

Message from the Director

Slow as a turtle...



Winter blues, winter blahs! Lack of daylight, cloudy days and rain or snow, cold weather---all of these contribute to "winter blues." Adults and children alike can suffer from "the blues" this time of year, which can cause lack of motivation to move and get things done While hunkering down and becoming a couch potato is common we must get some things done and done on time! Unfortunately, though, *children* are likely to "dawdle!" Dawdling children most often cause parents to become frustrated, so attached to this newsletter is an article, "End the Dawdling," which explains the reasons for dawdling and some tips to help you to get your child to move when it is time to move!

No worries, though, Spring is just around the corner! Happy Spring!!!!

**Remember, we have NO SCHOOL for Spring Break, March 29-APRIL 6
HAPPY EASTER!**

News from Friday Friends

This month we will work on Easter-themed projects. We will discuss weather and Spring as well. We will also be reviewing shapes and colors as well as working on number/letter recognition and patterns. We will continue to work on recognizing our names in print. The children seem to enjoy playing with and building structures for the dinosaurs in the block area. We will also be hoping for some warm weather so we can play outside again!

Our Easter Party is March 23. Please look for a sign-up sheet to appear hanging near your child's cubby or coat hooks for items needed for our Easter Party day! Also, please send in 2 white hard boiled eggs with your child on the day of the party. NO SCHOOL March 29 and April 6 for Spring Break. Happy Easter!

News from Threes

Dinosaurs have entered the classroom! We have been learning about these interesting creatures and some of their habits. These dinosaurs will be in the block area where the children will have lots of opportunity to construct homes for them. We also have been working really hard at learning to

recognize our names in print. This will be an ongoing endeavor until the end of our school year. We are participating in activities and playing games which practice counting and recognizing numerals 0-5. We continue to work on identifying and naming shapes. For some children these concepts are still difficult, so practice at home would be beneficial.

Easter Parties for TTh classes will be March 27 and for MW classes March 28. **Please bring two hard boiled white eggs so we can color them the day of the party.** Please look for sign-up sheets in the hallway for items needed to fill our Easter baskets, as well!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Field Trips to Delhi Pet Center will be April 23 for MW classes and April 24 for the TTH classes. Look for permission slips with more details in your child's cubby in early April.

News from Fours

The month of March makes all of us hopeful for warmer, Spring days. This month we will begin discussing the wind, rain and rainbows that come in the Spring season. You will begin to see signs of Spring and Easter around school -- rainbows, kites, umbrellas, ducks and eggs. Bicycle and skating, car, and Fire Safety will be a focus as we learn about Health and Safety. Please remember to discuss your home Fire Evacuation and Meeting place plan with your preschool child and your entire family!

Our last field trip of the year will be to the Green Township Fire Department on Harrison Ave. We will be going on Monday, March 19 for M/W/F classes and on Tuesday, March 20 for T/TH and T/TH/F classes. Please return the permission form by the due date of March 6/7.

Our Easter party will be Tuesday, March 27 and Wednesday, March 28th. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the hallway asking for different items to be brought in to be placed in each child's Easter basket. Please take time to sign up! We will be coloring eggs on Monday, March 26th. **Each child should bring two hard boiled eggs to school with them by Friday, March 23.**

Vocabulary and Concepts: graph, sequence, evacuation

Letters: Q,U,F

Numbers: teens



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News from Pre-K

This month we complete our unit on health and safety by discussing fire safety, culminating with a trip to the firehouse. With spring just around the bend (YEAH!) we will do spring related activities, discuss March weather (wind, rain and rainbows), do experiments and create spring Art. We will also do Easter related activities.

Throughout the month we will continue to create alphabet art, as well as alphabet writing, and we will continue our travels around the world.

We will visit Russia, where we will learn about the Russian art form called pysanky.

Be sure to ask your child about it!

Our field trip to the Green Township Fire House will be on Monday, March 19th.

