

Parent Information

From: Lee Walsh

March 1

Dates of Interest

- Summer Camp Enrollment: Ongoing through March
- March 1: Tuition Deposits for 2019-2020 due
- March 1: Storyteller visit for Pre-K classes
- March 2: AUCTION!!
- March 5: Storyteller visit for Robins & Blue Jays
- March 5-7: Scholastic Book Fair during school hours
- March 6: Pastries with Parents for Sparrows/Starlings/Buntings
- March 6: Family Night at the Book Fair 6-8pm
- March 7: Pastries with Parents for Wrens and Chickadees
- March 8: Storyteller visit for Cardinals & Doves
- March 11: Storyteller visit for Sparrows, Buntings and Starlings
- March 13: Advisory Council Meeting at 6:30pm
- March 14: Storyteller visit for Wrens, Chickadees and Hummingbirds
- March 21: Live Animal Show for all 2's & 3's classes (9:30-10:10am)
- March 22: Live Animal Show for all 2's & 3's classes (9:30-10:10am)
- March 26: Staff Meeting at 12:30

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the Auction

1. Great opportunity to socialize with friends
2. Delicious food
3. Festive drinks
4. Wonderful hospitality from the Bohley/Lynch family
5. Amazing items up for bid
6. Chance to shop early for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, Christmas or just because
7. You like to have fun and do something worthwhile too
8. Chance to fund a new playground for your children!
9. Chance to fund a new playground for your children!
10. Chance to fund a new playground for your children!

Get your tickets [here](#)

March is Literacy Month

During February we were blessed to raise chickens and . During March we will, as a preschool community, be emphasizing literacy. To do so we will be 1) engaging with a professional storyteller, 2) holding a used book drive for needy children, and 3) having a Scholastic Bookfair.

Allison Gee, who as her alter ego Beatrice Pickles, will be entertaining and engaging each class with the opportunity to act out a book. She brings props, decorations and music to set the scene and teaches

our children how to engage in storytelling with each other. This exercise in the power of the imagination is beloved by all the children. (See calendar at left for schedule of visits.)

We are asking that you do a bit of spring cleaning and cull through your child's books for any that you no longer need.

We will be donating these books to a charity that sends the books to Africa to locales where books are few. Any books that you wish to donate may be brought to the office.

Finally, we will be holding our

Scholastic Book Fair March 5-7 in the Wesley Room during school and for a special evening event on Wednesday from 6-8pm. Come hear your child's teacher read to the kids, create a craft, purchase homemade baked goods, and shop for books for your children. There will be wish lists for each class should you wish to buy a book for the class. A percentage of all of the purchases will be given back to the school for book purchases for our library.

Keeping Your Children Safe

Being a parent is fraught with worry during the best of times. There are so many things that you don't even consider as potentially dangerous until you become a parent. I hope to reduce some of your anxiety by telling you about the many ways that we work to keep your children safe.

We work to discourage illness each day by having children wash hands upon entering the class and at other multiple times during the day when appropriate. Moreover, the classrooms are cleaned each day with a bleach based disinfectant. When there are cases of infection in a classroom teachers even run toys through our industrial sanitizing dishwasher. Finally, we notify parents when there are illnesses so that you may be alert and take any preventive measures possible. Obviously we aren't able to keep out all illness as early childhood is the time during which one's immune system is greatly challenged, but these measures go a

long way to reduce the spread of germs and reduce illness.

All of our staff members, teachers, custodians and administrators, have regular background checks conducted. We follow best practices for working with young children to prevent any instances of abuse. As mandatory reporters of abuse and neglect each of us is charged with the well-being of all children. When there are any suspicions of abuse or neglect from any quarter they are promptly reported to the appropriate authorities and followed up on by us.

We have procedures in place for dealing with all sorts of emergencies: lockdowns, fires, tornadoes, missing children, and more. We have regularly practiced for these emergencies and have, in my 9 years here, been faced with all of those emergencies except a fire (though fire alarms have been tripped before). While we have been on lockdown before it has never

been as a result of an active shooter situation on our campus. Instead, it was in response to activity in other areas of the county or, years ago, in response to the DC Sniper situation.

This month we will be practicing our lockdown procedures with the children in preparation for an active shooter on campus. While they will not notice most of it, they will become aware when we gather them in the safe corner of the room and ask them to remain quiet. I am attaching a copy of our lockdown procedures here in case you would like to be advised of what those procedures are. Unlike our fire drills there will not be any loud noises or sirens. We will be telling the children that we will be keeping them quiet and safe while we wait for further instructions. That this is practicing for an emergency where we need to keep people where they are.

March Book Recommendations



How to Catch a Leprechaun by Adam Wallace: This fun rhyming book is as silly as the concept of catching a leprechaun, but it completely resonates with children. Warning: you may be required to build a leprechaun trap after reading this book!

