

“Reading with Your Children”

THE PARENT CONNECTION

From Ms. Suha’s Desk:

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.” (Dr. Seuss - *I Can Read with My Eyes Shut*) Such words of inspiration are necessary for parents to embrace and teach their children the importance of reading and writing in today’s world. Let us be the first ones to make a difference in our children’s lives.

Through his writing, Dr. Seuss has created intellectually stimulating and amusing books where children have been able to develop their love for reading. His words and illustrations have seized children’s attention to no limit. Whether a young toddler or a second grader, children are always looking for that silly line or funny character who is hanging from the tree or in the box. Dr. Seuss always encourages his young audience to look at the world in different ways.

March, being National Reading Month in honor of Dr. Seuss, gives me the opportunity to share some ideas of how you can build a love of reading within your children. We all know the infancy years are very critical for brain development. When the baby hears the adult’s voice, they respond to the sound. Talking, singing, and reading are important because they stimulate an introduction to early literacy development. Children require constant opportunities to read, write, and comprehend language. Such skills and understanding are intertwined and necessary for children to have so they can learn and excel on their educational journey.

Some ideas to include in your daily routine are: bedtime stories with your children and weekly visits to the local library. Whether a rhyming book,

sound book, or a fairytale, listening to the words and seeing the illustrations will encourage your child to learn different vocabulary and ask thought provoking questions. As you read with your child, use this window of opportunity to respond to them by asking questions about the story: What is happening? Who are the characters? Where does the setting take place? How do the characters feel? What do you like about the story? Etc...

Children love to be creative and make learning fun. Another way to introduce reading/writing is to play a game. While looking at a book try to use rhyming/matching as a way to get the children involved. Ask “What rhymes with this word?” and “What is another word that begins/ends with this sound?” This not only helps them improve their sound/letter recognition, but also teaches them to work in partnership with others and take turns.

Scribbling (writing) is an important part of a child’s early learning because it is a way of expressing their thoughts/feelings, as well as demonstrating their creativity. When asked to draw a picture, the young child will start off by scribbling on the paper. However, what looks to us like a scribble, is to them a special picture of “mom”, “dad”, or “pet”. So when they create such a picture, ask them to explain what/who is in the picture? What is happening? And be sure to write comments on the picture. This allows them to use their vocabulary. Also, remember to hang their art work or send it to a special someone, this gives them a sense of accomplishment and will encourage them to want to do more.



Finally, provide your children with a work space that includes a variety of materials needed and encourages them to read and write. Within the work space, include pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, and crafts which will give them the opportunity to create that special picture/book. Furthermore, role play different scenarios where you can encourage writing/reading to be part of the game. Have a card making party where they can make holiday cards/invitations or prepare lunch menus for the weekend. The ideas are endless and the learning is ongoing. I encourage everyone to continue instilling the love of learning in children, allowing them to reach their highest potential. As they grow and mature, they will have the foundation to continue your mission of making a difference in the lives of others.

Maria Montessori said: "We should realize that if a child has learned to speak, he has a language and a way to express his personality. He has created from nothing a way to let others to know him as a person. Reading and writing are no more difficult to acquire than speaking is since they are also ways to communicate. It is the adult who makes learning to read and write difficult when he or she approaches the two as subjects to be conquered, rather than discoveries to be made."

Happy Reading!

Suha Zablocki
Administrator



Office Notes

- **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM:** It is not too late to try our Hot Lunch Program. Each entrée comes with a fruit and vegetable. Remember to use the online portal to place your orders: <https://www.ezparentcenter.com/>. You may contact Homemade Lunch Service at 248-642-8134 with any questions.
- **NOTES/PAYMENTS:** Please hand important papers to a staff member and check your child's backpack daily for school notes.
- **EXTRA CLOTHING BOX:** With the changing season, please check your child's box to make sure the appropriate clothing is available in case they need it. Please return fresh clothing the next day if clothing is sent home to be cleaned. Please label all of their clothing with their first and last name.
- **THANK YOU:** To Mrs. Gottschalk and to all of the Valentine Dance volunteers for making the dance a fun event and an evening to remember!
- **SPRING CONCERT AND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION:** Friday, May 18, 2018 at 6:30 PM at Walled Lake Central High School. (NO PM Daycare on this day.)
- **KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY YEAR-END CELEBRATION:** Friday, June 1, 2018 at 9:30 AM.
- **FOR CURRENT PARENTS ONLY:** Enroll by Friday, March 30, 2018 and receive a waiver of your registration fee. To receive this waiver ALL forms and fees must be completed and submitted to the office.

