



Diamond Street Early Childhood Center



April 2016

1311 — 717-859-4272

A note from our Accounts Manager...

We are getting a glimpse of nice warm weather, and I am praying that the sunshine continues to brighten our days. I know the children and teachers are excited to get outside and get some fresh air on daily basis. In addition to getting fresh air, it gives DSECC teachers one more resource to implement the learning standards. Teachers can take advantage of the experiences children have while playing outdoors and they can turn them into meaningful, teachable moments.

Our Friendship concert has truly become a great tradition of DSECC. It is an evening that we take time to celebrate children! Please be sure you mark the date on your April calendar so that you don't miss this fun-filled evening.

Lastly, be on the lookout in your child's mailbox for various forms from the office. We are accepting registrations for Summer Camp and Fall classes (Preschool, Pre K, and Kindergarten). Please note that currently enrolled school age children who are staying for the summer must fill out a summer camp registration form. We also give families whose childcare needs change an opportunity to fill out a summer leave form. Please do not hesitate to stop by the office if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mindy Reigel

Accounts Manager



Classroom Happenings

Warblers (Infants): Spring seems like it is finally here, and the Warblers are really enjoying being outside more! During the month of April we will be learning about insects and butterflies. There will be some fun new songs and books as we explore. We will also be trying to spend more time outside on the playground on a blanket for some gross motor movement during the afternoons. We also welcome Ms. Lisa back with her little boy, Conner!



Bluebirds (Young Toddlers): Happy Spring! We have been, and will continue to enjoy more time on the playground. During the month of April we will shift our focus to Farms and Farm Animals. Farm animals and tractors will decorate our classroom and well as be the topic of the books in the book area. Please save the date for our Friendship Concert, Tuesday April 12th.

Robins (Older Toddlers): The Robins are so ready for Spring! Long sunny warmer play times outside will be lovely! We are looking forward also to a bit of gardening, as we will grow parsley and dill in our garden for the Black Swallowtail Butterflies to lay their eggs on! After those eggs hatch we will observe the cycle of the butterfly in our room! An awesome learning experience for all ages!! As a center we will celebrate The Week of the Young Child, April 11th thru 15th with The Friendship Concert on Tuesday eve, the 12th at 7:00. More details in the Robin Room newsletter!! Happy Spring!!



Hummingbirds (3 year olds): Welcome Spring. We have been looking forward to the warmer weather, so the Hummingbirds are very excited that Spring has sprung! April will bring new themes and a lot of fun activities. First, we will finish our theme on the Spring Season. That will lead us to some new Learning Themes for the month of April. We are looking forward to learning about Life Cycles, Plants/Seeds, and celebrating Earth Day on Friday, April 22! In addition, we will be involved with The Week of the Young Child. That is a really special week of fun, adventurous activities for the Hummingbirds. I will keep you up-to-date with those activities through notes on the HB Happening Daily Sheet, Calendar and Newsletter. Please do check your child's cubby each day for daily communication. Thanks so much for all that you do and for allowing us to be a part of your child's life. Enjoy the beautiful weather!

Cardinals (Pre-K 4 & 5 year olds): The Cardinals started off the month of March by finishing our theme about Habitats. We enjoyed doing all kinds of activities with this theme. We were able to visually see how big our feet was compared to a Polar Bear and we got the chance to experience how to paint with ice! We ended the month learning about St. Patrick's Day and Easter. For the month of April, we will start out by learning all about SPRING! We are also looking forward to warmer weather and more



Classroom Happenings Continued....

Swans (1/2 day Pre-K 4 & 5 year olds): This month we are going to have a lot of fun talking about Spring, planting seeds and the changes in weather. We are all so glad to be going outside more again! Later in the month we will be talking about transportation and then will begin a unit on farms. We are going to be starting to talk about simple addition with blocks first, and then on paper. We will continue to work on reading comprehension as we read. You can also do this at home by asking your child questions about books you have shared. See if they can identify the main problem in the book and how the characters solved it. We will also work on beginning sounds of words. The children are doing wonderful with our Message each day. They love to find words, punctuation and even whole words in the message I write on the board each day.

Orioles (Pre-K Counts): The Orioles will learn all about life on a farm in the month of April. We will read books about farm animals, and explore what it is like on a farm. Later in April, the children will learn about taking care of Earth and celebrate Earth Day. We will also be learning our songs for the Friendship concert on April 12.



Owls (Kindergarten): The kindergartners have been enjoying the shining sun and warm weather! It is hard to believe it is April already! This month we will be studying the season of spring, flowers, and life cycles. In literacy, we will continue to learn about word families and practice our reading. I am so proud of the children who have kept up with their reading logs - great job! We will begin basic subtraction this month for our math unit. If anyone is spring cleaning, and is looking to get rid of size 5-6 clothing, please consider donating them to DSECC - we are in need of spare clothing for kindergarten! Enjoy the spring weather with your family!



Faith Based

Bible stories in April will be stories that Jesus told about seeds and seeds growing into plants that are useful.



School Age Program

Eagles:

This month the Eagle class is celebrating April showers by learning about rain, making weather predictions and some other experiments! We will also be practicing our math skills since April is math education month. Finally the Eagles will learn about recycling and how to take care of the Earth, along with some fun art projects to celebrate Earth Day.



Music Notes



For the first half of April the children will be practicing their songs for the Friendship Concert which takes place in the church sanctuary Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 PM. In addition to practicing the program songs each week the children will end the unit about the Woodwind Family talking about the harmonica. After the Friendship concert they will begin learning about the brass instruments. The first instrument will be the trumpet. The April listening piece is the beginning music to an opera called "Carmen" written by Georges Bizet. Each class will continue to sing songs about spring.

Hola!

We will learn Spanish words associated with la primavera (Spring) and la granja (farm). We will also be practicing a few songs for the Friendship concert on April 12!

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MISSION STATEMENT: DSECC's ministry is to provide nurturing, safe, educational environment that emphasizes the worth and uniqueness of each child, in a Christian atmosphere that promotes peaceful resolutions, tolerance, and service which is consistent with the Anabaptist mission of the Akron Mennonite Church.

