



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS MARCH 2022 256TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

Hello COF Families,

I apologize for the delay in getting this out. I am excited to have my own email address to use, though there seems to still be some issues with it so I apologize in advance for any missed communications. We are doing our best to work it out as quickly as possible. I still have access to the kshipman address so if you send correspondence there, it should still reach me. I appreciated everyone taking a moment to stop by to review their paperwork last month. It also gave me a chance to get more familiar with who's who here at COF again.

I don't know about you, but I am excited to Spring Ahead on March 13 for Daylight Savings! I know the staff and the children here love the chance to get that sunshine and fresh air that we've been missing.

We are excited to have a new staff member, Miss Samantha. Samantha has joined us to help with our after-school program and will be one of our camp counselors this year. She also works for Mechanicsburg School District, so some of our friends have had her as a substitute teacher as well. We are grateful to have her!

As a heads up, we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 13th. As this is an outdoor event, I think it's a great time to allow our parents and families to join us again!! We will send out additional details as we get nearer to the event, but as in prior years we will be asking our families to donate 1 or more dozen plastic filled eggs.

I will (hopefully) be setting up a picture day sometime this spring, probably in late April. I am in the process of researching photographers as our previous one seems to no longer be providing services.

S.U.M.mer Camp is FULL. Thank you for your patience as we completed enrollment. We also appreciate anyone who shared positive reviews for our camp program with friends as we did get a few "new" campers this year.

Wishing you a beautiful Spring,
Miss Courtney

MANNERS MATTER

02/28/22 - Do not stare at who is being reprimanded

03/07/22 - If you win, do not brag; If you lose, do not show anger

03/14/22 - Keep yourself and the bathrooms clean and germ-free

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

03/28/22 - Know other teachers' names and greet them in the hall by name

THEMES:

- Weather
- St. Patrick's Day
- Spring, At Last!
- Pets

Staff Birthday

March 7th - Miss Emily

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

Monday, March 7th: Open Enrollment for Summer Camp starts

Wednesday, April 13th - Easter Egg Hunt

April 15th - CLOSED for Good Friday

May 30th - CLOSED for Memorial Day

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS



Happy Spring, which we hope means it will be getting and staying warmer! We are getting closer to getting outside each day. It is so sweet to see the kids going to the window to look outside. The older boys use the windowsill to park the trucks and stack the blocks.

Our oldest boy, Ronan, will move up to the Young Toddler room later this month and Noelle will join us. She was born in January and is the sister of Izzy, who is now in the Older Toddler room. That will place us with two boys and six girls if you're keeping track! We will have three one-year-olds because Levi and Cooper each had a birthday the end of February.

Many kids are walking or getting close to it. And lots of climbers are emerging too! This is a great time to get very serious about baby proofing your home. As your child gets more and more mobile you must remove hazardous items from their reach or remove it from their space entirely! So many friends in this age group have a very focused agenda and it can be hard to divert their attention. Out of sight, out of mind, especially when it comes to an older sibling's toys! Keep everyone's stuff safe from the kid and keep your kid safe from the stuff!! Tape electrical cords down, keep bedroom, bathroom and closet doors closed. A top-heavy toddler really can drown in a toilet. **In the blink of an eye.** It wouldn't hurt to crawl around your house and see everything from the little one's point of view!

Just a few words about lunch. Please offer as many different foods as possible. Don't shy away from textured or mixed foods or all the yummy vegetables out there. We don't want blossoming taste buds settling on just 3 or 4 items. This is the time to try everything! It can take 8 or more meals with a certain food before your child really knows if they like it or not. Sometimes it might be a texture that is giving them trouble, not the actual taste. The most important thing is to offer well-cooked hard foods, so they are soft enough to chew and don't become a choking hazard. It is always better to give shredded pieces or strips rather than little cut up cubes, especially meats and cheeses. No uncooked carrots, nuts or popcorn at this stage. Also be very careful with raw apples. A child's esophagus is about the same width as their little finger, and they simply don't have the skill or the teeth to chew up anything firm. Veggies and pasta should be fairly mushy for this age group. Commercial fruit cups usually have pieces that are fairly hard so wait until your child is a toddler or slice the cubes up. It is a good idea to stay attentive when giving your child breads, muffins, pancakes or waffles. These can stick to the mouth and throat making them hard to swallow. Toasting them can help. If your child is a "stuffer" just put 2 or 3 pieces of food in front of them at a time. Many children will just try to scoop up their food and shove it into their mouth all at once! No need to start them on juice as doctors report children do not need juice. It is better to eat the fruit! What really helps your child decide to eat a food is seeing you eat it first!

