

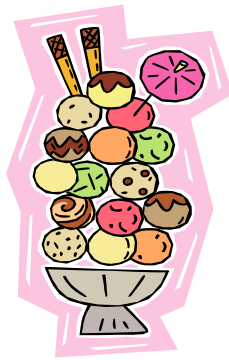
Parent Information



CCUMC Preschool

Ice Cream Social

CCUMC Preschool will hold its 6th Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 4 at 6:00pm on the large playground. All current and incoming preschool families are invited to attend this event. A non-dairy alternative will also be offered. What could be better than an hour or two visiting friends, eating ice cream and playing on the playground? Flyers will be coming home soon with more details.



Ice Cream Social on June 4

Library Books Due Soon!

I hope that your children have enjoyed being able to check out library books at the preschool this year. We are all pleased that the children seem to have taken such joy in picking out and reading their selections. As the year winds down, we will have our last library days the last week of May. ALL library books will be due the first week of June. Please make sure that your children have returned all of their li-



brary books by these dates. We have decided that we will impose a fine of \$5 for each book that is not returned. If you know that your child has lost a book and you just cannot find it, please send in \$5 to defray the cost of replacing the book. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

- *May 8 & 9: Vision & Hearing Screening for pre-K students*
- *May 11 & 12: 2's Pastries with Parents*
- *May 12: Car line pick up*
- *May 16: Staff meeting at 12:30pm*
- *May 18: pre-K field trip to Audubon Nature Center*
- *May 19: 3's Art Show*
- *May 22: 3's field trip to Audubon Nature Center*
- *May 23: 2-day 2's field trip to Brookville Market*
- *May 24: 3-day 2's field trip to Brookville Market*
- *May 29: No school (Memorial Day)*
- *June 1: Squeals on Wheels for pre-K, 2-day 2's and Hummingbirds classes*
- *June 4: Ice Cream Social at 6:00pm*
- *June 5: Squeals on Wheels for 3's classes and 3-day 2's classes*
- *June 8: Last day of school for all 2-day 2's classes; Last day for afternoon programs*
- *June 9: Pre-K graduation; Last day of school*
- *June 12-16 Summer Camp!!*



May Book Corner

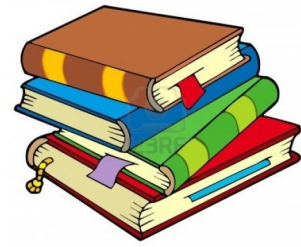
In anticipation of Memorial Day and trips to the beach, this month's recommendations are all beach themed.

Flotsam by David Weisner: One of my favorite books from recent years this is an unusual book about a boy at the beach looking for flotsam. What he finds is a long lost underwater camera storing pictures (and visual stories) of people and places far and wide. So visually interesting!

Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae: Introduce your children to poetry in this fun book which features poems dedicated to sharks and other sea creatures. The illustrations are joyful and bright. My kids liked this book and I hope yours will too.

A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle: Did you ever wonder how those hermit crabs find their new houses? This is a fun story of home and friendship beloved by child and parent alike. Also, if you are looking for a great starter pet, think hermit crab. My boys began getting them when they were very little. Fascinating creatures.

Over in the Ocean by Caroline Berkes. This book can be sung to the tune of "Over in the Meadow." The illustrations are pictures of polymer clay creatures which is fascinating in itself. This is a great book to work on counting as your kids count the seahorses and other creatures that grace each page.



The last Scholastic book orders for the school year are due by May 12. Go online to <http://www.scholasticbooks.com/parents/> and enter our class activation code HMGXM when you place your order. Summer is coming which means your children will need to occupy themselves. Give them a book and open the world to them.

Getting Rid of Toys?

Are you doing your spring cleaning? Weeding out your children's toys? We are starting a new classroom in the fall and could use donations of dress up clothes and Little People Toys and characters (e.g., garage, barn). If you are getting rid of those items anyway, please consider passing them on to the Preschool. They will be most appreciated.

It's not too late to join us for summer camp (June 12-16). Contact Lee or Lauren for more information.



The days are getting warmer and sunnier. Please don't forget to put sunscreen on your child before he/she arrives at school to provide a layer of protection for them when we are playing on the playground.

Raising an Appropriately Assertive Child

One of the skills that our preschoolers work on during their years here is to be appropriately assertive. We all know children who are overly assertive. These children speak without waiting their turn, snatch toys from their playmates and cut in line for the playground. With those children we work on pointing out the needs of other people and how we can be respectful of those needs. Good activities to try with those children are patience and empathy building

activities. For example, you could play board games with your children. Doing so requires them to take turns and follow directions. Another avenue of approach is to engage in role playing. Allow your spouse to be too aggressive with you (in a comedic way). Go through the motions of expressing your dislike and have him/her react in an appropriate, apologetic manner. Whenever your child does act too aggressively, ask him/her how he/she could achieve the same ends (e.g., getting a turn with a toy) without being too aggressive. "Use your words" is a phrase that often springs to mind when directing overly aggressive chil-

dren.

There are many children who are under assertive. These children don't ask for help when they need it and may seem lost or passive. There are easy ways to help a child become more self-assertive. Ask him/her to ask for assistance in a place where they already feel comfortable. For example, let him/her check out a book at the library by going to the librarian while you stand off to the side. Encourage your child to order for him/herself at a restaurant (though you may have to coach him/her through it the first time). Ask your child for his/her opinion about things. Give him/her chores to do. Accomplishing tasks, even if small, helps a child be more self-confident.

Special Snack Visits

On a specially designated day in May each class will have its snack in a special location. The children currently in the Sparrows, Buntings, Chickadees, Wrens and Finches classes will have their snack in a classroom that they might have next year as a member of the 3 year old program. That is, the students will eat in the Cardinals, Robins, Doves or Blue Jays class-

rooms. Likewise, the students who are currently in those 3 year old classes will have their snacks in one of our pre-K classrooms—the Owls, Penguins or Eagles. And our Hummingbirds will have a chance to eat in one of the full year 2's classrooms. During that time the students will be hosted by the teacher in that classroom who will introduce them

to the room and to what class is like in that older program. We feel that this brief introduction may allay fears about transitioning to a new classroom for next year.

The schedule for those visits will be coming home soon. After the day, be sure to ask your child how he/she enjoyed the experience. As always we welcome any feedback that you might wish to share.

