



GRENLOCH TERRACE

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

NEWSLETTER - March 2017



CLASSROOM
COLLAGE



The children in Ms. Crehan's, Ms. Lipinski's, Mrs. Martin's, Miss Rigby's, Mrs. Otto's and Mr. O'Brien's classes are anxiously awaiting the official start to spring! This month, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. To prepare for this exciting event, the children will be learning songs and poems that we will perform during our Dr. Seuss pep rally, as well as reading books written by Dr. Seuss. We would like to thank our guest readers for helping celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We will also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day, and the coming of spring. We are continuing to grow in our development with writing daily and reading words. We are learning about rhyming and retelling. In Math,



we continue using our ten frame, counting how many days we have been in school, and by 5's, 10's and backwards. We will also continue to learn about addition, with Gus the Plus, and subtraction, with Linus the Minus.

Boys and girls in the Green Wing enjoyed the Read America celebration the first week of March. Special guests Cat in the Hat and Thing One and Thing Two were welcome visitors. March celebrations continue with Saint Patrick's Day. The children will be enjoying making crafts, listening to Irish music as well as some holiday snacks. The children are also excited for spring's arrival. There will be many more days to enjoy and explore the outside. The children are making wonderful progress learning to read sight words as well as CVC words. The boys and girls have also been busy learning three dimensional shapes, and naming tens and ones in two digit numbers. The classes have also begun to work on adding simple numbers.



Miss Bucci, Ms. Dillard and Miss Drummond and Mrs. Lamanna kicked off our month with the celebration of Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday. What an exciting day! We celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday in conjunction with Read Across America Day to emphasize how important it is to read. Excitedly we are awaiting the arrival of spring. The Spring Bunny will soon be here. We will learn about St. Patrick's Day and other spring occurrences. Have your child look for signs of spring. It truly is a time of new beginnings! We are "marching" along with



our kindergarten skills, as we get ready for first grade. Thank you for your continued support at home. We greatly appreciate it. Have your child identify familiar words and signs that are around. Have them tell you what things say, the letters it begins and ends with and the sound those letters make. You would be surprised how every bit of reinforcement helps and how much knowledge is all around us every day!



February was a month filled with LOVE and HYGIENE. The Pre-school students enjoyed making heart crafts and exchanging valentines with their classmates. We also had a special assembly with our favorite dentist-Dr. Dave! The students learned about “good tooth” foods and “bad tooth” foods as well as what steps need to be taken to keep their smile extra sparkly. We all can’t wait for the warmer weather to arrive to get onto our playground.

LIBRARY LIFE



With March comes the season of spring and planting new flowers. Keeping that in mind, I am focusing on *worms*. The students continue working on understanding the difference between fiction and non-fiction in Mrs. DeAngelis’ Library classes. So exploring the subject of worms the children will get true information from such books as *It’s a Good Thing There are Earthworms* by Jodie Shepherd and *Worms* by Sian Smith. However, the fiction side will come alive with the story *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin and my favorite song “Hormie the Worm”. I am adding a little something extra by having the students’ measure worms. What kind you ask, please ask your child around the 23rd to 28th for that answer.

- Keep in mind that **the *Spring Book Fair* is scheduled for three days: March 24, 27 & 28th. Our family night is Tuesday, 28th from 5:30-7:00.**
- Finally, don’t forget to visit my **school website**. On it, you will find the *websites* that were used by the students during computer time. Also, there is a *list of suggested reading* for the month of March.

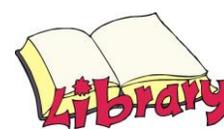


KINDERGARTEN TECHIES

The children in Mrs. DeAngelis’ computer classes have completed their word document activity. You child will be bringing home what they have spent a great deal of time working on during computer class. The project is made up of three components: picture that the student took using an iPad, a couple of sentences written by the student about the picture and a final copy of their work that was developed on the computer. It is important to remember that the students did all of this work on their own. This project enabled them to use the keyboard for typing the sentences, using the space bar and the enter tab. You should be very proud. With that accomplished, we shall begin “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, I will list the website on my teacher page.



