

GRENLOCH TERRACE

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

APRIL'S NEWSLETTER – 2017

CLASSROOM
COLLAGE



Spring is here! The preschool students have been observing, and talking about, all of the changes that spring brings. They are noticing changes in weather, and the blossoming of flowers and trees. They've been reading about spring, and creating beautiful art. In honor of Autism Awareness month, the preschoolers decorated paper puzzle pieces, to show that "we all fit together". The children hung their puzzle pieces on the wall across from the library, along with all of GTECC's preschool and kindergarten students. Play Center themes this month included farm and farm animals, construction, and Nursery Rhyme Land. For Earth Day, we will be planting seeds and learning about recycling. Play is preschoolers' work, and through play the children are developing their cognitive skills, communication, motor skills, and social-emotional skills. Many of the youngsters are asking about playing with each other outside of the classroom. With warmer weather upon us, you may want to consider arranging play dates at the park. Feel free to use the class contact list to reach out to other parents. (Ask your child's teacher if you need a new copy). The preschool teachers and staff wish you a joyful Spring Break!

The classes of Miss Bucci, Ms. Dillard, Miss Drummond and Mrs. Lamanna were all eagerly waiting for spring to arrive. March came in like a Lion and out like a Lamb. Rhymes like 'April showers bring May flowers' help us learn about spring and the changes this season brings while also reinforcing the concept of rhyming. We are continuing to develop our literacy skills with writing activities, guided reading and comprehension strategies. Everyday Math skills are a part of our everyday activities as we count, read numbers, measure objects, and practice our addition and subtraction. We have all been very busy. **HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!**



Welcome spring or at least we hope so!!!
Mrs. Martin's, Ms. Lipinski's,
Mrs. Otto's, Mr. O'Brien's,
Miss Crehan's and Miss Rigby's
children are learning about spring and the changes it brings all around us. We continue to enjoy writing stories and reading our guided reading books. In math, we will continue to work with Gus the Plus and Linus the Minus and our 3-D shapes! We will also be learning about measurement! We will be exploring the science of living and non-living things comparing real worms to gummy

worms. We will be learning about seeds and how they grow. We will even be talking about oviparous animals!! What's that you might ask??? Continue reading to your child every night, practicing sight words, printing their names, numbers, letters and counting. The year is going by very quickly! All of the children are working hard and doing a wonderful job! Thank you so much for your support.

The boys and girls in Mrs. Blome/ Mrs. Mickelson, Mr. Gerwald/ Mrs. Doak, Ms. Campbell and Mrs. White/Mrs. Leimberg classes are learning about chicks and bunnies this month. There will also be many seasonal crafts, books on animal babies and eggs, as well as new Free Choice Areas. The children will also be studying our Earth and how we can "make a difference" for earth day. Our students will be studying trees in preparation for Arbor Day too. The boys and girls are working hard in both math and reading. The children are sounding out words and reading sight words. Math skills this month include adding, subtracting and measuring.



THE LITERACY CENTER



Sight words or trick words are words that appear frequently in most text, however these words cannot easily be sounded out.

Sight words are recalled through memorization and automatically recognized. Learning sight words or trick words helps children become more confident readers. Your child is learning our kindergarten sight words through daily experiences with reading and writing. Although students are not expected to master these words until the end of the kindergarten year, it is important to practice these words at home. Here are some games you can play at home to practice learning the kindergarten sight words.

- Simple sight Word Bingo
- Sight Word Tic- Tac - Toe
- Roll a Sight word
- Find sight words in familiar books
- Sight word target practice

Kindergarten sight words: a, the, as, my, are, do, and, be, to, by, for, he, from, me, his, has, you, I, or, is, was, she, they, have, she, we, of.