Spring is just around the corner!

Ms. Colleen and Ms. Nicole





Elementary News



Our Elementary Classroom is an exciting place of learning because the children are active participants. At this age, children enjoy learning with others. You are likely to see children working together learning geometry and geography concepts, researching selected topics in science and much more. Learning to collaborate is an important part of the learning process.

In math, children are working on memorization of math facts while learning the process of math operations with the Montessori material. The students are continuing their work on reading and writing Roman Numerals, fractions, clockwork, and money. In geometry, we are working on constructive triangles and the parts of a triangle.



The Elementary curriculum includes lessons in spelling, mathematics, geometry, grammar, creative and expository writing, physical and earth science, zoology and botany, history, world geography, and the organization of human societies. Daily lessons build on past learning and respond to the children's expanding knowledge and growing

understanding of concepts. As children become more able to reason abstractly, they naturally become independent thinkers. By first using concrete materials, children develop both a strong foundation and a deep understanding of concepts, ideas, and skills.

In science, we will begin detailed research on the Timeline of Life. We will also be learning the parts of the five classes of vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

In language, we have learned the parts of a letter and are working on paragraph writing. In grammar, we are working on identifying nouns, articles, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and conjunctions. Reading and writing are done daily throughout all subjects. Students are encouraged to read directions carefully and answer questions with neat handwriting.

The Elementary students did an outstanding job presenting their Science Fair projects. Throughout the next few weeks, they will be scheduled to give a demonstration of their project to the other classrooms.

You are invited to observe our class from the office. Communication between your student, the teachers, and you is a very important part of your child's education. Please direct any questions or concerns to the Directress.

Ms. Roxanne, Directress
Ms. Sue and Ms. Daniela

Did You Know? Added Benefits of Homework

- ◆ It improves your child's thinking and memory.
- ◆ It helps your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him/her well throughout life.
- ◆ Homework encourages your child to use time wisely.
- ◆ It teaches your child to work independently.
- ◆ Homework teaches your child to take responsibility for his/her work.
- ◆ It allows your child to review and practice what's done in class.
- ◆ It helps your child get ready for the next day's class.
- ◆ It encourages your child to explore topics more fully than classroom time permits.
- ◆ It allows your child to extend learning by applying skills to new situations.
- ◆ Homework helps parents learn more about what their child is learning in school.
- ◆ It allows parents to communicate about what he or she is learning.
- ◆ It encourages parents to spark their child's enthusiasm.



NEWS FROM MS. NEEYATI'S CLASS

Spring

Hopefully everyone had a great time at the Valentine's Dance. The children had a great time passing out their valentines in the morning and played musical chairs in the afternoon.

March always brings the anticipation of Spring. It is a busy and exciting month in class. Children are working with the Montessori materials and working on their reading skills. April brings out the study of new beginnings such as sprouting seeds, new buds, and life cycles of plants and animals.

Practical Life: We have started learning some polishing works such as brass polishing, silver polishing, and shoe polishing. The children have been practicing running stitch on a burlap. We have been practicing individual snack and the children have shown independence in serving snack and pouring milk and juice for themselves.

Sensorial: They have started to learn about different tastes by working on tasting jars. The different tastes introduced are sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. They will also work on making different shapes using the geo board.

Language: The kindergarten students are into journal writing and sentence building. Some second year students are working on blending and building 3 letter words using the movable alphabets. They are also working on penmanship on a daily basis.

Math: The older children have been introduced to the clock and money. They are also working on the

four operations. The younger children continue to work on other math activities.

Science: We have learned about Reptiles and Mammals. The children have been learning about the water cycle. The class project for the science fair for this year was on "The Water Cycle". We will be studying the other classifications of animals such as birds and insects. The children got to learn about the different classification of animals at the "Science Alive" presentation. Some animals they learned about were a Chinchilla, South American Toad, Brazilian Python, Wallaby, Silky Chicken, and Hairy Armadillo.