In Mrs. Soulliard’s and Mrs. Kersznowski’s classes, we have moved on from mouse skills and have been working on using the keyboard to type our names. We are using the shift key to make the first letter of our name an



uppercase letter. We've also been introduced to the space bar, the enter key, and the backspace key. Next, we will identify the parts of a computer and peripherals like headphones, etc.



SPEAKING OF SPEECH



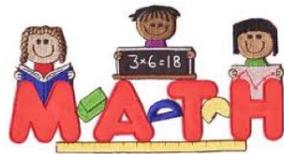
Students are continuing to demonstrate improvement in speech language class as they delve into the third marking period of the school-year. The children happily attend speech language class and are readily participating in the activities each session. Aside from the reinforcing speech language assignments sent home regularly with the children, parents often wonder how they can help a child acquire language skills. In this day and age parents tend to spend as much, if not more, time with their children in the car than they do at home. Hustling the five and six year-olds and their siblings to after-school activities, as well as traveling on the weekends affords parents numerous opportunities to encourage language enrichment in the car. Some automobiles come equipped with DVD players and most have CD or cassette players in them. Watching a movie is a good language experience in itself and quizzing your child following the movie is a wonderful way to develop visual and auditory memory as well as language and auditory processing skills. Playing a *Book on Tape*, or a *Book on CD* in the car is another terrific language building experience. These materials are readily available at the library. Again, be sure to quiz you child using “wh” question words about the names of the main characters (who questions) in the story, places the characters go in the story (where questions), problems the main characters experience in the story (what questions), and the manner in which problems are solved (why/how questions). If there are no books to accompany the cassettes or CDs the children must rely solely on their auditory skills. This exercise is a very good method to strengthen these developing auditory skills as well as a way to improve vocabulary and influence proper sentence structure. As you can see, the

SHARPENING SKILLS

This year at GTECC the students have been utilizing the program

Kindergarten

Everyday Mathematics. This program is based on research and experience that shows that Kindergarteners are capable of far more mathematical learning than was previously believed when the content is presented and explored in age appropriate ways. Research also shows that children have more success with written and symbolic mathematics in later grades if they have a Kindergarten curriculum rooted in concrete experience and understanding. As the students continue to participate in their Kindergarten Everyday Math lessons, they will experience math as useful, enjoyable, and understandable. You can reinforce these experiences at home by having a positive attitude about the mathematical abilities your child already has, thinking aloud when you use math, playing games, using numbers in practical ways, giving hints and not answers, utilizing the Everyday Math games and materials that are available online, and reading the home links material that is sent home with your child. Your ongoing involvement with your child around the mathematics that come up in everyday life will help him or her develop lasting excitement, confidence, and competence in math.



world is an open book just waiting to be absorbed by these young minds. Jump into it with your youngsters and enjoy watching them explore and grow through each and every page of the book!

SPECIALS

In Mrs. Stracciolini's Art Class the children did a great job learning their Primary Colors and creating a Primary Color Heart in the style of Mondrian. We are now working on Portraits using oil pastels and the children are having so much fun using this new art material. I'm so happy the students enjoy Art and are able to be so creative with their projects!



The kindergarten students have been learning about volleyball skills with Mrs. Laczkowski's Physical Education Classes. This month, we can also look forward to some tennis skills as well as movement activities including dance. 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.



March is Music Month for Washington Township Schools. Mrs. Sebastiani's students are learning opposites in music, such as fast and slow, loud and soft, high and low notes. Students enjoy using vocal exploration and body movements to tell demonstrate the musical terms. We are reading song tales and singing along to story books.



Some fun spring songs to try at home are: Five Green and Speckled Frogs and Six Little Ducks.

