

# First Presbyterian Weekday School Newsletter

Spring 2018

Dear Parents,

We HOPE spring is here at the Weekday School????!! The weather continues to surprise us! Nevertheless, the children have enjoyed some warm, sunny days on the playground. The spring science fun of the caterpillars making their way to butterflies in each classroom is exciting for all! As always, our music, art, Spanish, and other activities continue to add so much to each day of fun!

Many thanks for your support of our school extracurricular functions over the last few months! "All God's Creatures" was enjoyed by all, as were "Grandparents' Day," "Doughnuts with Dad," and the book fair! It's so rewarding to watch the children excited to bring their families to meet their friends, and to watch the family friendships develop through the years.

We appreciate the parent surveys that came in! Your insight is always helpful! If you still have yours, please feel free to drop it by, or send in your child's bag.

Most of our classes are full for the fall, but there are still a couple of spots here and there! Wonderful Wednesdays are full some weeks, and filling others. We look forward to getting to see the littles at these fun arts and science visits, keeping in touch over the break!

As always, please know my door is open to you! Drop by with a question, concern, praise, or just to chat!

*Warmest regards,*  
**Elaine Johnson**  
**Weekday School Director**

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## News from the Classes

### Infants:

#### Mrs. Fields/Mrs. Nichols/Mrs. Lee/Mrs. Smith:

This spring there are many new sights and sounds in our infant room! Watch us sit up, roll, crawl, scoot, squat, wiggle, walk, "run", dance and talk! Some of our favorite activities are playing in our ball pit and blowing bubbles. Our daily buggy ride has become one of the highlights of our morning! Our infants' worlds are expanding, and their social skills are developing each day. We are enjoying every step our babies take!

### Toddlers:

#### Ms. Grant/Mrs. Lawrence/Ms. Ford/Ms. Carlton:

We have such a wonderful class this year! We cannot believe how quickly they are growing. They are such a sweet group of kids! They love singing and buggy rides. Music and Spanish are favorites as well. We are looking forward to visiting our class mascot "Flip the Frog" in the fountain in the courtyard. We have so enjoyed your children...thank you for sharing them with us!

### Early 2's:

### **Mrs. Lewis/Mrs. Clark:**

The Early 2's class has been enjoying going outside since January. It has finally warmed up enough to enjoy the sandbox and slides. We have enjoyed reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", as well as, watching our caterpillars grow and releasing the butterflies in the courtyard. It was so fun watching them fly away.

Our students are really enjoying dancing to Dr. Jean and the "Banana" song. We are having so much fun learning our colors and counting to five.

Mrs. Beall and I are so excited to continue to watch your children grow into big kids. We are ready to end the year with a bang. ☺

### **Two's**

#### **Mrs. Miller/Miss Redwine:**

We came back in January and jumped right into talking about winter. We talked about snow and loved reading "The Snowy Day." After our actual snow days, we made name snowmen and learned "I'm A Little Snowman," a fun song to the tune of "I'm A Little Teapot." We loved making our ties for Doughnuts with Dad, and enjoyed sharing those yummy treats too! The beginning of February meant that we got to learn about Groundhog Day and make our own groundhogs. We liked talking about friends and family as we learned our new Valentine's Day songs. We had lots of great Valentine books to read as well, though Pete the Cat might have been our favorite. After our Valentine party, we started our dinosaur unit. We had so much fun painting dinosaur tracks and stomping like dinosaurs. After dinosaurs, we read all about different types of transportation. We got to vote on our favorite types of weather and make weather wheels to help keep our families informed of the weather! When we came back from spring break, we learned the bunny pokey while we discussed spring. We also read about Easter and had a wonderful time hunting for eggs in the church courtyard. In April, we will start the month talking about pets by reading one of my favorite books, "The Stray Dog." After pets, we'll get down in the dirt (figuratively) while we study insects. We have some fun activities planned while we learn about the senses, and then we'll spend the rest of our time gearing up for summer!

#### **Mrs. Beall/Miss Redwine:**

I can't believe we only have 5 weeks of school left! Ms. Redwine and I have enjoyed watching your children grow! We started off the year talking about winter and the kids really liked building a snowman, walking like a penguin and making winter crafts. Petey the penguin came to visit us, which was super exciting. We continued working on our colors by playing the mitten match game. It was also fun having the Dads come to school for Donuts with Dad!