Geography: We have learned about the Continent of Africa, different countries in Africa and its unique culture. The Kindergarteners have been presenting one country from each continent.

Reminders: March is reading month and hopefully everyone has worked on the reading log.

Thank you to all the families for the delicious snack provided for our class.

Thank you,

Ms. Neeyati, Directress

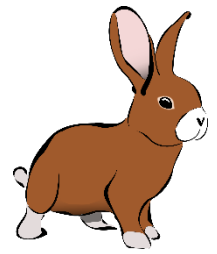
Ms. Manju, Ms. Mary,

Ms. Becky, and Ms. Maha



AaBb

NEWS FROM MS. SUHA'S CLASS



Spring is slowly approaching and the children are eager to enjoy the smell of flowers, the touch of grass, and watch the bunnies hop. We are preparing our classroom with a variety of activities that promote more independence, concentration, organization, and success.

Practical Life & Sensorial

In Practical Life, the children will be baking, folding different pieces of clothing, and using different instruments to pour liquids (funnel, baster, and dropper). They have also been introduced to sewing. Some children have learned to sew a button on felt, while others have sewn mini pillows. In Sensorial, we have been experimenting with different extensions using the Montessori material. One all-time favorite is using the blindfold to try and sort all the knobbed cylinders into their right spots.

Math:

The focus in Math will be on number writing. It is very important that your child practice the correct formation of the numbers on a daily basis. Encourage him/her to practice one number a week and allow them to write it on a chalkboard or paper. The older children have been working with money and telling the time. Other concepts that have been introduced are addition and multiplication. The older children have been using the stamp game to practice the different operations. We have also been using some computer programs to reinforce what is being learned.



Language & Writing:

Many of the older children continue to work on their reading and comprehension skills. Some children will be learning more about grammar: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. They will learn to differentiate each one when reading a sentence. The younger children continue to practice blending and word building using the moveable alphabet.

When possible, try to visit the library with your child and share some reading time with them. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen to your child read and ask them questions about what they are reading.

Science & Geography:

We will be learning about the continent of Australia and its culture. In Science, we will study vertebrates and invertebrates. We will also learn about the distinct species under the sea and learn about their habitats. Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Science Fair. They were all very successful.

Thank You:

Thank you to all the families for providing us with the nutritious snacks. Please remember to check your children's backpacks daily for newsletters/forms coming home.

Happy Spring!

Ms. Suha, Directress

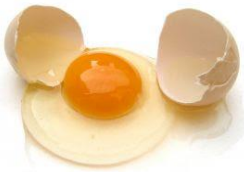
Ms. Fran, Ms. Ann,
and Ms. Kristen





This is the time of year that we notice the social relationships between the children really begin to grow. They are now very familiar and comfortable with each other and enjoy engaging each other on the playground and in the classroom. Rather than the typical toddler parallel play, we see them wanting to play together more frequently and, when we see this happening, we try to facilitate their ability to do this successfully! Each toddler is unique and has specific needs. With these needs changing daily, it is important to integrate new experiences and add challenging materials to our room. Here is a glimpse of our beautiful toddler room:

In **Practical Life**, we are cracking eggs, juicing oranges, and learning to pour water from a pitcher into small glasses. These are just a few exercises we are working on. Other forms of practical life involve push pin work, threading, and learning how to cut using scissors. This incorporates concentration and eye-hand coordination.



In **Math**, we have been rote counting as a group during calendar time and counting up to 31. Along with counting, we have been working on incorporating numbers in and out of order so the children have a good base in learning them.

In our **Sensorial** area, we have been working on all colors, which includes primary and secondary colors, shapes, advanced shapes, and many manipulative puzzle works that the children love to do over and over again! We have learned about dinosaurs, different kinds of transportation vehicles, arctic animals, woodland animals and different kinds of tools. Toddlers are very inquisitive, so keeping them challenged is our specialty!



Saving the best for last in **Pre-Reading**, March is reading month and we really stress reading in the toddler room for many different reasons. Here are a few: basic speech skills, better communication skills, mastery of language, and enhanced logical thinking skills along with the basics of knowing "how" to read a book. Showing the children that words go left to right and that words on a page are separate from images, are essential pre-reading skills that benefit each child. One last important skill toddlers benefit from is enhanced concentration and discipline. Toddlers may initially squirm and become distracted during a story but will eventually learn to enjoy and stay put for the duration of the book, which leads to strong self-discipline, longer attention spans, and better memory retention. All of which will serve your child well.

