

## Creative Preschool April 2018 Newsletter

### Letter from the Director

I often find myself telling our preschool children tales of the way things were when I was a child or even when MY children were young. As I do, I am struck by the changes our society has encountered over the past few decades in our approach to the well-being and education of our children.

Everyone will agree that young children are developing quickly. Some want to take advantage of their ability to learn vast amounts in such a short amount of time by filling up their days with get-smart classes and activities.



But research has shown, and experts agree, that in order to provide for the very best long-term education must provide plenty of time and opportunity for the young child to PLAY.

Attached to this newsletter is an article adapted from Learning Through Play by Shelley Butler. Read on, then, and the next time your child says, "Can I play?" remember that play is essential, even vital to his social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. Often, then, and with enthusiasm, call for "PLAY TIME!"

### News from Friday Friends

Remember we have no school on March 30 and April 6 for Spring Break. After break we will observe the changes in the weather as spring begins, as well as learn about a few different animals. We will continue activities and projects which reinforce numbers and their value, as well as review shapes and colors. We will also continue to practice recognizing and writing our names in print. I will be spending time on the end of year testing and assessment. As the weather continues to warm up we hope to spend more time outside, as well. Please be sure that your child wears gym shoes and clothing appropriate for outdoor play.

### News from Threes

During April we will notice, as we observe flowers growing and leaves returning to the trees, the

changes we see in Spring. MW classes will go to Delhi Pet Center on Monday April 23 and the TTH classes will go on Tuesday April 24. Please consult your permission slip for more details and meeting times.

We will continue to work on recognizing and writing our names, as well as number, color, and shape recognition. Teachers continue to provide many activities to develop small and large motor skills. All skills will be formally evaluated in the year end Progress Report which you will receive toward the end of May.

With warmer weather here we will definitely play outside. For their safety, it is very important that the children wear gym shoes and clothing appropriate for climbing and outdoor play. The children are enjoying themselves here at Creative and we enjoy them, as well! Have a good month!

### News from Fours

When the children return from Spring Break, they will find that the Activity Room has been transformed into a Construction Area, complete with a workbench. They will also find many building activities in the Discovery Room.

By now the children should all be able to recite their address and should be, with help from you, learning their telephone number. As the end of the year approaches, the teachers will be busy assessing each child for final progress reports. Time will also be spent on completing pages for each child's personal book. This book, which the children will receive at our end of year Celebration, is a great keepsake of your child's preschool year! We will continue our study of the teen numbers.



**Looking ahead to May**, on Thursday, May 10 and Friday, May 11, we will be honoring our Mommies with a special gift and song. If able, Moms are invited to come to school (see the Fours News for times) and go to the Activity Room. Please do not worry if you cannot attend; we will prepare the children for that possibility. In that case, please pick your child up at the regular dismissal time.

**Letters:** I, L and N, Y; review all others

**Concepts:** rhyme, sequencing, life cycle

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### News from Pre-K

The month of April will be packed with learning activities and much fun! This month we learn through play experiences about construction and color. Toward the end of the month we will begin making things for someone who is so very special - our moms!

During this month we will travel to the continents of North and South America. As the year draws to an end we will be formally assessing each child for final progress reports, as well.

Looking ahead to May - on Friday, May 11, we will be treating our moms to some songs and a special gift. If able, Moms should come to the Activity room by 3:30. Please do not worry if you are not able to attend. We will talk to the children about the fact that some moms may not be able to be here. If you cannot be there, please pick your child up at the regular time.

**LETTERS:** I, L,N and Y

**NUMBERS:** review of all numbers, especially the teen numbers

### News from Music and Motor Skills

Hello, everyone, Mr. Goldie here. Wow! I can't believe how quickly the year is flying by; the kids are growing up so quickly. This month I will be introducing new instruments, how they work, and their sound. We will, as always, have a dance party during the music session. While we sing and dance to classic songs and songs about being nice to one another we will have a genuine great time! In motor skills we will work on balance, hand-eye coordination, and stretching, as we exercise our bodies with fun movement and large body experiences. We will use the parachute and play our Starfish Circle, too!

### Welcome Future Creative Preschooler!

Congratulations to the Anna and Robert Huesman, as they welcomed baby girl, Vera, into their home and arms on February 20! Big Brother, Conrad, in Mrs. G's class sure is happy to have another sister to love!

