



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS MAY 2021 246TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

Picture day is behind us and you should be receiving your digital copies via email very soon! The kids were great, but it was definitely a workout for me! I'm usually a cold person and I was getting hot; we had to bring in a fan. However, it was worth it and I'm very excited for you all to see the pictures.

With the summer quickly approaching, a few of the children will be moving to their next classroom. Your child's teacher will let you know soon, if you don't already know, if your child is moving in June. If you are not notified, don't worry your child will be transitioning during the summer and they will officially move with the rest of their class at the end of August.

That being said, when everything was getting planned out for this summer, our August move-up date was August 23rd. However, now it looks like schools are pushing back start dates for next year and there is now 12 weeks this summer instead of our usual 11 weeks. We are keeping our move-up date for August 23rd, which means Miss Cathy's class's last day will be August 20th. We will provide an extra care week for the current Pre-k class that following week (August 23-August 27). As for S.U.M.mer Camp, we can provide extra care for the week immediately after camp (August 16-August 20) as we always do, but we are unsure at the moment if we will be able to provide care for them as well that very last week. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who provided our code phrase to Miss Carol. It was nice to see who all has been reading our newsletters. I know a few of you were late to the game, but don't worry, there will be other opportunities! Everyone who gave us the phrase was entered into a raffle drawing and the winner is..... the Bender family. Congratulations! I will make sure to get your prize to you!

MANNERS MATTER

05/03/21 - You are to use your utensils for eating almost everything. Here are ten exceptions; Pizza, corn on the cob, bacon, cookies, bread, sandwiches, French fries & chips, fried chicken, asparagus, small fruit.

05/10/21 - Never reach over someone's plate to get something. Ask for it to be passed.

05/17/21 - Learn from your mistakes and move on.

05/24/21 - If someone falls, offer to help them up.

THEMES:

- Mother's Day
- Bugs & Insects
- Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes
- Rainforest

Staff Birthday

no birthdays

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

May 31st - CLOSED for Memorial Day

June 7th - First Day of S.U.M.mer Camp

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS

Happy Mother's Day! Happy first Mother's Day to Hayden's mom, Jess, and Leah's mom, Brianna. We wish you all joy as you spend time with your child. Right now it's the simple things in life that mean the most to your child. Just spending time with you is first on the list. A bubble bath, a walk outside, cuddling with you and a good book, singing in the car and dancing together all around the house are great ways to spend that time. These activities make wonderful memories and give you a special time to pass along valuable lessons on life that are important to you. You are your child's first and most important teacher! Take time to think about what those values are and how you want to share them.



We are doing more and more on theme activities as the kiddos get older. Miss Jill has an extensive library that she shares with us. All the art projects have been enjoyed by everyone and some tears are often shed when it's time for someone else to have a turn! So far playing on the "moon" air mattress has been the most fun! We even get a chance to pull out some of the novel toys when it's time for

a shake-up on the floor!! Of course several of the older kids want to "own" all the new toys so we have to keep a close eye on them. We are trying to work out a time to go outside everyday but it's so hard to find a time when everyone is awake. We keep trying!

We have been sending home clothing that is too small or too heavy for the warmer weather. Our classroom has always been very warm so please don't overdress your child. They do get hot and sweaty as they play and sleep. Short sleeves are usually fine. Please think about shoes for your child now that we have some walkers and some that are very close. Even if they are just pulling up to stand and cruising a little, it's great to get them used to keeping shoes on and moving around in them. It's almost like they have to learn how to walk twice, if they start without shoes. We do want to let you know that sneakers are great and if you go with sandals they need to cover your child's toes and not be any kind of flip flop. We know there are a lot of cute shoes out there but they aren't the best for early walkers. Please make sure the shoes aren't too big or too tight and that they are also hard for the kids to take off. We will be going to the playground this summer and everyone wants to be out of the stroller playing!

Enjoy this beautiful month of May and keep time in your busy schedule to have fun with your child. These precious days go by in the blink of an eye and you won't ever get them back!!

MISS PENNY AND MISS AMY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Hello young toddler parents.

This has been a very crazy spring so far, the weather doesn't seem to know what it wants to do. Hopefully it will stay warm out from now on.

Miss Amy and Miss Penny wanted to share with parents how proud we are of our 2 year old friends. They have all started to be more independent and are showing just how ready they will be in the fall to move up. They are showing our younger children how to be toddlers. Our younger kiddos need lots of encouragement from teachers, peers and parents. They are not babies anymore and they crave independence and they thrive when they are treated like "big kids".

We are excited to be getting outside more often and for longer stretches of time. We tend to be outside later in the afternoon. For those parents picking up while we are on the playground, we need to remind you that the small opening close to the parking lot is not to be used to pick up children. For the

safety of your children and the others, we ask that you either go to the long side of the fence and one of the teachers will lift your child to you or come into the playground and leave the playground from the gate located next to the large garage/shed at the far end of the playground. Also, if it is especially warm out or we are planning to be out for a long time we do provide water for your children so they do not overheat.

Our young toddler room is once again in need of donations of soft tissues. COF does provide tissues, however they tend to be very rough on tiny noses. It is not necessary but very much appreciated when we get a few boxes of softer tissues for our seemingly always runny noses. Also, if your child wears a mask, we ask that you provide an extra one in their bag in case the one they have on gets wet or snotty.

Young Toddler star of the month for May is Eleanor. Eleanor will be 2 at the end of the month. She has an older sister who participates in our SUMmer camp program, Lillian, and a new puppy named Tess. Eleanor enjoys running all around the playground getting dirty with her friends and singing songs during circle time. If you see Eleanor this month please wish her a very Happy Birthday.