Please feel free to contact the Reading Specialists Carin Cooper ext. 4416 or Maria Rygalski ext. 4422 with any questions you may have about the kindergarten curriculum

LIBRARY LIFE



Let's Play Ball", a familiar expression this time of the year. During the month of April, the students will be introduced to not only the *ins and outs* of baseball but the **biographies** of many famous ball players, such players as Jackie Robinson, Mike Trout, and Derek Jeter. I realize that there are many more players, but I wanted to get someone from the distant past, not too long ago and the present. Rest assure I will talk about Babe Ruth. At the end of the month, I hope the weather holds out so that I can take the students out for some batting practice. Don't forget to visit my e-board for suggested reading for the month of April. Finally, I want to thank everyone for supporting our spring book fair. It was very successful. Also, a special thanks to the parents who volunteered each day. Without your help, there would not have been one.

Mrs. DeAngelis

SLMS

KINDERGARTEN TECHIES

We have begun "coding". Coding is the way we tell computers to do all the helpful things they do for us. We will begin to learn to code by starting with a short, simple program. When the students have gotten a handle on it, Mrs. DeAngelis will list the website on the teacher page. You can view the website that we are currently working on by going to:



<https://www.brainpop.com/games/tyinker-puppyadventure/>

In addition, the students have begun using the touch pad on the laptop. For some it has been an easy transition but to others, like myself, a little more difficult because we are mouse dependent. Happy spring!

SPEAKING OF SPEECH



Speaking of Speech Mrs. Meeks would like to thank all of the parents who continue to help your child with their speech and language homework. It won't be long until the school year ends! Near the end of April, please look for an e-mail from Washington Township Special Education Department, letting you know that your child's speech and language progress report is available to read when you log in to Power School. Each of you will be contacted about an annual review meeting for your child. This is the meeting where we meet to discuss the progress your child has made this year and the recommendations for next year for your child's speech and language needs. These meetings will be held in May and June. I try to coordinate your meeting with your teacher conference, so that you do not have to come to school on two different days. At times that is not possible due to other meetings I may have, in which case I will contact you about meeting at another time. May is the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association's designated month to celebrate and think about good communication skills.

For those of you who have older children, there is an excellent web site, sponsored by the American Speech and Hearing Association, which explains to children the safe use their I-Pods and other musical gadgets. It also includes a game they can play to emphasize listening to music at a safe loudness to avoid hearing losses over time. The site is: www.listentoyourbuds.org. I look forward to meeting with each of you before the year ends!



SPECIAL SPECIALS

In Mrs. Stracciolini's Art classes the children finished their oil pastel portraits and they all came out beautiful. Our next project was a picture of the Earth using warm and cool colors.



The students learned about cool colors and we reinforced warm colors during class. We worked on framing our pictures and also had a chance to decorate the frames using a black marker. We are now designing pictures of giant Eggs using our scented markers. The students love to work with these markers and will be taking their Egg pictures home. Happy spring!!

The students have been working on throwing and catching in Mrs. Laczkowski's Physical Education classes. This month we are also looking forward to learning about T Ball concepts such as: Batting, Fielding and Base Running. Please remember to send your child(ren) to school wearing sneakers and



appropriate clothing that they are comfortable to move in on the days that they are scheduled for physical education class. Also, as we look forward to warmer weather, we will begin heading back outside for physical education classes. Be sure to keep the weather forecast in mind when dressing your child for school. Thank you in advance.

Students in Ms. Sebastiani's music classes are learning folk tales and nursery rhymes. We are reading some fun books such as Abiyoyo, a folk tale and lullaby from South Africa. The children love to sing the song solo and with small groups. We are also adding music from the farm: Old Mac Donald, Fiddle I Fee, and Hey Diddle Diddle, 5 Little Ducks, 5 Green and Speckled Frogs. We recite the stories as short poems and chants before singing as a group. The farm song tales add animal sounds which the kids really enjoy!



EXCITING ESL

Our ELL students have been doing so well and Mrs. Daly is so proud of their progress!