Thanks for keeping us in the loop with your child. It helps them have a better day when we know what might be affecting them. We will be here for you when you need us! Have a wonderful, beautiful Spring!

MISS KELLY AND MISS AMY'S YOUNG TODDLERS

Happy March! March is a busy month with daylight savings, St. Patrick's Day, and the first day of Spring all happening this month. Our kiddos will also be busy this month learning about Dr. Seuss, Weather, St. Patrick's Day, Spring, and Pets!

While we know we are all waiting for the warmer weather (at least Miss Amy and Miss Kelly are!), please make sure you are packing appropriate outerwear every day for your child. There are days a winter coat could be needed in the morning and then a light jacket or even no jacket could be needed in the afternoon. We are also counting down the days until we can get back out on the playground again. Our kids really enjoy it! While we won't be going to it when it is super muddy, be prepared the kids can and will get dirty while they are out there.

We hope you all are liking our new system with the daily folders; we sure are! It helps with the flow of our day and keeps us from digging through everyone's backpacks, which can get pretty filled (please remember to only pack things that the kids will need throughout the day and nothing more). There will be some other changes this month, especially with the table in the lobby going away. We know most of our parents in this room might not know or remember a time before that was the case, so please feel free to ask one of the teachers about how that might all look if you have any questions!

Lastly, the Star of the Month for March is Hayden. Hayden is our first kiddo at the center who has a parent that attended our center as a child! Makes the center feel old! She also has two new siblings at home: a brother, Judson, and a sister, Juniper. Hayden is very excited to be an older sibling, though she doesn't like to talk much when we ask her about it. However, Hayden is a hoot in the classroom and is always making the teachers laugh, especially when she adds her opinion to the conversation. She is also good at helping clean up and enjoys art (and is one who doesn't mind getting her hands a little messy). Hayden is such a joy to have in the Young Toddler room! We will miss her dearly when she leaves us to be with her siblings.

Happy Spring everyone!



MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Yellow

Oval

Understand different sizes

Catching a ball

3-5 piece puzzle

Resolve conflict with words not hands

Makes a choice when asked

God's creation

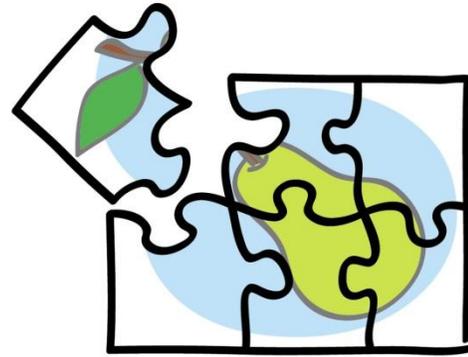
Is it spring yet? Sure feels like it is with all the warmer day's that we have been blessed with! With our lovely PA weather who knows if we'll get any snow so don't put away your kiddos snow stuff just yet! This month we have three birthday girl's in our room! We have Elli, Evelyn and Penny all turning three, YAY!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all!!

Our themes this month are Weather, St.Patrick's Day, Spring, at last and Pets. Now that things are getting back to normal here at the center we hope to do some more hands on activities and explore a little more with our themes. Be sure to check your child's daily paper or the weekly schedules for requests we may have from you during any one of the themes. On that note, thank you so much for checking the daily papers and making sure that your child has all the items that they need!