We would like to thank the families of Blake Sharrak, Dominic Borowicz, Francis Samona, Lucas Elia, Sadie Kuza, Rachel Hsu, and Teddy Fura for the healthy and delicious snacks!

You can learn many things from children. For instance, how much patience you have.

The Toddler Team,
Ms. Michelle, Directress
Ms. Sherry, Ms. Debbie, Ms. Valerie,
and Ms. Maha



Music News

This month we have been having such fun with the Unicorn song, always a favorite every year.

I included learning time signatures specifically used in Celtic music, such as 6/8 and 3/4. We played them on the rhythm sticks, in the Pre-K classes. The children enjoyed learning a simple jig dance step.

In Elementary, we used a combination of patsch, which is patting, clapping, and snapping. The Elementary students listened to "The Cliffs of Doneen", a traditional Celtic song showcasing the landscape of Ireland. A special group is working with our percussion Boomwhackers for graduation. They are also composing small skits to perform on stage in between the class performances this year.

In the Toddler room, we were pretending to be airplanes, trains, and a musical band with shakers, sticks, bells, tambourines, etc.

All the children have been practicing so very hard for this Spring Concert. Our theme is "Let's Make a Difference in the World".

I contacted the activity director of a local retirement community to invite some of the residents to be our special guests that night. I conveyed to the children how the music they will be performing will uplift some very lonely people and make a huge difference immediately. The songs stress kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity in character.

April will find us learning several songs about the weather as we finally, hopefully, move into spring.

Musically yours,

Ms. Marianne



Spanish News

Dear Parents:

We are reviewing all the past vocabulary in each class. Daily greetings, the weather, and the days of the week are introduced through songs! Please review the following vocabulary with your child.

We are still working with things around the house:

Lampara - Lamp	Espejo - Mirror
Television - Tele	Sofa - Sofa
Cama - Bed	Mesa - Table
Silla - Chair	Refri - Fridge
Estufa - Stove	

LOS DEPORTES (Sports) :

Futbol - Soccer	Natacion - Swim
Tenis - Tennis	Beisbol - Baseball
Golf - Golf	Baloncesto - Basketball
Volibol - Volleyball	Patinar - Rollerblading
Esquiar - Skiing	

The older children can make sentences:

Me gusta jugar golf. (I like to play golf.)

Me gusta la natacion. (I like to swim.)

Me gusta patinar. (I like rollerblading.)

EASTER VOCABULARY:

Conejo - Bunny	Canasta - Basket
Flores - Flowers	Huevos - Eggs



We are playing Bingo, a Matching Game with Easter Eggs, "Hot Potato", and the Elephants Game. The children love them!!!

SONGS:

"A donde"

"La Tortuga Tomasa"

"Sol-solecito"

"A caminar"

"La casa loca"

Thank you for reviewing all of the vocabulary with your child at home. I appreciate it!

FELIZ PRIMAVERA! (Happy Spring!)

Gracias,

Senora Melba Acosta

Physical Education News

We have been stretching and exercising indoors the past few months.

We continue working on the Presidents Physical Fitness Program. The shuttle is a favorite with the children, they enjoy competing against each other. In addition to the standing broad jump and the running jump, the children also work on a horizon bar to do right angle arm hangs and pull-ups.

In addition, to our weekly program of sit-ups, push-ups, and numerous stretching exercises, we have practiced throwing and catching balls. This helps the children throw better in dodge ball.

We review how important proper nutrition is. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits and vegetables.

Spring is on its way and we are very excited to continue with our outdoor activities which will include soccer and relay races among some other fun activities!!!

Staying Fit,

Mr. Roby



Before and Aftercare News

Spring is around the corner! For St. Patrick's Day, the children participated in a fun activity. They tried to find the pot of gold the leprechaun left for them! For Easter, the children will be coloring eggs and painting flowers. Best of all, the children will be looking for colored Easter eggs outside if the weather permits. If it rains, they will hunt for their Easter eggs indoors.

Ms. Fran and Ms. Debbie (AM Care)

*Ms. Ann, Ms. Becky, Ms. Maha,
and Ms. Valerie (PM Care)*

