



February News You Can Use

Dear Preschool Families-

We were excited to welcome back our preschoolers on January 5th! They were very excited to tell us stories of what they did over break and got right back to work in the classroom. We will continue to go outside (weather permitting) during Gross Motor Time. Our guideline generally is we use our playground, if with the windchill, the temperature is 20 degrees or above. Please have your child dressed for the weather each day. It has been a little too cold and snowy lately, but hopefully we will get to play outside soon!

We have been sending snacks home with students for the time being, until the recent COVID surge seems to get a little better. If we notice a student is very hungry and would like a snack, we have no problem giving them one while they are here. Please check your child's backpack for their daily snack. This will be followed until further notice. Additionally, we are incorporating more handwashing and smaller groups during playtime. As you know, it is not an easy task keeping preschoolers distanced and to still preserve a meaningful learning environment. We continue to sanitize spaces and toys daily. If you have any questions, please ask!



Picture Day Rescheduled

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. More information is coming soon.

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. **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.**
2. **Illness-** We appreciate our families' keeping your 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. Thank you for your understanding.
3. **Masks-** Please make sure your child is attending school with a properly fitted mask. We know with the smaller children, this can be difficult. To help with the masks fitting more properly, you can tie a knot at the end of the mask. With the new guidance that has come out, one of the criteria for a child to have a reduced quarantine for a close contact to a positive COVID case, is the close contact has to wear their mask properly (above nose, covering mouth and chin). We will need to adhere to this at school. Most of the students are great about wearing their masks!
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....

February 11th-100th Day of Preschool! Dress up like you are 100 years old! See Flyer at the end of this newsletter.

February 14th-Happy Valentine Day! Wear Red or pink to school! More information is coming soon. A reminder that we do not pass out candy or homemade treats at school. We will have fun activities planned for students.

February 16th-No school for Early Childhood Center

February 21st-No School for President's Day

February 22nd-TWOS-Day! Fun activities planned for this special event. Dress in doubles, wear a "Tutu", wear two of something, match a friend like twins. It's all about two on this special TWOSDAY, February 22nd!

March 7th-No School-Pulaski Day

March 11th-Picture Retake Day

March 16th-No school for Preschool

March 28th-April 1st-SPRING BREAK



Here's what happening in your child's classroom



Mrs Gudino's Blue Room- Students have explored and investigated what kinds of bread they like to eat. The students participated in our classroom graph called "What is your favorite kind of bread?" We found most of the students (in both sessions) really love to eat pancakes. We also made waffles on Friday! The students helped mix the ingredients for our special waffle recipe, and observed how waffles are made using a waffle maker. The students sliced their own strawberries and bananas to eat as their waffle toppings. For our social-emotional lesson, the students in room 109 have learned about the importance of taking care of our body and mind by making healthy choices. We will continue to review more on making healthy choices this week!

Coffey's Purple Room -The students in Ms. Coffey's room are beginning the Water Study this week and will be exploring how water freezes and melts. The students have been celebrating the Balls Study over the last two weeks playing kick ball, t-ball, and soccer with our Speech Therapist Mrs. Kiffmeyer! With Al's Pals we have explored big feeling words like disappointed, frustrated, and annoyed and it has been rewarding to hear students express their feelings in the classroom using their new vocabulary.

Stachulak's Green Room-Our class loved the Bread Study! We were able to build and decorate gingerbread houses, bake waffles, cook pizzas and quesadillas! Our class learned all about following recipes and how to cook safely! During the Bread Study our Dramatic play center transformed into a Donut Shop and then a Pizzeria. The students loved taking turns playing different roles together! We look forward to our next study Pets.

Herbold's Orange Room-Ms. Herbold's classroom is continuing to work on our core words look and see. Our class has been very interested in "looking" outside and checking the weather. Students are reporting cold and snow! We have a picture chart to help us take turns each day to be the "weather helper" and the students get excited when it is their turn. When it is not "my turn" we work on handling our disappointment and cheering for our friend who gets a turn on that day. On Thursday, Feb. 10th, we will have our special activity in Ms. Bennett's speech room. We will make valentine sensory bottles and have a heart scavenger hunt!

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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Make sure you sign up for your classroom teacher Class Tag account for quick messages and news!

HAPPY 100 DAYS



Our 100th day of school will be FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
To celebrate, we would love to have the class dress up as if we are all 100 years old ☺ This is optional—but I am including some simple ideas below for what your child could wear!
"Old" ladies: Printed skirt, pearls, eye glasses, sweater, wig or curled hair style, gray hair spray, knee high stockings, large purse, scarf
"Old" gentlemen: button down shirt, flannel shirt, suspenders, tie, eye glasses, drawn on mustache or beard, gray hair spray
Looking forward to seeing some stylish 100 year olds! As always, thank you for your support at home!