The Director’s Corner

Dear Parents,

How time is flying! Hopefully April with long hours of daylight, will bring us warm sunny days to explore for signs of spring.

As we follow through on the “Let’s G.O. (Let’s Get Outside) movement that Tanisha and staff have developed for the month of April, there is a daily activities calendar for the entire program to participate in. It is always interesting to see the 2 year olds version of a musical tree instrument and how it compares to that of the 4 or 5 year olds version of a musical tree instrument. Clearly visible is the growth and development that has occurred as the children advance from classroom to classroom within their improved fine motor skills and imaginations. Kudos to the culmination of their years of being introduced to a multitude of activities and means that playfully moves them through the process to master the necessary skills they proudly convey when they create their own unique masterpieces.

Please reserve your slot for the summer if you have not already done so. We are now accepting children from the community for the summer program.

Fall Registration forms will be distributed in your parent mailboxes this week. If you have any questions, comments, whether positive or negative with the revised rates, please use the suggestion box in the hallway or contact the board.

Students applying for Block Grant, please see Peg regarding your eligibility requirements for 2014/2015.

We are currently working with students from the School of Management to develop a Strategic Plan for Campus Pre-School. To compile a complete internal analysis they will soon be surveying families for your input as well.

Enjoy the SPRING...it is coming!

Peg Smith
Director

With regards to our friend and co-worker
Jane Stuart Andrus
the latest update from her daughters is that she has moved into hospice care, if you would like please keep Jane and her family in your thoughts, that would be most appreciated.
**WEE BEAR NEWS**

We are marching into April with a love for movement, stories, tapes, sand, music/songs, and being outside.

We will be watching for changes in the weather and talking about Spring. We have already seen the chipmunk and several new birds at our feeder. We will be participating in some of the “Let’s G.O.” activities that the school is doing.

It is a time for growing. We will be planting both indoors and out. We have grown as well so please check our extra clothes bin to be sure everything still fits.

Think Spring!

Kelly
Louise
Sue

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**BEAR CUB NEWS**

In April we will continue with our Spring theme. We hope to be able to continue to take walks looking for signs of spring, as well as talking about baby animals, making a bird nest, coloring eggs, and following our “Let’s G.O. (Get Outside)” calendar for the month of April. It is full of outdoor activities for us to enjoy on a daily basis and will be posted in our classroom.

We will also be celebrating Lily Hatala’s 3rd Birthday on April 11th. Happy Birthday Lily!

I have had some questions on how to deal with “power struggles.” I found some good information in one of my resource books. One type of power struggle occurs when an adult asks a child to do something and the child refuses. Children need opportunities to do things for themselves and to make their own decisions. If children are unsure of themselves, they may not do as asked. They also may hesitate before complying or watch others for clues about how to behave. Make sure the child is capable of performing the task. Demonstrate or tell a child how to do what you want, keep directions simple. Use understandable terms. Give only one or two part directions. The child will not be able to comply if he/she has heard only a portion of what he has been told, or if he remembers only the first or last part of lengthy instructions. Talk directly to the child and have him/her repeat back to you what you have asked. Repeating your directions helps to insure that the child has heard what has been asked of him. Make sure it is acceptable to ask for help. Point out how everyone needs help at times.

Most importantly choose your battles to avoid unnecessary power struggles and tantrums. Insist things go your way only when it is really important or a safety issue. Don’t exceed the child’s developmental level expectations.

Chris
Jamie
Sheila

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**POOH BEAR NEWS**

The Pooh Bears are looking forward to participating in “Let’s G.O.” this month. After the extremely long winter, it will be a welcome change to spend more time outside and bring our activities out with us.

Spending more time outside also means it is time for us to be wearing sunscreen again. Be on the lookout for MAT forms (with directions attached) in your parent mailboxes. We can NOT apply sunscreen until we have a completed form!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Sophia Z!!!

Alisha
Meghan

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**HONEY BEAR NEWS**

SPRING is here!! And since it has been a really cold winter, we are really excited about enjoying EVERY ounce of Spring. We will be enjoying the beautiful weather to come with our “Let’s G.O. (Get Outside)” project. The center has outdoor spring activities scheduled every day for the children to participate in. So check the Honey Bear Buzz calendar for all of our fun activities and continue the conversations at home!

March was a ton of fun blasting off into space and rhyming like Dr. Seuss! Wacky Wednesday was such a success that we will be celebrating TuTu Tuesday on April 1st; a day of jokes, being silly, and wearing tutus!! We also had a visit from Erin the Dentist and learned about taking care of our teeth.

Please make sure your child’s cubby has extra clothes and proper outdoor gear since the weather can be a little unpredictable. Also, please do not forget your child’s snack day. They really look forward to their special day to share their favorite snacks with their friends.

Happy Spring!

Tina, Brenda, and Scott
TEDDY BEAR NEWS

I would like to say Spring has sprung! We are still patiently waiting—hopefully any day now! We are having fun with our Dinosaur Unit and enjoyed the visit from the dentist.