Our friend of the month is Evelyn. Evelyn told us during our chat that she likes the color purple and likes to read her new Clifford Valentine's Day book that she just got. She told us that she likes farm animals and that her favorite animal is a cow, she added the sounds effects too!! Evelyn told us she likes to watch the movie Frozen and she likes to watch Bubble Guppies at home. She shared with us that her favorite foods to eat are chicken, PBJ sammiches, cheezits and wheat thins. She added that she really loves wheat thins. Her little face lights up when she has them in her lunch! During circle time Evelyn likes to sing the ABCD song, she adds the D. when Evelyn is at home she told us she likes to play with her Minnie Mouse stuffy and babies. Any time you see Evelyn be sure to ask her where her jeans are from and she'll be glad to tell you, Old Navy!

As always please feel free to talk to either of us if you have any questions or concerns. We hope you all stay well and have a wonderful month!!

MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL



Focuses

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

Physical- Putting together preschool aged puzzles / jumping over higher objects

Emotional- Caring for others

Social- Helping one another

Spiritual- Jesus and the children / the story of St. Patrick / Creation story review / a good neighbor

Hello and happy March!

The children will be very excited, and maybe a little upset, this month with the arrival of the leprechauns!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our class always seems to have some issues with those wee visitors, but things always work out well in the end. Just be prepared for some complaining, from your preschooler, about those visitors.

A few weeks before St. Patrick's Day, we will be celebrating Mardi Gras with our annual preschool themed party. During that day we will be creating masks and crowns, along with learning the story behind the word Mardi Gras and what each of the Mardi Gras colors mean. We will also be listening to some special music and eating a Mardi Gras themed snack!

Everyone will be invited to wear the colors green, purple and yellow/gold on that day. Everyone is also invited to wear their beads!

Please keep an eye on your child's fridge calendar, to find out when our Mardi Gras party will take place!

Thank you to everyone for helping their child to bring in all of the valentines, for our party last month. The children really sharing with their friends!

I would like to, once again, remind everyone that when helping your child to choose a show and tell item, to please make sure that your child knows exactly what the item is. Show and tell is used to help introduce the sound of the letters, so it is important that your child knows what they have brought in to share.

Everyone is still invited to bring in DVDs, or even if you have VHS tapes, to share! Please bring in items that are preschool appropriate. If you have a question about if the item is appropriate, please feel free to ask either me.

Our star for the month of March is Grayson C.! Grayson's favorite color is red and he likes to eat chicken nuggets. He enjoys reading the mouse book, and singing his A, B, Cs. Grayson's favorite activity is "Playing with the duck, in my toy box, behind my bed"!

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

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Hello from the Prek room! Spring is almost here!! Our class will be making a list of signs of the season, and checking items off as we see them or as they occur. Robin sightings, finding buds on trees, opening day for baseball (HOPEFULLY!!) ...and many more.

We have a March birthday! Lyla turns 5 on the 28th. Happy birthday, friend!

Thank you for all of the lovely cards , notes, and gifts for Valentine's Day. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

Our school year is half over; kindergarten will be here before you know it! If you haven't registered your child yet, now is the time to do so. Call or check online for information particular to your school or district.

Preparing for kindergarten also means working on more self-help skills! Now is a great time to assign simple chores for your child to do at home. Do you know that many household chores also help with math readiness? Setting the table strengthens the concept of one-to-one correspondence. Feeding a pet can involve measuring and timing. Sorting socks from the dryer gives practice in matching and pairing. Trips to the grocery store offer opportunities for counting ("Please put four lemons in the bag"), comparing ("Which box of cereal is larger?"), and observing the use and purpose of money. Chore-sharing also imparts a sense of responsibility and reinforces the concept that the

members of a family work together. Performing simple chores is a Pennsylvania Learning Standard for Early Childhood.

A fun reminder: children, wear green on March 17th as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Erin go braugh!

Enjoy spring! Get outside for a nature walk, game of catch, or to do some yard work with your child. Have fun!!

Until next time, Miss Cathy