

PLAYSCHOOL PAGES



March/April
2017

Upcoming Events

March

- 1 Crazy or mismatched socks day
- 2 Crazy hat/hair day
Dr. Seuss' Birthday...read a story with The Cat in the Hat @ 10am
- 3 Pajama day
- 12 Spring forward
- 16 Last day of Soccer Shots
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Happy Birthday Teacher Jordan!
- 20 First day of **SPRING**
- 22 Happy Birthday Teacher Lynn!
- 26 Spring Break...we are open
- 30 Happy Birthday Teacher Rachel!
- 31 Fall Priority enrollment ends!

April

- 4 New Swim session begins
- 12 School Pictures
- 14 Easter Egg Hunt
- 16 Summer enrollment begins
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Preschool Art Show Week
- 26 Halloween in April! Wear your favorite costume
- 28 Arbor Day

Playschool Family Swim Day will be EVERY Friday!



Notes on a Chalkboard

March is here! Hibernate your winter gear. Get out your spring sandals, sunglasses and capris! Oh, but wait. This is Oregon. Put your summer clothing away. Get your winter gear back out and remember your galoshes! Please remember parents, we do go outside every day and coats are recommended. Yes, some days are warmer and jackets or sweat-shirts are fine. But most of the time it is wet, damp and cold.

We have a lost and found in the front lobby of the school. If you are missing any of your child's items, please check the front window. We will be donating unclaimed items to either our extra clothing bin or Goodwill in June. The best thing to do to prevent your items from getting lost is to label your child's clothing with their full name. That way, if we find a coat on the playground, we will know who to return it to.

And finally It's time to begin thinking about Fall. Will your child be attending the Playschool? Priority enrollment for current families will begin March 1st. This is the time for you to let us know if your child will be continuing with us in the fall. **Act quickly** as things are bound to fill up fast! Enrollment for families new to the Playschool will begin April 1st. Busy, busy month at the Playschool. Have a great one!

— **Cami Knudsen**
Playschool Director



Toddler News

Hello Toddler Families!

Things are going well in the toddler room. We can't believe that spring is just around the corner! WOW!

March brings us lots of things to celebrate, including all the success we've been seeing with potty training. Several of our kids have been doing very well, some graduating to undies! Nice job!! A big thank you goes out to all those parents who have supported our efforts and embraced it all. Other things we will be celebrating this season are Dr. Seuss' birthday, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. During March and April we will spend much of our time learning about spring time including weather, bunnies and the color green. Hopefully we will encounter some nice days to venture out to play and possibly go on a nature walk a couple times. Some important skills the toddlers are working on are soft touches and using their words when they become frustrated. Instead of using their hands to hit we ask them to say "STOP" and walk away. If they need help ask a teacher.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask!

— **Melissa and Jackie**



Jr. Preschool News

Hello Junior Preschool Parents!

Is it really March already?! We are zooming through the school year; it will be summer before we know it! We've been having a wonderful time the past few months exploring space and rocketships in January, using our imagination in February becoming princesses and knights, and also celebrating love for Valentine's Day. In March we are focusing on different books from some amazing children's authors, such as Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle. During the month we will be celebrating several holidays and birthdays in the class. We will also be jumping into our theme Weather on the Farm in April with a variety of exciting activities and crafts like making muddy pigs, watercolor sunshines, and footprint tractors.

As the kids get older, they are becoming very self-sufficient. At school, they are capable of doing so many things on their own like using the bathroom, changing their clothes, and cleaning up after themselves. By working on and accomplishing these types of skills, the children gain self-esteem and learn problem solving skills. Here at school it can be easier for them to accomplish self-care tasks since everything is at their level and arranged with the kids in mind. We know it can be more difficult to do these things at home, but we encourage you to look around and see if there are ways you can help your child become more independent. Some ideas for this are:

- *Make easy to wear, weather appropriate clothing accessible to your kids so that they can pick out their clothes and get dressed in the morning.
- *In the kitchen, place kid cups, plates, silverware, ect... at child level and provide a stool so they can get a drink of water or help set up for meals.
- *Place everything your child needs to get out the door (shoes, coats, backpacks) in an accessible location so they can get ready to leave the house on their own.

The other important skill the kids are working on is cooperative play. While some kids have been doing this for a while, others are just beginning. We continue to assist them in conflict resolution by encouraging them to "use their words" to express their wants and frustrations, instead of screaming or hitting.

Last but not least, please remember to bring a pair of rain boots and rain jacket for your child to keep at school. We try to get outside any chance we can, sometimes when it's sprinkling and also right after it rains. It's not always possible to stay dry but having those additional items can really help!