Our Easter party will be Wednesday, March 28th. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the hallway asking for different items to be brought in to be placed in each child's Easter basket. Please take time to sign up! We will be coloring eggs on Monday, March 26th. **Each child should bring two hard boiled eggs to school with them on Friday, March 23rd**

Vocabulary and Concepts: pysanky, estimation, life cycle

Letters: Q, U, and F

Numbers: teens

Music and Motor Skills

During the month of March we will be singing some classic sing-along songs and I will introduce a few new instruments to the children. In Motor Skills we will be participating in catching and throwing activities which will increase our eye-hand coordination. We will continue to work on our balance, as well. Dancing is a great cardio workout, so we will, as usual, dance! Perhaps we can get our heart racing fast enough to keep up with our feet!

News from Art

You may have noticed the colorful Cardinals gracing our front hall. In February your child's art lesson was on Charley Harper. It certainly was fun and educational to create *Cardinal Collages in a Birch Wood*, mimicking Harper's minimalistic style. The PreK class created a collaborative work, *Winter Birds of Ohio*, also in a birch wood. In March our Four Class artists and I will meet again to learn about Paul Klee and his



work. The children will listen to *Bolero* as they create a continuous line drawing. Filling in the spaces with paint is exacting, yet relaxing work. Look for your child's art to appear in the Art Gallery soon! PreK will learn about the American artist Georgia O'Keefe, her life, and her artistic vision. They will then work individually to create flowers reminiscent of Georgia O'Keefe's style. Their florals will then, once again, come together to create a "flower garden" mural just in time for Spring!

Please Help Us to Play Safely!

Please do **NOT** send your child to school in **any foot attire except for sturdy gym shoes**. Rubber boots, fancy shoes, cowboy boots, Ugg-type boots, slip-ons, etc. are not safe for jumping, hopping, dancing, climbing, and tumbling, all activities which we participate in here at Creative, both indoors and out. Young children need sturdy, well-fitting foot attire for the safety of themselves and others.

VIP Day

VIP Day was a big success! All of the children and their special guests had a very enjoyable time! Thanks to all of the volunteers for making the day run smoothly. Mostly, a huge thank you to Amanda Prickett and Amy Schneider for all of the time and hard work you put in to making this day fun for all!

Registration News

Pre-registration has ended! All families who turned in their paperwork on time were able to get their first or second choice for classes next year. A few openings are available in TTh morning 4s, and TTh PM 3s, as well as Friday Friends, so pass the word on to friends and family who are looking for a preschool for next year.

Tuition Reminder

The last tuition payment for the 2017-2018 school year is due on April 15. The first tuition installment for the 2018-2019 school year is due by May 1. Thank you for keeping tuition payments up to date!

Spring Playground Clean-up

With the weather getting warmer it is time to get the playground ready to use. Our spring playground cleanup will be held on March 10 at 9 AM; rain date March 31st. With enough help, the cleanup should go quickly. Please contact



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Lauren Gray at lmkneflin@aol.com or 513-604-0690 if you will be able to help.

Parent-Teacher Board Officers Needed

Many thanks to all of the Creative Preschool families who have volunteered during school events this year; our school is the wonderful place that it is due to your dedicated help! We will need to fill several Board positions for the 2018-2019 school year. If you are interested in working with the Parent-Teacher Board please contact Lori Tranter (lpetrungaro@hotmail.com) or join us at the next Board Meeting on Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. for more information. At the March Board Meeting we will finish plans for the Carnival, so please come to see what you can do to help!

Please Note Change in Date

The May Board meeting has been moved to Wednesday, May 2, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend!

Easter Bunny Volunteers Needed

The school is hoping to celebrate Easter with a visit from the Easter Bunny! We're looking for volunteers who are 5'5" tall or less and are willing to commit an hour or so to dress up in our bunny costume for one or more of the class parties. We need a bunny for both morning and afternoon classes on March 23rd, 27th, & 28th. Don't worry — there is no speaking required, just the ability to nod and hop a bit! If you or someone you know can be our bunny and make our little ones smile, please contact Amanda at aerprickett@gmail.com or Amy schneideramyn@gmail.com.



Fundraiser News

Thanks to everyone who went to Chipotle on February 12 for our fundraiser. Our school appreciates your support and raised over \$450 from your efforts!

Our next event is coming up! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

What: Mothers Night Out

When: Friday, March 9, 2018

Time: 5:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Location: Mercy HealthPlex Western Hills
3131 Queen City Ave.

