



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

MAY 2022 258TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

I hope everyone enjoyed the Egg Hunt as much as we did. It was such a refresher to be able to welcome everyone back to enjoy an in-person event. We hope we can continue to keep masks optional and events open for families to attend. In order for that, we must continue to be vigilant with illness prevention. Please make sure you are adhering to our illness policies. I'm so grateful to the staff for their continued flexibility and dedication. You, the families we serve, can show your gratitude to them by keeping your child home when necessary. We have limited resources for substitute staffing so it's also important for us to keep our teachers healthy to prevent room closures. While I know it's been a long haul, and it's difficult to have to keep your kiddos home when they're sick, it's a lot more inconvenient for a lot more people if we have to close a classroom due to lack of staffing. Please be sure you are informing the office if your child is ill, has seen a doctor, or is taking medication. If your child is on antibiotics for an infection or even taking an over the counter medication, they often tell us about it- and if they're ill enough for medication, often times that means they'd be better off recovering at home.

Additionally, the first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week! There is a "Staff Shout Out" display outside the office door for our families to show their appreciation for all the love and hard work our teachers provide each and every day. Please try and find a moment to write a little note of appreciation for these wonderful ladies.

We had a lovely first experience with Miss Gillian from Lil' Angels Photography. With picture day is behind us, you can expect proofs to be sent home around May 4th. Online ordering is an option. If you'd rather physically drop your order

form and payment in Miss Gillian's mailbox in the office. **Please make sure you submit them by Friday, May 13th.**

Our Pre-K class has accomplished so much here at COF, but the time has come for them to graduate! We will be holding a graduation ceremony for them and their families on Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30pm. More details will be shared as the event planning comes together.

On June 13th, our Summer officially starts. A few of the children will be moving to their next classroom. If you haven't already been informed, your child's teacher will let you know soon 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.

I also want to provide a quick heads up that we will be adjusting our scheduled closure days and have added Columbus Day, which is Monday, October 10, 2022. As the number of required training hours for child care staff has doubled this year, we needed to add on a professional development day. Circle of Friends will be closed that day.

MANNERS MATTER

05/02/22 - Use your utensils to eat most foods.

05/09/22 - Never reach over someone's plate to get something. Ask for it to be passed.

05/16/22 - Learn from your mistakes and move on.

05/23/22 - If someone falls, offer to help them up.

THEMES:

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

Staff Birthday

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

May 4th - Picture Day Proofs sent home

May 8th - Mother's Day (Happy Mother's Day, to all our Mamas!!)

May 13th - Picture Order Forms DUE

May 27th - Last day of School for West Shore Christian Academy

May 25th - Pre-Kindergarten Graduation at 6:30 pm

May 30th - Circle of Friends **CLOSED** for Memorial Day

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS



Happy Mother's Day! And Happy first Mother's Day to Georgia's and Lacey's moms!! Hopefully you will be able to spend a beautiful day with your children and be treated like the special women you are. Being a mom is the hardest and also the most rewarding job that you will ever have. So enjoy all of the simple pleasures you can when you can. These are the times you will remember forever and so will your precious little ones. Sometimes when it looks like you're just playing you are really passing on valuable lessons on the things that are important to you. You are your child's first and most important teacher. So go for a nature walk, dance around the house, sing in the car and cuddle with a good book. Take time to just enjoy being together!

We have been enjoying your very silly children! Every day they give us reasons to laugh! We are always practicing how to treat each other and how to follow a simple direction. We are seeing progress and we are also learning which children throw epic temper displays! They are learning that it won't change the rules. Miss Jill and I are experts at ignoring these outbursts and welcoming them back to the group when they are ready. It is never too early to start learning self control.

We are going to try very hard to get outside regularly this month. With four one-year-olds, we hope to spend time on the playground as well as taking walks around the neighborhood. Spring is a great time to help the children smell flowers, touch new leaves and feel the wind in their hair. We all enjoy watching the cars and catching sight of a dog or two. Please have a jacket here every day for the cooler mornings. Hoods are usually easier to keep on than hats.

Thanks to everyone that helped with the egg hunt. The practice seemed to help as the children did a pretty good job of loading up the bags. Kayleigh kindly offered her help to her friends! We heard the finger puppets were a big hit!! Keep getting outside with your family and have a wonderful month.

MISS KELLY AND MISS AMY'S YOUNG TODDLERS

Happy May everyone! We want to first start off by thanking everyone who donated eggs, helped hide eggs, and came and watched the egg hunt. These events are always so special to the kiddos!



Now that May is here, hopefully those April showers are coming to an end and soccer practices don't have to keep getting cancelled! This May we will be discussing Bugs & Insects, Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes, the Rainforest, and Book Week. But first, Mother's Day! We may be a bit biased, but it is always one of our favorite holidays where we get to celebrate motherhood and being mommies. We will be busy working on a very special gift for all our mommies out there.

Just a few reminders:

- Please make sure everything is labeled. We have a few kids with the same bibs and utensils (and a lot of pink coats!) and when a sub is here covering, especially at lunchtime, it is easy to get things mixed up and a sub isn't as familiar with your child's belongings like we are.
- Also, now that it is starting to get warmer out, we are reminding parents to check their child's extra clothes bag and make sure there is the appropriate attire in there (and that it fits).

