



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

MARCH 2021 244TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

Thank you everyone for being so prompt with updating your paperwork. There are a few of you who are in need of updated wellness checkups, so just a reminder to make sure you are on top on that with your child(ren). There are Child Assessment forms to bring with you outside of my office, as well as online. I also had a few people need to update information on their emergency contact papers, so if you were one of them, please email me with the corrections.

As many of you have noticed, the travel restrictions in PA have been dropped and we will be following suit, though we will still be requiring that you inform us of your travels. That being said, I ask that everyone who is traveling to remain taking precautions while you are out. We are going on a year of this pandemic and we have been very fortunate that none of our kiddos or staff members have gotten COVID and we would like to keep it that way! Please help maintain the health and safety of our center!

Happy soon-to-be Spring! We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, March 31st. We are still not letting parents attend these events, but we will take pictures and share them with you. A letter will be coming home very soon reminding you of this event and asking if you could donate 1 or more dozen plastic filled eggs. Please drop off the donated plastic filled eggs no later than Wednesday, March 24th so they may quarantine. Hopefully we will have great weather to have it outdoors.

I will be setting up a picture day sometime this spring, probably in late April. We have not had one in over a year and would like to try and do that if we can. I will be reaching out to the photographer, Jason, with "Through the Years

Photography". Jason is a local photographer and has been doing our pictures for several years now and he did them for us last fall before the pandemic. If anyone can capture a smile, it's Jason. A lot of the children know him already and are very comfortable with him. A few days, after pictures are taken, you will be given an envelope with directions to view the pictures on the website. You may order them online and have them sent directly to your home, or you may order using the envelope and have them sent here to the center. We will have Jason set up in a room that we do not use in the center so that we may sanitize it before and after. I will be sending out a permission slip for you to sign if you are comfortable with this and would like your child's picture taken. Do not feel obligated to have your child get their picture taken. I know we are still in the pandemic, but we will be taking all the necessary precautions. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me or your child's teacher.

Open-enrollment has begun for our S.U.M.mer Camp. If you didn't receive yours or you know someone interested in needing care for a school-aged child during the summer, please reach out to me. Just a reminder that it is first-come, first-serve and you need all the completed paperwork, the first week's deposit, and a balanced account to reserve your child(ren)'s spot(s).

Lastly, we may be trying something new in the next month or so: to make sure that our parents are reading this newsletter, we may have clues or questions in the newsletter that if you answer correctly could win you a prize or put your name in a raffle. Don't get too excited, right now it will probably just be a piece of candy, but if this takes off then maybe we can make it something a bit more! Stay tuned!

MANNERS MATTER

03/01/21 - Do not stare at who is being reprimanded

03/08/21 - If you win, do not brag; if you lose, do not show anger

03/15/21 - Keep yourself and the bathrooms clean and germ-free

03/22/21 - If someone drops something and you are close to it, pick it up

03/29/21 - Know other teachers' names and greet them in the hall by name

THEMES:

- A Seuss Celebration
- Weather
- St. Patrick's Day
- Spring, at last!
- Easter

Staff Birthday

Miss Kaity - 3/26

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

March 1st - Open enrollment for S.U.M.mer Camp.

March 31st - Easter Egg Hunt

April 2nd - CLOSED for Good Friday

May 31st - CLOSED for Memorial Day

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS

It has been a busy month in the infant room! The new skills are really piling up quickly as we watch these precious children develop. We are seeing and hearing the best kind of growth. They are trying so hard every day to do more and more by themselves. We have been changing out toys to support them in their attempts. All the kids enjoy being on the floor for the bulk of the day to practice, practice, practice! Using gentle hands is a concept we will be reinforcing for months to come.



Please get very serious about baby proofing your home. The curiosity combined with new mobility can lead to trouble in a hurry. You put your child on the floor and the next thing you know they are across the room! Keep your kid safe from your stuff and your stuff safe from your kid! Tape down electrical cords, put away knick knacks, lower the crib mattress all the way down and keep the doors to other rooms closed or install baby gates. Please!!

Just a few words about lunch. Please offer as many different foods as possible. Don't shy away from textured or mixed foods. We don't want blossoming taste buds settling on just 3 or 4 items. This is the time to try everything. Please offer foods even if you don't like them. I know so many people that are afraid to try foods just because they never had it as a child. It can take 8 to 15 tries before a child really knows if they like a food or not! The most important thing is to offer well-cooked hard foods so they are soft enough to chew and do not become a choking hazard. This is true for fruits and vegetables. Doctors report that young children do not need juice. It is much better to eat the fruit. So far this group of friends love to eat!