On March 5 the Eagan family added baby girl, Emmie, to their family, too! Congratulations to



very happy brother, Sam, in Mrs. Kennedy's class, and to Mommy Jamie and Daddy Brian!

Happy wishes to the Menke family on the arrival of their newest little blue bundle of love, as well! Baby Audie arrived to Laura and Gary on March 11. Big sister Karly, in Mrs. McGowan's class, is bubbling with joy to have another baby brother in her home!

### Thank You!

Thank you to Brian Dinkelacker, Lauren Gray, Patrick Jeffcott, Roseanne Kneflin, Kevin Roa, and Dan Ritter for all of your hard work to get the playground ready for Spring and Summer play. Thanks to you we will be enjoying the outdoors whenever weather permits!



### Tuition

Remember that final tuition payments are due on April 15. **FIRST tuition for the 2018-2019 school year is due May 1.** Tuition must be kept up to date to maintain your next year's class placement.

### Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that attended Mom's Night Out. Everyone had a lovely time socializing and shopping while supporting Creative. Through the generosity of the vendors and you over \$700 was raised for Creative. Thank you to Laura Klaserner for all of your hard work getting this fun night together!

### Openings

At this time we have a few openings in our school for the 2018-19 year. **FOURS PROGRAM:** TTh morning, one opening; TThF afternoon, one opening. **THREES PROGRAM:** Friday Friends, two open spots; MW and TTh afternoon both have one available opening. If you know of anyone interested in registering, please have them contact the appropriate registrar, Kristi Lysaght (3 year old) 520-8930 or Allie Wedig (4 year old) 347-6425 A big **thank you** to Kristi and Allie for all of your hard work, time and patience during the registration process!

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### Spring Has Sprung...

and Spring Fever has hit the children of Creative Preschool! The children are full of energy and excitement and that means that they do not always think before they act. Be aware that little ones are



prone to dart out from between parked cars. In order to avoid accidents and injury to our children, please be especially careful when driving and when walking in the parking lot. Always drive S-L-O-W-L-Y and come to a

FULL STOP at the stop sign by the cross walk.

In addition, please DO NOT allow your child to exit the car at the drop-off line without a staff member escort, nor enter the school or classroom without a staff member present and aware!

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ALONG THE CONES AT THE DROP-OFF LINE AT PICK-UP TIME!

Doing so makes it difficult for children to be seen and impossible for staff to see the lot and monitor potential hazards.



### Carnival News!

**Spread the word!** – the Creative Preschool Spring Carnival is right around the corner! Please join us on Saturday, May 19, from 11 am – 3 pm for a fun-filled day! We will have a gift basket raffle, split-the-pot, games & prizes, bouncy house, photo booth, face painting, grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, & chicken, and MUCH MORE!

### NEW THIS YEAR! Carnival Parking

This year we will be offering parking at St. Simon's Church with shuttle service to and from the Carnival! Please be sure to park only in St. Simon's BACK LOT! Look for signs directing you to the correct lot on the day of the Carnival. The shuttle will run every fifteen minutes, starting at 11:00 am and ending at 4:00 pm. Signs will be posted at both pick-up and drop-off locations, as well. There will be limited parking available in the grass and lower parking lot at the school, but these spots will most likely go quickly, so you may just want to head straight to St. Simon's!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to **Paul Miklavcic** and his company, **The Primax Group**, for providing all of the funds to cover the shuttle service from Petermann! Paul's daughter, Phoebe, is in Mrs. Johnson's Pre-K class. We truly believe we have the BEST parents at Creative, and Paul is certainly a testament to this!



**Thank you**, Creative Preschool families, for your generous donations to your class baskets and game prizes. You continue to inspire gratitude by your continued support! We are also so grateful to the many businesses who have made contributions to our basket raffle and Carnival needs; your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**Can you post a sign?** Yard signs advertising the Carnival will be available the beginning of May. Do you or someone you know have a property which has good visibilities to advertise for families who may be interested in attending our Carnival? Please let us know so we can be sure to get a sign to you!



The Carnival committee is continuing to work hard to make this year's Carnival a success, but as always, we need your help! You can sign up to volunteer at the Carnival via **Sign-Up Genius** – **look for an e-mail containing a link to sign up in your e-mail inbox soon.** Grandparents, other relatives, and teens seeking service hours are welcome to help as well! Volunteering is fun, and your child can “work” with you.