Lastly, our Star of the Month for May is Jules! Jules is a big helper in our classroom and loves when her teachers ask her specifically to help them. She loves to play with phones and laptops and has a certain phone that might as well be labeled with her name on it. She also enjoys collecting sticks on the playground and just walking around with them. Jules has an older sister in Miss Cathy's class. Jules also turns TWO at the end of May, so if you see her around, make sure to wish her a very special happy birthday! We are so grateful to have such a big helper in our class!

Happy May and Happy Mother's Day!!!

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Grey
Understands opposites
Walks downstairs alternating feet
Imitates horizontal, vertical and circular lines
Helping others when needed
Holding hands while walking with the class
Closes eyes when saying prayer



We are so excited that Spring weather has arrived and we are enjoying being outside more. We have been watching the flowers grow and watching the birds, rabbits, and squirrels running around outside. Our friends are getting all their extra energy out by running and climbing on our playground. We would like to thank everyone who donated eggs and helped hide eggs for our Easter egg hunt. Now that we are trying to get back to some normal activities, it's wonderful to see all the volunteers that are ready to help.

This month we will be celebrating Mother's Day by talking about how special you are and making a surprise for you. We will also be digging for bugs (in our rice table), reading some nursery rhymes and fairy tales and learning about what animals live in the rain forest. At the end of the month we will be reading some of our favorite stories and your child will have the chance to bring in their favorite story.

Our star this month is Eleanor. She told us that her favorite color is pink and her favorite animal is a horse. At home she likes to watch Frozen 2 and Mickey Mouse Club House. Her favorite foods are macaroni and cheese, chicken and fries and she likes to snack on chips. Eleanor told us that her favorite toy to play with is her new Raya doll from Raya and the Last Dragon movie. Eleanor will be turning three this month too, HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELEANOR!!!!

Just a few reminders-now that the weather is getting warmer please be sure to check your child's extra clothes here at the center and please be sure to label jackets too please. As always if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to either of us.

Have a great month and Happy Mother's Day to all of our special moms!!!!

MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL

Focuses

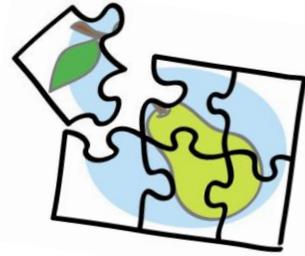
Mental – Letters V, W, and X / color orange / number 9 / circle and square review

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



Happy May!

It's hard to believe that we are getting close to the end of another school year, here at Circle of Friends, and that summer is just around the corner.

This month we will be drawing our last self-portrait for the year. In June we will be taking the portraits and forming booklets, to take home. When I look at the booklets, it amazes me how far the children's drawing skills advance it just a short amount of time.

Along with finishing our self-portraits, we will be coming very close to finishing our alphabet introduction. The children continue with the introduction on a daily basis, by continuing to discuss the beginning letters of words, no matter what activity they are involved in!

We will be enjoying some special activity days this month, which includes preparing some Mother's Day presents!

On Wednesday, May 4th, we have a visitor, who is planning to come in, during our outside time, to discuss seeds and plants with us.

Friday May 20th will be our annual Nursery Rhyme and Fairy Tale dress up day! Your child may come in, on that day, dressed as a character from any nursery rhyme or fairy tale. They are also invited to bring along a nursery rhyme or fairy tale book to share with the class. We will still be enjoying either outside to gym time, depending on the weather, so please make sure that your child wears sneakers with their costume.

During the last week of the month everyone will be invited to bring in their favorite book to share with their classroom friends. Please keep a close eye on your fridge calendar that week to see the day when your child will be invited to bring their book in.

Our star for the month of May is Vivian! Vivian's favorite color is pink and she likes to eat broccoli! She enjoys singing the alphabet song and reading books about dogs. Vivian's favorite activity is playing with her Mother. She would also like to say "I love you, Mommy"!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU, TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED EGGS AND/OR HELPED WITH LAST MONTH'S EGG HUNT!!!

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

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Happy May from PreK! We've been talking about the weather a lot lately, because in the space of just a few weeks, we have experienced strong wind, bright sunshine, freezing weather, warm and humid weather, thunderstorms, and rain – lots of rain. Ask your child what word I use to describe crazy spring weather!

Thank you for your donation of Easter eggs. Our room had 100% participation. Good job, parents! The egg hunt was highly anticipated and a great deal of fun for the children, thanks to you.

Our next Big Thing is graduation. It will be held on Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30pm. Details will be forthcoming. Planning an indoor group event during a pandemic presents many challenges, but we will have a celebration for the Class of 2022 that we hope will be meaningful and memorable for our families. "Stay tuned" for more information!

We have a May birthday in our room. Gemma turns five on the 6th. Happy birthday, friend!

This month's self-help focus as we move toward kindergarten is self-regulation. This includes adherence to rules, both at school and at home, without tantrums or whining. It means talking through problems with peers, or alerting an adult, instead of lashing out verbally or physically. Young children can understand the phrase "use words, not hands" to resolve conflicts with classmates and siblings.

Learning to wait is also an important self-regulation skill. Children should be expected to wait for a short time to take their turn in a game or activity. Reminders about interrupting adult conversation can be humorous as well as instructive; I usually ask, "are you sick? Are you hurt? Did anything fall off your body? Then I think your question can wait until I'm done speaking with this other grownup." Self-regulation is a Pennsylvania Learning Standard for Early Childhood.

In closing, I would like to wish a very happy Mother's Day to all of our moms, aunties, and grandmothers. My younger daughter once asked me what my favorite word was, and without hesitation my reply was "mommy".

Until next time, Miss Cathy