Drawn Together by Minh Le: A grandfather and grandson who don't speak each other's language connect through art. This is a good book for the month that we honor our children's grandparents.

Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow: A Muslim little girl uses her imagination to transform her mother's khimar into all sorts of things. This was voted Best Book of 2018 by NPR.

Blue by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. This simple book about the color blue also celebrates the love between a little boy and his dog over time.

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales: Let your children experience immigration through the eyes of a child and how books make the immigrants in this story feel at home in their new country. This book won numerous awards for its illustrations.

Curriculum Corner: Circle Time

You've probably co-oped enough already to be familiar with the circle time ritual in your child's class. The activities being taught in circle time differ from class to class, but many of the objectives are the same. This is the time when the teacher engages children in whole group activities which require a different level of focus on the part of the children than one-on-one activities or free choice time. At circle time the teacher calls over the class to sit on a designated spot on the floor. For our youngest students this often begins with a song which greets and welcomes each child. For example, "Good morning to Haley, good morning to Ryan, good morning to Charlie..." You get the idea. Engaging in an activity like this at circle time acknowledges each child and validates that they are part of the community. It also allows the children to learn each other's names and to make notice of who might be absent that day. Beginning circle time with the same routine signals to the children the beginning of a new activity. It helps them to develop cognitive flexibility—the ability to switch from one mental task to the next making necessary accommodations to the new activity. (One example of cognitive flexibility is adjusting the volume of one's voice when transitioning from being outside on the playground to coming inside to the library corner where one is expected to speak more quietly.)

Many teachers include calendar activities like naming the days of the week or counting the days that have transpired in the month thus far. Preschool aged children do not understand time concepts like months, days, years. The objective is to allow them to see the overall patterns and sequences that we ascribe to the flow of time by relating them to observable experiences. For example, preschoolers start to understand yesterday, today and tomorrow by relating those concepts to events or phenomena. "Yesterday we had Charlie's birthday celebration, today we will have music with Ms. Maribeth, and tomorrow we will go on our field trip to Imagination Stage." These are the ways that time begins to make sense for preschoolers. Counting the days that have transpired in the month thus far by pointing at each day marker on the board accomplishes the following: 1) practices wrapping, a skill necessary for reading, by moving their eyes from left to right across the calendar and back all the way to the left to continue down the calendar while tracking the relevant object, 2) reinforces their knowledge of one-to-one correspondence as they tap on each number designating the day of the month, and 3) promotes communication skills and self-confidence as the children stand in front of their peers and engage in these activities. So, while they may not understand fully that we are now in February and that next month will be March, they are starting to feel the rhythms of the seasons and days.

Group activities at circle time can include games, songs, books, puppet shows or any number of other things. Whatever the activity it will require the children to focus, take turns, make predictions, take intellectual risks, and follow directions. Circle time can be difficult for many children because they are working on so many skills at once many of which are truly challenging. Teachers know that it is facing these challenges and working on them each day that will bring the most progress and growth to the children.

Now Registering for Nature & Gardening

Spring is a perfect time to enroll your youngster in our Nature and Gardening mini-session beginning Monday through June 3. Children will learn about gardening and nature through fun hands-on activities. This class will include the task of planting our preschool garden in addition to some classroom and outdoor projects. Visit

<https://family.daycareworks.com/login.jsp> to register.

Prepare for Easter Chapel & Donations for WARL in APRIL

Our Easter chapel services are fast approaching. They will be held on Tuesday, April 9 for the Chickadees, Wrens and Hummingbirds and on Wednesday, April 10 for all remaining classes. During this service we celebrate the gift of new life which is consonant with the Easter message itself in which Jesus enters into new life and extends that gift to everyone. Ms. Maribeth points out that there is new life all around us in the blossoming of the trees, the birth of puppies, baby chicks, and the like. Following on the heels of our chick raising project, this will make perfect sense to our students.

As you know, we always do a community service project with each of our chapel services. This year we will be supporting the Washington Animal Rescue League which helps to give new lives to rescued animals. They have a long list of items that they need for their rescued animal population. The best part is that this doesn't require you to buy anything unless you choose to do so. Instead, consider donating some old sheets or towels which they need in abundance. If you do choose to go buy something, please include your child in the process. Explain that their gift will be helping all of our furry friends to have a better, new life.

Should you have any questions, please email Lee (lwalsh@chevy Chaseumc.org) or call the office (301-652-7660).

Thank you for supporting the Washington Animal Rescue League.



Items Needed for Cats or Dogs at WARL

Bedding

Toys

Leashes/Collars

Baby Gates

Food (small starter bags)

Treats

Chew Toys

Balls

Bowls/Feeding Dishes