Type of Event: Shopping from local vendors and socializing with other ladies.

Free entry! Free Drinks and Appetizers! Complimentary Give-away bags! All purchases support Creative Preschool!

For more information or questions, please email Fundraisingcp2018@gmail.com

Carnival News

The Creative Preschool Carnival is Saturday, May 19 from 11am-3pm, and it is a great family-friendly event. Come enjoy a day complete with lunch, baked goods, games, bouncy house, sno-cones, face painting, basket raffles, and more!

Please continue to donate any gently used or new stuffed animals and Happy Meal-type toys for Carnival prizes. Thank you for your generosity!

By the beginning of March you will receive a notice in your child's cubby regarding your classroom's basket for the basket raffle. If you have any questions about the donation or the basket raffle please do not hesitate to contact your Room Mom or one of the Carnival VP's, Lori Tranter (520-1626) or Lauren DeFranco (226-1922). We will also gladly accept any donations you can make in addition to the donation for your classroom's basket.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THE CARNIVAL A SUCCESS!

Look for class sign-ups for game booths to be sent through SignUp Genius by the end of March. Please take the time to sign up for an hour slot! Of course, your child may enjoy being your 'helper' with the game. There are many ways to help.

Who can help and how?

- Grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcomed as volunteers!

- Junior high and high schoolers in need of service hours are needed!

- Skilled and unskilled volunteers to face paint, help set up, handle parking, bake sale, etc. are needed.

- If you or anyone you know owns a business or has contacts that would be willing to donate food items (ie, buns, hot dogs, burgers, drinks, chips, ice, etc) please contact Lori or Amy ASAP. The more we receive via donation, the less the school has to purchase for the Carnival!

- Advertise the Carnival! Invite your family and friends, post on your facebook page, put a sign (available in early May) in your yard!



Is your child slow as a turtle? Read on!

End the Dawdling

from *The No-Cry Discipline Solution* (McGraw-Hill 2007)

by Elizabeth Pantley

Does your child move at an excruciatingly slow pace? Do you find it frustrating when you need to get somewhere and you're rushing about - yet you have to keep prodding him along?

Children live according to a much slower clock than we adults do. They don't give a moment's thought to what they might be doing next. They prefer to enjoy each moment for what it is. They pause as they watch the cat sleep, examine the color patterns in the carpet, and ponder the reasons for having toes.

If you think about it, it's a shame that we can't all live on "kid-time." But since we can't, here are a few tips to keep things moving along.

Give specific step-by-step directions.

Make incremental requests that your child can easily follow. Give your child one or two tasks at a time, and when complete, assign the next. *"Please put your puzzle in the box and go to the bathroom."*

Make a list.

Write down or illustrate the sequence of tasks to be completed and give the list to your child with a pencil to cross things off as they're done.

Give an incentive to finish.

Encourage your child to finish the task with a "When/Then" statement, such as, *"When you get in the car, then you can have your crackers."*

Analyze your own daily schedule.

Determine if you are trying to do too much. If you are, see if you can make some changes. Start focusing on the priorities in your life, eliminate some of the unnecessary time-wasters, and slow *yourself* down a little bit.

Check your child's nap and sleep schedules.

Children who aren't getting a proper amount of sleep will lack energy and tend to move slowly and dawdle.

Don't rush your child with the words, "Come on!" or "Hurry up!"

These requests tend to frustrate children and then they rush to the point of taking *extra* time to make up for the mistakes that happen when they move too fast.

Don't reinforce the pattern.

Children often dawdle out of habit. A parent will announce, "*Time to go*" and then be distracted by a phone call or a household task (so then it really *isn't* time to go.) Children come to expect that you'll repeat yourself numerous times before they have to respond. Practice this: think before you speak, make a very specific request, and then follow through.

Don't expect speed.

Allow a reasonable amount of time for your child to meet your request. Watch your child to learn his pace. Just because you are in a hurry doesn't mean your child will move any faster than his usual speed.

Avoid miscommunication.

Make clear, specific statements that don't leave room for misunderstanding. As an example, instead of the vague statement, "*Get ready to go,*" clarify by saying, "*Right now, would you please put on your shoes and your coat, and get in the car.*"