EXCITING ESL

ESL – Extraordinarily Smart Learners

Ms. Daly's ESL students are making great progress! This month they learned about Valentine's Day and about two of the most famous presidents in American History: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We also had a guest speaker read to them I'm New Here by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Our ELL theme this month has been about animals and in particular farm animals. We've learned their names, the noises they make and what they look like. The students did a wonderful job using newly learned adjectives to describe the animals' size, shape, color and whether they are fast or slow, loud or quiet. Moving forward, we are continuing to tap out words using letter sounds. Sounding/tapping out of words really helps the students improve their reading / writing skills! As we move into March and spring arrives we will begin a new theme on plants and how they grow!



NURSE NOTES

Please remember to call your child out when they are absent. Call 856-227-1303 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.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Hello my name is
Elissa Llerandi
and I am the Long
Term Counselor



in the absence of Mrs. Krupa. I am very excited to be here. This month's guidance lessons will be on Friendship which we will be speaking about the qualities of being a good friend. Some books that I will be reading to students are called "The Recess Queen" and "Have you filled a bucket today?" We will also be speaking about self-esteem and the characteristics make us unique and special. We are all different in our own ways and that is okay. Other books that I will be reading to the students and following with activities are "It's okay to be different" and "I am going to like me". Please don't hesitate to call the school or email me with any issues that may arise with your child. You can reach me at 856-227-130 and press "3" or you can email at ELlerandi@wtps.org.

HOME & SCHOOL

Welcome to March! This year sure is flying by. There are lots of things to be excited about this month. We start off with Spirit week. The kids looked so great in crazy socks and wacky wear! Picture Days are coming up on the 7th and 8th get ready to say cheese! March 20th, we will start our Yankee candle fundraiser! The catalog is sure to have some great *smelling* options! We also have another family night out coming up so look for a flyer in your child's school bag. On March 22nd, we will have a visit from the Spring Bunny and also celebrate Bus Driver Appreciation Day! So, don't forget to thank your Bus drivers that day. The book fair is starting back up on the 24th and will continue until the 28th. On the 28th we will have family night from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We hope to see you all there. As always, we appreciate your support! Thank you to everyone who came to our night out at Bounce U! 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

What a joy it is to watch your children grow into the wonderful 'little people' they are becoming! They have such distinct and great personalities, gifts and best of all, smiles! I truly feel honored to spend my days with your children and I am very grateful for the support and partnership that you provide when I call home and throughout the year. You have taught your children to do their best, to be kind to others and to be respectful and you have done an awesome job! Our children come skipping and running over the footprints every day, so glad to be in school. And you are shaping a great habit when you send them to school on a regular basis. I read an article about the positive effects of good school attendance in the early grades, and unfortunately the negative impact of poor attendance. Besides missing the basic elements of instruction, it can form a bad habit when children do not come to school and we all know it is easier to develop good habits than to break a bad one. Thank you for teaching our children the importance of coming to school on time and on a consistent basis. It is a habit that will serve them well in school and in life. We had fun this week with our 'spirit week' and the children dressed according to the theme of the day. Thank you for supporting these special days at home; the children love them and it adds some fun to their day. Part of spirit week was the celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. We had old fashioned 'pep rallies' for Dr. Seuss. Special thanks to Mrs. DeAngelis and Miss Sebastiani for their enthusiasm for the project and to our parent volunteers who dressed up as Thing 1 and 2 and The Cat in the Hat! It was a fun time for all. Also, thank you to the many volunteer readers who came in this week to read a favorite story to the class.

Principal Families



We have a fundraiser this month. Order food from Acciuga's Pizzeria and mention Grenloch on March 15th and the school gets a percentage of the sale. The money from our fundraisers helps cover the cost of Fun Day, Yearbooks and other special activities at Grenloch. Special thanks to our Home and School Council for all of the time and effort they put into organizing these fundraisers and to the local businesses that support us! Parent support is truly wonderful at Grenloch and it is the spirit of partnership each of your bring to our school that makes it a safe, nurturing place to grow and learn.



Sincerely,

Wendy Crawford

Wendy Crawford
Principal
Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center