We can't wait to enjoy the beautiful spring weather. As always thank you for trusting us with your children each and every day.

Miss Amy and Miss Penny

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Grey

Understands opposites

Walks downstairs

Imitates horizontal, vertical and circular lines

Helping others when needed

Closes eyes when saying prayer



We are loving Spring!!! We finally have had some beautiful weather to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. In April we talked a lot about the earth and creation. The kids enjoy showing us all the things God made when we go outside. We hope that your family is getting to spend lots of time outdoors playing and enjoying God's creation.

This month we will be celebrating our mothers. We will not be able to invite you here for a special snack this year but we will be making you something. I hope the children can keep it a surprise until Mother's Day. As the bugs start to appear on the playground, we will spend a week learning about

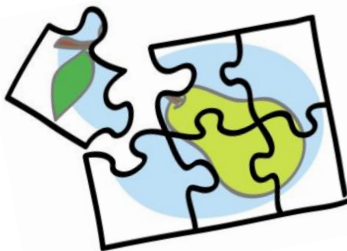
them. If we can't find them on the playground, we will spend a morning digging for them in our rice table. We will be learning some new nursery rhymes and making snakes to hang in the room during rain forest week.

Now that the weather is warmer, it's a good time to change your child's extra clothing. If you send in some new clothing in their backpack, we will make sure to switch out the older things to come home. Remember to continue to send jackets for those chilly mornings. Also, if you haven't returned your sunscreen permission slip and sunscreen, please do so.

Our star this month is Owen. He has a big sister in Miss Cathy's class. Owen told us that his favorite color is blue and he likes lions. He likes to watch his dinosaur movie and Blaze on TV. Owen plays with trucks at home and likes to dance. He likes to eat hot dogs and spaghetti and graham crackers for snack.

Reminders: We will be having show and tell on Fridays. Please send only one, labeled item for your child to share. Please be sure to read your daily papers for important information or things your child may need.

Have a great month! Happy Mother's Day!



MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL

FOCUSES

Mental – Letters V, W, and X / color orange / number 9 / circle and square review

Physical-Throwing balls / drawing simple people

Emotional-Having a positive self-image

Social-Joining in and following the rules of classroom games

Spiritual-Mary and Martha listen / the lost sheep / the lost coin / the lost son

Hello and happy May! I hope that you are having a wonderful spring season.

Everyone in our class has been very happy to be able to do more outdoor activities, and I hope that you are finding some fun ones to do as well!

Lately we have been counting and feeding the birds and watching the flowers grow, while we are outside. This month we have a bug and insect walk planned. Hopefully it will be warm enough that day to find lots of creatures being very active!

Another special day that we have planned for this month is our spring dress up day! On Friday, May 21st everyone in our class is invited to come in dressed as a favorite fairy tale or nursery rhyme character! Please remember

that we will still have either gym or outside time on that day, when choosing the costume. Please also make sure that your child either wears sneakers or brings them along on that day.

A reminder that with the warmer weather, it is time to change the outfit in your child's extra clothing bag. You may have your child place their warm weather clothing in their cubbie, and I will exchange it with the outfit that is currently in their bag.

Along with extra clothing, please remember to make sure that your child always has extra shoes and a few extra masks here. When you are helping your child choose a mask to wear for the day, please make sure it fits comfortably without being too loose. Lately several children have had to switch masks, during the day, because of this problem. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Our star for May is Julia! Julia's favorite food is pizza and her favorite color is red! She likes to sing the music from "Hamilton", as does her Teacher! She likes to read Minnie Mouse books. Julia's favorite activity is playing with Barbie's! She would like to say "Hi" to her friend Alex!

Have a Great month and a Happy Mother's Day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Happy May from Prek! We've been looking for signs of spring, and we found everything on the list that we made back in March. However, we're still talking about whacky spring weather. Over the last couple of weeks, we have experienced rain, fog, mist, humidity, cool temperatures, hot days, a dust devil whirlwind, even snow! We have been having fun trying to be weather predictors, without much luck!

Thank you for coming in for parent conferences. There was 100% participation this year, which is great. Like most aspects of life these days, conferences were modified to allow for social distancing and separation from the hallway. I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with each of you!

COVID reminders: PLEASE be sure your child's mask fits properly. It should cover nose, mouth and chin with a tight, but comfortable, fit. Some children are spending a large portion of their day constantly pulling up too-large masks. Your child should also have 2-3 clean masks, stored in a ziplock bag, in their backpack at all times, in case a mask becomes dirty, the elastic fails, etc.

It is still okay to send in birthday treats! Treats must be factory or bakery sealed, not baked at home. Just ask if you're not sure! Also, please do not touch other children's backpacks to place party invitations or other items.

This month's focus as we get closer to kindergarten is self-regulation. Self-regulation includes adhering to rules, both at home and at school. No temper tantrums or whining allowed! It also means talking through a problem with a classmate, or alerting the teacher to the problem, rather than lashing out physically. Young children can understand the rule "use your words, not your hands!" to resolve conflict with siblings or peers.

Learning to wait is another component of self-regulation. For example, waiting to take a turn in a game or in line for the restroom, not interrupting adults until they are finished speaking, and being patient while snack is handed out. Self-regulation is a PA Learning Standard for Early Childhood.

Enjoy the lovely month of May! Get outside with your child to blow bubbles, swing, fly a kite, or throw a ball!

Until next time, Miss Cathy