Hopefully we will be able to start going outside in the afternoons as the days start to get warmer. Happy Spring to us all!

MISS PENNY AND MISS AMY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Hello Young Toddler Families!

March is a busy month; we start with a week being silly with Dr. Seuss and then talk about weather, St. Patrick's Day and spring and end just as we are getting ready to celebrate Easter! We aren't sure how the current pandemic may affect the annual Egg Hunt, but be assured we will let everyone know as soon as a decision has been made.

Miss Amy and Miss Penny would like to apologize for the mix up during Valentine's Day in regards to getting a list of classmate's names home to the parents. We took the time to address each Valentine ourselves to ensure everyone had a special surprise from everyone who participated. Thank you for your patience with our misunderstanding. The children who brought in Valentine's passed them out to their friends all by themselves and everyone enjoyed getting a treat.

There are a few special days coming up in the young toddler room. First, next Friday March 5th will be a PJ day and we encourage all to roll out of bed and join us while we read lots of Dr. Seuss books and even a few videos. Second is Wednesday March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) we are having a GREEN DAY. We hope everyone can find a shade of green to wear that day!!

We have some reminders:

1. ALL of your child's belongings NEED to be LABELED this includes but is not limited to... bedding, extra clothes, winter gear including hats and gloves, bibs, eating utensils, lunch containers, sippy cups, fruit and yogurt pouches, bags of snacks such as cheese sticks and crackers, bags of diapers and wipes, diaper creams, etc.
2. All bedding should be brought to school in a pillow case or fabric bag NO PLASTIC
3. Winter weather gear may stay on your child's hook during the week but must GO HOME ON FRIDAYS
4. Starting at age 2 your child should be wearing a mask from the time they walk into the building in the morning until they get outside after pick up. Please encourage your little one to keep their mask on in the hallway especially at pick up.

Our star of the month for March is Evelyn. Evelyn is going to be 2 on the 16th. She has 1 older brother, Colin, who has also attended COF. Evelyn loves to talk about anything she can and helps us enforce the rules. She is a great helper and is always ready for the next activity. Evelyn greets Miss Penny and Miss Alyssa every morning with a big smile and even bigger hug!

We have 3 birthdays this month!!! Elliyanah, Evelyn, and Penelope. If you see any of these wonderful young ladies this month be sure to wish them a Happy Birthday!!!

Here's to hoping the snow is all done and warmer weather is coming soon!
Thank you all for sharing your children with us each and every day!

Miss Penny and Miss Amy

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Yellow

Oval

Understands different sizes

Catching a ball

3 – 5 piece puzzle

Resolve conflicts with words not hands

Makes a choice when asked

God's creation



Is it Spring yet? The kids were excited about all the snow we've been getting but now we're looking forward to warmer weather. We had some days where it was warm enough to go outside and play in the snow and everyone loved it! Thanks for remembering your child's snow items so we could all enjoy the fun.

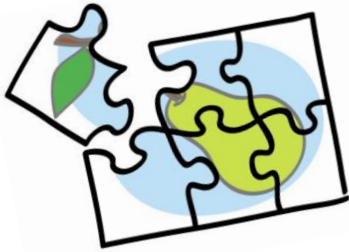
Last month we talked a lot about love and being kind to one another. The kids had fun handing out their Valentines and getting treats from their friends. We learned about transportation and how to get from one place to another and painted with cars. We ended the month with doing some creative art projects and some color mixing activities.

This month we will play in Oobleck and make hot air balloons during Dr. Seuss week while we read lots of his books. We can all dress in green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday March 17th! During weather week we will be making a tornado and doing some other fun weather experiments. And by the end of the month we'll be welcoming in spring - listening for birds, watching for flowers and bugs and enjoying the sunshine. We will be celebrating Easter and learning about Jesus and why we celebrate. More information about our egg hunt will come home in your child's backpack as we get closer to the time.

