

Chickadee Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Another month has gone by and the Chickadees are heading into the sixth month of preschool. Wow! We are seeing lots of changes in the boys and girls...physical growth spurts along with huge leaps in social and cognitive development, longer attention spans and enhanced fine motor skills. The children have been working hard on their "writing grips" practicing vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines along with curves and half circles. These are all foundations for printing skills.

The start of the New Year provided a great opportunity to learn about the monthly calendar and the 12 months of the year. While time is a difficult concept for this age group to grasp, the exposure to the words and surrounding ideas is encouraged. We also explored the season of winter, checked out snowmen and conducted science experiments about freezing water and the reaction of different salts on ice.

During the month of January we took a closer look at some of our favorite books including Marsupial Sue (by John Lithgow), When You Give A Moose A Muffin (by Laura Numeroff), and Goodnight Moon (by Margaret Wise Brown).

Looking Ahead ...

The topic of friends and Valentine's Day will be the focus during the first two weeks in our room. Valentine Fun Week (Feb. 13 –17) will be loaded with enjoyable activities focusing on fun, friends and valentines. The last week we will talk about Royalty, Queens, Kings, Princesses and training dragons!

FEBRUARY THEMES & ACTIVITIES

Shape: heart **Colors:** Red, pink & purple **Number:** 9 & 10 **Letters:** O, P, Q, & R

Special Dates to Remember:

Feb. 3rd **Alumni Registration begins for Summer and Fall 2012**

Feb. 6th **New Family Registration begins for Summer and Fall 2012**

Feb. 9th **Book orders due to office** – please make one check payable to Wee Know for your entire order

Feb. 13 – 17th **Valentine's Fun Week:**
A Sign-up sheet will be posted on the clipboard for volunteers & donations needed. All donations should be at school by Monday, February 6th.



- **Mon, Feb. 13th** : Each child will need to bring in **24 valentine cards to school**. Please leave **all** envelopes blank and **only** sign the card with your child's name. We will have a Pizza Lunch today, so no lunch will be needed from home.
- **Tues, Feb. 14th**: Each child attending this day is asked to bring **one measuring cup of a single trail mix ingredient in a Ziploc bag**. (Example: one cup of raisins or one cup of marshmallows, etc.) for our "Friendship Mix" snack.



- **Wed, Feb. 15th & Thurs, Feb. 16th: “Pajama Days”...** Come to school in your favorite “PJs” and slippers, bring a stuffed animal or favorite “blankie” too! We will be cooking “breakfast” foods both days! Filled Valentine bags go home on these days! If your child is not regularly scheduled on Thursday or Friday, and you would like them to attend one of the Pajama Days, please stop by the office to add or trade a day.
- **Friday, Feb. 17th: Wear Pink, Purple or Red today**

CHICKADEES & NAME PRINTING

The Chickadees have been using dotted name cards in the morning to sign in each day since the beginning of January. The teachers have been working with the children on proper grip and letter formations. Your child will learn to sign their names with an upper case first letter and lower case subsequent letters in their first name. Like wise, we encourage all parents to assist their children with this strategy, as well. It is important to remember that we have children at very different fine motor skill levels in the room, so please be positive with your child regarding this new skill. Letter printing is being introduced due to interest and not expected to be mastered at this level; it is an older four and five year old developmental skill.

WELCOME STUDENT TEACHER!

We are very happy to welcome Miss Caitlin Zorpahl to our classroom on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. She is an Early Childhood Education major from WCTC.

FRIDAY OPENINGS

We have preschool openings on Fridays in our classroom. If you would like to add this day to your child’s schedule please see the office.

PARENT COOPERATION NEEDED

We have had quite a few incidences the past few months of families taking home items that belong to other students, ranging from mittens to backpacks, shoes, pillows, etc. Your cooperation & attention is needed!!

- First, **please label your children’s items** on the outside if possible! Use duct tape, if necessary. It holds up well, can cut to any size & you can print on it. Many duplicates exist and the children are not reliable sources to tell you whether items belong to them or not.
- Second, **take only your child’s items from their cubby**. Some children share cubbies, so please double check that you are not taking someone else’s items. Inform your “pick up” person about collecting your child’s items, as well.
- Third, **feel free to call us**...if you realize you have someone else’s items call the school or the affected family and let them know right away. Likewise, mistakes happen!

Happy valentine’s Day to All!

Amanda Meyer Pam Semler Rikki Callison

