



March News You Can Use

Dear Preschool Families-

It 's MARCH! Time flies when you are having fun and we LOVE having fun learning in preschool. February was very busy celebrating Black History Month, Two's Day, Valentine's Day, 100 Days of School-it felt like non-stop fun! We really enjoy watching your children learn and grow in school and how far they have come along since August! If there is anything we can do to support your child this last trimester, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

For the last trimester, we will have activities for students going off to kindergarten and may even have our first field trip in the Spring for the students (if we can get a bus-they are hard to come by these days!). Please make sure you are checking emails from the district and your child's folder for any important information or possible permission slips-we will keep you posted!

Parents of 2022-23 incoming kindergarten students-please look for an email from our district office coming around March 21st. The email will include an online form for you to complete, so our district can get an idea of who is coming to kindergarten next year. Please spread the word to anyone you know residing in District 126 boundaries with a future kindergarten student. Students entering kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year will need to be 5 years of age on or before September 1st.

For students who will stay with us in preschool for the 2022-23 school year, you will register your child online starting in June through Skyward. More information will come to you in late spring about the 2022-23 school year. Stay tuned!



Read Across America Month

March is Read Across America Month. Reading is such an important activity to build language, increase attention, support creativity and imagination as well as support social emotional development. Books can also help parents talk to their children about different life events and big feelings. The Alsip Library recently donated board books to the Early Childhood Center. We will pass out a book for each child to take home. Parents should also check out their local libraries in our area for free classes and to get your own library card!

Click the link below from the National Association for the Education of Young Children about Literacy, Reading and Language.

[8 Creative Ideas to Help Your Child Learn New Words | NAEYC](#)

Report Cards

Student report cards are coming home on March 11th. If you have questions or concerns about your child, please reach out to the classroom teacher. We do not have formal conferences for the second trimester and will set up meetings on an individual basis. Reports provided are looking at specific readiness skills and will also target what your child will work on next.

Picture Day is coming soon!

Our new picture day will be **Friday, March 11th**. This will be a retake day and a day for any new students to take pictures. Forms to order pictures went home with students. Please check their folders.

Mobile Dentist Coming May 5th

We will once again schedule a Dental Clinic at school in May through Orland Park Dental. This is a wonderful Mobile Dental Service, providing children with a free exam from a dentist and a cleaning from a hygienist. It also counts for the mandatory kindergarten dental exam! The company will send more information closer to our date in May. You will receive an online consent form and if your child has their dental exam here, we will send their state required dental exam to their home school for kindergarten! The service will be open to all students in our program. Parents do not have to worry about missing work or other obligations. It all happens during the day while your child is with us at school. Please reach out for further questions. Information will come home soon!

A couple of reminders-

1. We appreciate our families keeping children home when they are ill and cooperating with picking your child up early, when they are showing signs of illness at school. Please remember, most symptoms, like excessive coughing, would be a symptom that would have kept children home pre-Covid days. As a reminder, if your child is absent for three consecutive days due to illness, a doctor's note is required for return. Thank you for your understanding.
Please check our website for Health Reminders about when students should stay home from school—> <https://www.dist126.org/health-and-wellness>
2. **Attendance-** Please remember to call your child into the attendance line of our office (not the teacher's phone number) if your child is not going to attend for the day. Our families have been doing a great job with this, but keep it up. If you do not call us,

Mrs. Zavala is required to contact you to find out why your child is absent. **The phone number is 708-631-0490 select option 2.**

- 3. Masks**-As a reminder, masks are optional in our school building. We have a few students who come with a mask in their backpack, but might get out of the car with no mask. Some of the students are then putting their masks on from their backpack, once in class. Teachers want to make sure we are respecting the wishes of parents either way (no mask/mask). If you want your child to continue to wear a mask, please let us know.
- 4. Pick up and drop off**-Thank you for following the procedures for pick up and drop off. One thing we ask is for safety reasons, **please do not drive around another car to exit the line.** We know it might take some of our students a little longer to get into their vehicles. If you have any questions or concerns for the teacher, please email or contact the teacher so pick up and drop off can be safe and quick.

Thank you for all of your support!
Gina Fiske-Early Childhood Coordinator



A look ahead....

March 7th-No School-Pulaski Day

March 11th-Picture Retake Day and Report Cards going home

March 16th-No school for Preschool

March 17th-Wear Green! We are lucky to be in Preschool for St. Patrick 's Day!

March 28th-April 1st-SPRING BREAK



Here's what happening in your child's classroom



Mrs Gudino's Blue Room- We are coming to the end of our bread study! Students have enjoyed role playing in our classroom's Dunkin' Donut shop and current pizzeria. Students have explored through play how we can make and eat bread, and have learned different ways we can be safe in the kitchen. We have also discussed the importance of staying healthy, this includes asking a grown-up for permission before putting something into their body (i.e. medicine, glue, objects that may look like candy). We have talked about the students' circle of trust, and the students understand the people in their circle of trust are only the people who love and care for them, and would never hurt them. To celebrate Black History Month, the students in room 109 learned about Garret Morgan, the traffic light inventor, and Alma Thomas, who was a teacher and famous artist. The students also enjoyed listening to the story called *I Am Brave*, a book about Martin Luther King Jr. The students enjoyed working on their mosaic hearts for Valentine's Day, inspired by Alma Thomas' colorful and vivid paintings.

Coffey's Purple Room -The students in Ms. Coffey's class have been learning about water and what we use water for in school and at home. We have explored how we can use water to create and we investigated how to make ice. The students celebrated Black History Month by reading various stories, especially one that explored what students want to be when they grow up. Some answers included becoming doctors, astronauts, and a teacher! The students had so much fun celebrating the 100th day of school, Valentine's Day, and Two's Day! Through AI's Pals the students are learning about what makes them special and how lucky they are.

Stachulak's Green Room- The green room had a fun filled February. We celebrated Valentine's Day, 100s days and 2's day! On Valentine's Day we investigated whether candy hearts would sink or float in water, soda, and vinegar. The kiddos looked amazing as 100 year olds! We have begun the Pet Study. The students have loved sharing pictures of their pets with the class. Our class voted on a name for our new fish and Princess T-Rex was the winner! She shares her tank with several shrimp as well. The students enjoy caring for Princess T-Rex. We have many fun things happening this month that we are looking forward to!

Herbold's Orange Room-The orange room just finished up learning about our core words 'listen/hear.' We played listening guessing games and talked about loud and quiet sounds. We practiced listening to teachers and friends. The students enjoyed participating in a Sounds on the Farm scavenger hunt around the classroom for our final 'listen/hear' activity. Our next core word will be 'want'. On Monday, we played an ice cream scoop game with Ms. Bennett in speech to practice asking for what flavor of pretend ice cream we 'want'. At the end of the game, we counted how many scoops were on the big ice cream cone. We will be practicing our core word 'want' for the next two weeks.

Do you need to reach us?

Here is a one page sheet with our information, office hours and staff contact information---->>>[ECC Information Sheet](#)



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