In April we will be doing our “Let’s G.O. (Get Outside)” theme. Each day we will be doing an activity that will take us outside.

We look forward to spending a lot of time outside, so please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Jonah and Jordyn who turned 4 in March, and to Kylie and Celia who will turn 4 in April.

Happy Spring!

Gabe
Michele
Renee

GRIZZLY BEAR NEWS

March was tons of fun! Starting off with a week of Dr. Seuss. We learned about the colors of the rainbow and we almost caught a leprechaun but he was too clever for us. Learning about weather was fun and we hope Spring has really sprung and April Showers are headed our way.

We are going to try to turn our classroom into a Spring paradise in April! We will start bringing in some spring colors in hopes of encouraging the warm air to finally come. In April we will be learning all about insects and birds. We will also have some Easter fun!

The month of April is also about getting outside so we have some special fun outdoor activities planned. We have high hopes that the weather will cooperate! Make sure you leave your child’s boots or bring rain boots as the playground can be quite muddy!

Happy Birthday to Hannah on April 27th!

Thank you,
Miss Kat

PANDA BEAR NEWS

Welcome Spring...we think?? March certainly did come in like a lion! The Pandas tracked the weather through the month and we have found there to be only a handful of lamb type days. So the saying, “In like a lion, out like a lamb” did not hold true this year. We all are anxiously waiting for less windy days and warmer temperatures.

Our unit on Weather had the Pandas or Meteorologists, predicting and experimenting to learn more about clouds, rain, sun, and other weather related phenomenon.

We were able to visit the Anderson Center two times last month, both to see the Youth Symphony and also to see the Theater Works production of Henry and Mudge. The children really seemed to enjoy the shows. They were chair dancing to familiar tunes and mesmerized, on the edge of their seats, watching the actors and actresses.

The April initiative . “Let’s G.O. (Get Outside)” has begun! Each day we have a fun activity planned for outside that the children will be involved in. If you would like to help by contributing to our supply “wish list” of items for our activities, there is a sheet on the sign-out sheet where you can sign up to help.

Happy Birthday to Emily St. John on April 2nd!!!

Claire & Stacy

POLAR BEAR NEWS

March was a month of celebrations in the Polar Bear Classroom! First, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ Birthday with a week-long author study. The Polar Bears are great with rhyming and identifying their letter sounds! Also this month we celebrated our multiculturalism with the holidays of Mardi Gras, Purim, and St. Patrick’s Day. Thank you to all of the parents who made these holidays so very special in our classroom! We did a color study with a focus on all the colors of the rainbow; we even explored what colors might taste like. Then we learned how rainbows are made during our Weather Week. Hopefully the Polar Bears weather predictions will prove true and March will go out like a lamb after all!

Speaking of lambs, April is going to be a month of learning about farms, baby animals, gardening, and the life cycle of the chicken. Keep your fingers crossed that we will have good luck as we hatch our own chicks. Have a happy Spring and stay tuned for a month of animal adventures!

Nicky
Carolyn
Jane
Andi
Key Signs of Kindergarten Readiness

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, the signs of a child’s kindergarten readiness include being able to:

- *communicate about things he or she needs and wants*
- *be curious and enthusiastic about trying new activities*
- *share and take turns*
- *pay attention and sit still*
- *use a pencil and paint brushes*
- *count as high as 20*
- *recognize the letters of the alphabet*

Other signs of readiness include the ability to follow one-to-three step instructions, behave well in the classroom, and get along well with peers.

When Kids Sneeze……

*A cold or allergies?*

**Look for these allergy traits**

- **Allergic “shiners”** - dark under-eye circles that occur from constant congestion.

- **The allergic “salute”** - when a child swipes his hand across his nose to clear the never-ending drainage.

- **Chronic sniffles with skin issues such as eczema** – skin conditions pester many who have the overactive immune systems that cause allergies.

- **A brother, sister or parent with allergies** – This means a child’s risk of developing similar problems is higher than average. If both parents have allergies, there is up to a 75% chance a child will develop allergies.

The Carnival is coming,
The Carnival is coming……..

Our 14th Annual Carnival will be held on
Tuesday, May 6th

There will be food, games & prizes!

More info to follow soon!

BCC/BAEYC
34th Annual Children’s Fair

**Saturday, April 5th, 2014**
10am-2pm

**Admission:** Children $3.00 & Adults FREE with a non-perishable food donation to CHOW. FAMILIES: $10.00 (4+ children)

* Free book for every child donated by Penguin Books
* Hands on Activities, Community Information Displays, Healthy Snacks, Real Trucks, Child Safety and so much more!

FALL ENROLLMENT FORMS are due to the CPS Office by April 17th.

If you plan on having your child attend Campus Pre-School in the Fall, please get your completed forms in soon!

Campus Pre-School will be **closed** on **Friday, April 18th** for Good Friday.

Staff Birthdays

Meghan Byrne  4-8
Jane Stuart-Andrus  4-11