and transformed into cats in hats. Dr. Seuss taught us about “the places you can go”, which helped us launch our broad topic- transportation.

The adventure progressed by looking at transportation on land with buses, racecars and trains. Water transport was next. The children spent a great deal of time exploring the concept of “sink vs. float” to help them understand how boats float. The Chickadees tested a ruler, a Dora mermaid, a bowling ball and 30 objects in all! We made our own boats and had lots of water play to float our crafts. Air travel was the last leg of our trip, which took us to “infinity and beyond”. Through art the children created various air transportation models and with a little science help we learned how currents move things in the air.

The seasonal changes inspired us to explore weather and “Spring”. The children investigated wind, clouds, rain & rainbows and even mud through books, art and patterning colors of the rainbow. In drama we went to the “end of the rainbow” and found pots of gold! This may have inspired a visit from some mischievous Leprechauns on St. Pat’s Day, who messed up our classroom leaving magic dust & gold coins everywhere & turning our milk green! Imagine that!

Looking Ahead...

April, we hope, will bring consistently warmer weather and many opportunities to run, play and explore outside. This month we will learn about dinosaurs. We will compare plant eater vs. meat eater, learn big words like Paleontologist, extinct and fossil. We will take a closer look at what made the dinosaurs extinct, volcanoes or the ice age. We’ll have an early start on our mother’s day gifts working with a local artist, too! During this month we will also decorate our room for spring and have an Easter fun week. We will dye eggs, have egg hunts and do “eggs”periments. Look for a sign-up sheet for donations.

April Concepts, Dates & Activities

Shape: oval Color: yellow Numbers: 11 & 12 Letters: W, X, & Y

April 4-21 “Egg-cellent” Easter Fun ...finishing up a three-week long event of egg science, egg art & fun Easter activities.

April 11 - 15 Week of the Young Child (see school newsletter & class calendar for details)

April 13 Scholastic Book Orders Due in School Office.

April 20 Artist, Karen Norris, visits the Chickadee Class!

Karen, owner of Our Creative Outlet, will introduce the children to clay from today. She will help us with Mother’s Day gifts. If your child does not regularly attend this morning, they are welcome to come for this hour. Sorry, no moms allowed! See the office, if you are interested in bringing your child to this fun experience.

April 21 **Baby pictures needed.** We will work on a project for the end of the year that requires a baby picture of your child. **Note:** pictures should be (3 x 5) or (4 x 6) and will be mounted & possibly cut to fit. Pictures can be placed in the teacher basket by **Monday, April 18th**.

April 25-29 **Teacher's Choice Week** We will revisit some of our favorite art experiences and activities from throughout the year.

The Chicks are Coming!

Our incubator is set up in the gym for watching some chick eggs for 21 days- we hope to see them hatch around April 13th! It is in our large wooden box on the west wall of the gym. We must be patient as we wait and watch! Please remember that all the eggs may not hatch, which is normal, but it is so exciting and fun when they do! Thank you to Mrs. Fanello, an Owl teacher, who oversees this adventure every year!

Conferences

Conferences for the Chickadee class will be held on May 12th and 13th. Sign up sheets for conferences will be on the bulletin board above the Chickadee boot shelf (main hall) beginning Monday, April 11th. Conferences last about 15 minutes and are **optional**. We will provide a written evaluation for all children, whether or not a parent elects to attend a conference. It helps to have questions or concerns prepared in advance. Being prompt helps the process run smoothly. Please remember that social and emotional development is the most important part of preschool success at this age. Achieving self-confidence and independence enables a child to try new things and enter new environments without hesitation. Please see a teacher, if you need a special time or date.

"It's Blustery Out, Pooh"


We are heading into the "unpredictable" outdoor season. It may be necessary for our children to wear hats and/or mittens at our morning outside time depending upon the temperature. We will attempt to go outside daily, so plan wisely and according to the daily weather. Also, check your child's extra clothing supply to make sure pants, shirts, socks, and underwear are stocked and all items fit.

Lunch Reminder

Lots of Chickadees are growing right now! You may want to consider adding additional healthy food items for lunch. Thanks for your cooperation!

April Birthdays

 April 8 - Julia Mattson

 April 18 - Ben Tweeden

 April 22 - Lucas Godgluck

May Dates for Calendars

The end of the school year gets busy, so here are May dates for your calendars...

May 2 - 5th ... **Vision Screening**

May 11 - 13th ... **Chickadee Conferences**

May 16h ... **Chickadee "End of Year Celebration"**

May 23rd ... **Final Chickadee Field Trip to Schlitz Audubon Center**

Think Spring!

Chris Behrend

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