Our friend of the month is Easton. Easton has a big birthday this month, three years old!!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY EASTON!!! Easton has an older sister that comes to our after school program and he has a little brother that is our baby

room. Easton told us that his favorite song to sing at circle time is the turtle song, his favorite animal is a monkey and that his favorite color is blue. Easton told us that he likes to watch Blippi on you tube and he likes to watch the dinosaur movie with Bria, his big sister. Easton told us that when he's at home he likes to play with puzzles, trucks and his blue tractor!

We hope everyone has a great month, stay healthy!



MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL

FOCUSES

Mental – Letters P, Q, and R /color green/ number 7/
diamond shape

Physical- Practicing putting preschool aged puzzles
together / Jumping over higher objects

Emotional-Caring for others

Social-Helping one another

Spiritual- Jesus and the children / the story of St. Patrick / Palm Sunday / the
Easter story

Happy St. Patrick's Day! We've made it to March, and I hope that your winter season has gone well for you!

We will be spending the first part of the month keeping an eye out for leprechauns! We had to unfortunately close, last year, right before St. Patrick's Day, so we were not able to finish all of our activities with the leprechauns. Hopefully this year things will go a lot better!

After St. Patrick's Day, we will be spending time during the last part of the month discussing Easter. Please keep an eye out for information on special activities that will hopefully be taking place around the Easter holiday.

Along with discussing the holidays that will be occurring both this month and the very beginning of April, we will be taking some time to discuss changes in the weather, rainbows, and spring (hopefully we will also be enjoying some springtime weather soon)!

Since we were unable to post a newsletter for a few months, I have put together three special stars of the month for March!

Our first star is Ethan! Ethan's favorite color is green and his favorite food is apples! He enjoys singing the Alphabet song and reading books about monster trucks. His favorite activity is playing with his monster trucks.

Our second star is Hannah! Hannah's favorite color is purple and her favorite food is chicken nuggets! Hannah enjoys the song "Let It Go" and she likes to read Berenstain Bear books. Her favorite activity is coloring, and she would like to say "I Love You" to her mother!

Our third star is Natalie! Natalie's favorite food is apples and her favorite color is green. Natalie says that her favorite book is the elephant book!

I would like to extend a special thank you to everyone for taking the time to send their child's Valentine's in a week early last month. I'm sure that we all are doing everything we can to keep both ourselves and others safe and healthy!

Have a great month and a happy St Patrick's Day!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Hello from the Prekindergarten room! One of our upcoming themes for March is Spring; maybe we'll be all done with snow by then! To quote a UPS driver I spoke with recently: "I like snow, but this is too much, even for me!" Our class will be actively looking for signs of spring every time we venture outside.

Recent birthdays in our room include Maddy, who turned 5 on February 5th, Max, whose special day is March 8th, and Finn, whose birthday is March 20th. Happy birthday, friends!

Valentine's Day was a fun celebration, in spite of the COVID changes that we implemented. Thanks to all for the cards, treats, and special gifts. All were much appreciated! We will, of course, be having a similar party for St. Patrick's Day!

Several of you have asked about parent conferences, as you prepare to send your child to kindergarten in a few months. More information regarding conferences will be coming soon; as with most aspects of daily life, COVID precautions will alter conferences, too. Be sure to contact your school or district if you have any questions about timelines for getting paperwork in, COVID protocols, or any other concerns that you may have.

At home, help your child's readiness by continuing to expand their repertoire of self-help skills. Your child should be dressing his/her self, opening most food containers and packaging on their own, and making decisions such as choosing which shirt to wear or what piece of fruit to pack in their lunchbox. Mastering self-help skills promotes confidence and is a Pennsylvania Learning Standard for Early Childhood education.

Your children have been doing a wonderful job memorizing Bible verses! Also, an update on Bible stories (which are not the same as the memory verses): from Christmas until just after Easter, we switch from the Old Testament to learning about the life of Jesus and the early Church. Right now we are reading about Jesus's lessons that he taught and the miracles that he performed. After Easter we will return to the lessons and stories of the Old

Testament. Favorite recent stories include the story of the four men who lowered their friend who couldn't walk down through a hole in the ceiling so that the friend could meet Jesus, and the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people with a boy's small lunch.

I hope that you all enjoy preparing for spring, as I do! I can't wait to get flowering plants into the ground, open my home's windows to let in spring breezes, and of course for Major League baseball to begin. Have fun preparing Easter baskets and playing outside with your child(ren)!

Until next time, Miss Cathy