— **Jordan**



Preschool News

Whew...are we finally beyond all the madness of snow days? It has been nice to see the sun (if only for a few hours at a time)!

The kids really enjoyed love letter time in February. Thanks for all of your creativity in writing these. The kids felt so special each time I read them a love letter! For the first few weeks in March, we will be focusing on a different color each day. I had the idea to have each day be a "wear this color" day, but then I realized that most of my clothing is gray or blue. I will send out a list of what days we will be doing what colors so that those of you who are so inclined can dress your children that way. Friday the 17th will be all about green! Also...our Preschool class beauty parlor will be open in March. We will set it up in the GBBB. For the first few days of the month, we will incorporate some Dr. Seuss activities in celebration of his birthday on March 2. At the end of March, we'll move into Prehistoric times with a dinosaur theme.

April will start out with an Easter theme. This theme involves lots of activities with Peeps, jellybeans and Easter grass. Our annual Playschool Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 14th. We will finish April with a unit on Spring. We will plant grass in our sensory table, and do several other growing experiments, take some nature walks, and observe all the changes that are happening. We will discuss the changing weather, and we will also include bugs in this theme as the kids have been noticing lots of them on the playground lately.

As the weather hopefully begins to be warmer and drier, we will be spending more time outside. Please make sure that your child has weather appropriate clothing each day. Also, please be sure to check your child's art file at least once a week...especially if there may be dishes, food, bugs or other items that may spoil in it. Thanks!

— **Jennie and Marjan**

Pre-Kindergarten

What!?!?! March already! Wow, this year is flying by!

January and February came and went so fast! Let's review some of the fun activities we did during those wintery months. As we can all recall, January was full of a lot of snow days. We promise we did some school in between all those days. Our theme for January lined right up with all the snow days. We focused on the Arctic (and Antarctic) by exploring many animals and other fun facts! We had so much fun creating the crafts and watching the children make them their own. It's amazing how independent they have become when it comes to craft time! We played some great math games involving measuring and counting. The children really enjoyed an experiment using Crisco and a rubber glove to see how the animals stay warm in the frigid water. February was full of groundhog, Valentine, and president themed activities. The children (teachers too) were disappointed that the groundhog saw his shadow! We have been doing a few science experiments along with more math games and activities. Our letters of the week were C, B, N, K, E, V, and P. Please continue to review these letters with your children.

We are looking forward to March! It's Dr. Seuss' birthday, which means we get to have a lot of fun with Dr. Seuss books and activities! Through this unit, we will be reinforcing rhyming words and exploring all the wackiness that is related to Seuss books. It will be a busy couple of weeks! Let's not forget St. Patrick's Day and the following theme of Spring/Nature to close out the month.

It's crazy to think there's just a few more months before summer! These wonderful children have been working so hard to prepare themselves for Kindergarten! Thank you to all the families for helping make this year so great!

— **Mara and Lacey**



Cooks Corner...

By popular request...Jess has agreed to share her recipe for one of our favorite lunches here at the Playschool...Chicken Ranch Pasta!

- 1 lb elbow macaroni pasta
 - 1 C. shredded carrots
 - 1/2 C. fine chopped celery
 - 1 C. cheddar cheese (cubed or shredded)
 - 3-4 C. shredded or chopped chicken
 - 1 packet ranch dressing mix
1. Prepare pasta according to package. While waiting for the pasta to boil gather your celery, carrots, chicken, cheese. Set aside.
 2. To make the dressing, whisk together ranch mix, mayo and milk (see directions on packet). Mix until all lumps are gone.
 3. Once pasta is done, drain and let cool. Once cooled, mix in carrots, celery, cheese and chicken.
 4. Pour dressing over the pasta and stir gently until well combined. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1-2 hours before serving.
 5. Right before serving, give pasta a final stir to mix in any dressing that may have settled to bottom.

Enjoy!



Happy Birthday To...

March

Andreas Gish	3/3
Wesley Scherzer	3/5
Scott Bernards	3/8
Everett Hakeman	3/17
Teacher Jordan	3/19
Marco Aleksic	3/20
Teacher Lynn	3/22
Grae Michael	3/25
Ethan Castle	3/28
Mattea Praetzler	3/30
Teacher Rachel	3/30

April

Dane Fregonese	4/12
Raquel Davalos	4/16
Henry Lehman	4/16
Sadie Jeans	4/23



Thanks Jess for keeping us fed with all your yummy food!