Check us out on Facebook, or email Lauren DeFranco (laurendepaoli@yahoo.com) or Lori Tranter (lpetrungaro@hotmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you at the Carnival!



"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."

What 21st century research has undeniably proven is that play is essential, vital, critical, and fundamental to a child's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. Without adequate, healthy play, children run the risk of entering school unprepared, growing into teens and adults without needed skills, and failing to meet their potential. Experts at the Institute for Play believe that healthy play in childhood can even prevent violence.

Through joyful, healthy play, children begin a love of learning and prepare for life itself.

### **What is Play?**

Play is recreation, amusement, or fun. Even more, says Jeanne Bassis, founder of PlayReflections, "Play is not just about doing, it's about being. Play is a state of grace, innocence, wonder and creativity ... and happens when anyone is truly living in the present tense."

Play is the natural activity of early childhood; it is what children do and their way of life. For young children there is no distinction between play and learning; they are one and the same. Playing is a priority in early childhood, yet not all play is the same.

Most experts agree that children's play can be divided into these categories:

- Active play: running, jumping, climbing, riding, and other use of large muscles.

- Quiet play: reading, stringing, coloring, etc.
- Cooperative or social play: games and activities that involve more than one.
- Solitary play: drawing, dreaming, or any activity that involves only one.
- Manipulative play: putting together puzzles, building with blocks, cutting and pasting, or any activity that involves eye-hand coordination or fine motor skills.
- Creative play: painting, molding, solving problems, making music, telling stories, or any activity that involves a child's imagination.
- Dramatic play: dress-up, make-believe, or any play that involves pretending.

The categories overlap and any activity will likely fall into more than one. For example, playing "Tag" is active and cooperative at the same time. Though children could care less which category their play falls into, it is valuable for parents, teachers, and adults who work with young children to understand the types in order to provide opportunities for children to engage in them all.

### **Has Play Changed?**

Yes, according to the Alliance for Childhood and other research groups. Overscheduling, emphasis on academics in preschool, too much sedentary screen time, lack of safe play spaces, and violent TV/movie-based toys all threaten healthy playtime, putting play at risk. In the wave of expanding accountability in education, millions of preschoolers are now taking standardized tests.

The digital age has had a huge impact on children's play, as well. Dr. David Elkind, noted child development expert, theorizes that a faster speed of life characterized by instant access to information via the Internet and to each other through cell phones has garnered a sense that people can do more. Parents are booking more commitments for children than ever before. This acceleration of life has contributed to the idea that "earlier is better," leading to more academics for young children.

### **How to Promote Healthy, Valuable Play**

Even though research has proven the value of play, play is at risk, making it more important than ever to support healthy play for all children. Here's how:

- Create safe play environments and toys; lobby for clean, safe outdoor play spaces for all children.
- Focus on the learning that happens through play; use play as the means to teach and foster development.

- Provide a wide variety of play experiences and materials through which young kids can try new things, experiment, ask questions, talk, read, sing, dance, get messy at times, explore, and listen.
- Fuel creativity, curiosity, and the desire to know more.
- Allow time for free play in which children are choosing and directing play, balanced with structured play.
- Monitor play and step in with an idea if a conflict arises, offer a new prop when enthusiasm wanes, or redirect play as needed.
- Offer opportunities to play safely outdoors as well as indoors.
- Adopt a playful attitude, and model playing.
- Most importantly, *value play!* Make time for play! Notice and comment on children's healthy play to show that you recognize the importance and meaning of play in their lives.

When young children have adult support for play, they gain confidence and self-esteem. Healthy play improves the child's ability to build relationships, problem-solve, resolve conflict, and understand rules and limits. Healthy play helps children to expand language, discover talents, spark creativity, initiate inspired thinking, define personality, and sort out likes and dislikes. In fact, healthy, valuable play touches on every area of a child's development.

### **Playing for Life**

The president of the American Association for the Child's Right to Play, Dr. Rhonda Clements, says, "It is important to maintain a healthy sense of play throughout childhood and into adulthood. Our complex society requires clear thinkers, playful attitudes, humor and creativity for complex problem solving."

Through joyful, healthy play, children begin a love of learning and prepare for life itself.

Exerpt from: *Learning Through Play*  
By Shelley Butler