The vocabulary words they are learning are above, below, behind, in front, between, first, next and last. A great way to practice these words is by using them at home or at the grocery store. You can use the items on the grocery shelf to give your child practice finding something above their belly button, below their nose, on the bottom shelf and between other items on the shelf. To practice math skills you can ask, "How many apples do we need so each person in the family gets one?" Have your child use

their fingers to count the number of people in your family and how many apples they need to buy. Have him / her count the apples as you put them into the bag. It's also fun to look for shapes (examples: circles, rectangles or triangles) as you go through the store. You can also ask your child to find a big fruit, a bigger fruit and the biggest fruit in the produce section. Thank you for your support and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at tdaly@wtps.org.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Spring has sprung!
(Somewhat)

Ms. Llerandi classes are teaching the students about what makes a good friend and good qualities of friends. Discussion about each of us being special in our own ways will also be a topic with the students. Do you know what a Bucket-Filler and a Bucket-Dipper are? Ask your student to give you some examples. I would like to wish everyone a safe, fun and relaxing Spring Break. As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 856-227-1303 ext. 4425 or via email at ELlerandi@wtps.org.



NURSE NOTES

Please remember to call your child out when they are absent. Call 856-227-1303 and press '1' for attendance. You can leave a message on the



answering machine anytime. Per our School Policy, your child needs to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine before returning to school. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, please keep them home for 24 hours after it has stopped. This reduces the spread of illness. Thanks you! Questions or concerns call 856-227-1303 press 2 for the nurse.

HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL HAPPENINGS



Spring has sprung and the kids are loving the warm weather. We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Yankee Candle sale. Pick up date will be May 1st from 4 to 8 Pm. More information will be sent home. We will have our monthly HSC meeting on the 19th at 7pm. Coming up in may we have so much to look forward to, Chuckie Cheese, fun day and family night out at PJs. Look at for flyers in your child's back pack. As always, we appreciate your support! Please visit our Facebook page for more information and upcoming events at: GTECC Home and School Council. You can also find information on our website at <http://www.wtps.org/Page/568> . If you have any questions for the executive board please email me at Alanahayden1112@yahoo.com
Thank you!



PRINCIPAL'S POST SCRIPT

Many thanks to our Home and School volunteers and to Mrs. DeAngelis for organizing our March book fair and thank you for supporting this event for our children! Our Home and School also arranged to have the Spring Bunny visit us the first week of spring! It was a fun sight as we got off the bus that day and it reminded us that warm weather, flowers and play time outside are just around the corner! Our bus drivers enjoyed a small treat from our Home and School on 'Bus Driver Appreciation Day' on the same day as the Spring Bunny. Some of the drivers even had their picture taken with the Bunny. Our bus drivers are awesome and they are such an important part of our school day. I know you appreciate their patience and careful driving every day and they really enjoyed the treats, the banner made by the children and some special cards made by the children. Spring break is almost here and I trust that you and your

family will enjoy some relaxed time with your family without the rush of getting backpacks, snacks, lunches and 'homework' ready each day. I know our children and staff are looking forward to the break. The week school is back in session we will have two early dismissal days for the purpose of parent/teacher conferences (Thursday and Friday, April 21st and 22nd). Watch for the notice in the back pack. May and June will fly by with bus tours for incoming children, celebrations at the end of the year called 'special endings', Fun Day and year book



signing. More to come on these special events next month!

Enjoy spring and the longer daylight with your children! Get out and play!

This time will pass so quickly.....



Kindergarten only: Save the date!

- **May 31st Green Wing** (hall by the office); Campbell (Kozlowski), Gerwald/Doak, White/Leimberg, Blome/Mickelson
- **June 1st-Blue Wing** (center hall of the new building); Bucci , Dillard, Drummond, Lamanna
- **June 2nd - Red Wing** (original building) Lipinski, Martin, Otto, Chranowski, Rigby

Each teacher will send home more specific information about the times as it gets closer to the date. This activity occurs right in your child's classroom during their normal session. Parents are encouraged to attend.

As always, thank you for your support and for sharing your children with us,

Wendy Crawford

Wendy Crawford
GTECC Principal