February, we celebrated Grandparents Day and enjoyed having the grandparents visit and we had our Valentines Party. The children really enjoyed passing out their Valentines!! We finished up the month learning about dinosaurs and transportation. We had fun washing dinosaurs and making dinosaur prints. Our March themes were St. Patrick's Day, Spring and Easter. The children enjoyed doing shamrock art, making yarn flowers, and dancing to "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" and the "Bunny Pokey." We ended the month with our Easter Egg Hunt and party which was a blast! This week we are learning about caterpillars and butterflies. We read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and also the kids took turns placing the felt items from the story on the felt board. Thank you again for sharing your precious children with us and for all your support!!

#### **Mrs. Cummings/Miss Allen:**

We returned to school after the Holidays and jumped right into lots of snowy Winter art. Our snowflakes and snowmen adorned our bulletin board and we enjoyed "Snowball, Snowball big and round, under which mitten can you be found?" and "Five Little Snowmen." Our Nursery Rhymes unit was lots of fun, especially Muffin Man, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Itsy Bitsy Spider. We showed our love for our family and friends on Valentine's Day with lovely art, along with a wonderful party and exchanging valentines with each other. Our Dinosaur unit is always met with excitement as we play with dinosaur figures, stomp around the circle to "We Are The Dinosaurs" and make cute dinosaur art. Transportation is an on-the-go theme loved by all~our boats, airplanes, car track art, dot paint car and school buses were so much fun to make. We loved our "GO-SLOW DOWN-STOP" movement activity and our "Traffic light" poem that we acted out with pom-pom traffic lights on a stick. We shared what we loved about our pets during Pet Week as we enjoyed painting and naming our pet rocks, making bird feeders and goldfish bowls. Our Weather has been a hot topic and we look outside each day to determine if it's sunny, rainy, cloudy or snowy. We are ready for Spring with the beautiful kites, umbrellas, flowers and wind spinners that we made. We celebrated Easter with Easter art, a fun egg hunt and party. Bug Week will bring us closer to nature with the caterpillars, dragonflies and ladybugs that we'll be making. We look forward to receiving our class caterpillars and watching them grow, sleep in their cocoons and turn into butterflies! The remainder of the school year will be spent learning about our senses, springtime baby animals and getting ready for Summer. Favorite songs and finger plays include "Days of the Week", "Two Little Blackbirds", "There was a Little Turtle", "I'm a Little Teapot", "Shake our Sillies Out", "Freeze Dance" and "Walter the Waltzing Worm". Little Mouse makes her weekly visits on Tuesdays and we look forward to our weekly Specials~Chapel, Spanish and Music.

### **Three's:**

#### **Mrs Reid/Mrs. Burks:**

The early pre-k/pre-K room of Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Burks has been full of fun and excitement lately! The older students are reading more and more new words every day! They're also looking forward to an exciting field trip at Sandy Creek Nature Center! Not long after that, they will be having their Pre-K graduation ceremony! The year has just flown by! Our class welcomed 6 new caterpillars and eagerly await butterflies emerging later on this month. We have enjoyed many fun art projects like making eagle nests, painting tiles, and sculptures! We have so enjoyed our class this year and look forward to the remaining weeks before summer break to continue our fun and learning!

#### **Mrs. Boerma/Mrs. Maxwell:**

The second half of our school year has been filled with lots of laughter and learning. We have become attached to the saying - "You need to look and listen to learn". When we came back in January, we discussed the differences in the four seasons. We placed emphasis on winter and the many hibernating animals. Others topics presented this half include amphibians, reptiles, dinosaurs, fossils, dental health, rocks, rainbows, mammals, birds, volcanoes, zoo and farm animals, community workers and plants. Our class science experiment has demonstrated mold growing on cheese. We "check the cheese" each day to observe the progress and discuss the differences between a growing "fungus among us" versus a growing seed planted in soil. We continue to read lots of good literature, nursery rhymes, fairy tales and poetry. It has been fun to challenge their listening skills by asking questions such as: What has happened? What could have happened? What is next? What happened first? Which words rhyme? Some were surprised to learn there are books with no words - "Look Books!" We have talked about historic figures such as Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The

Berry College eagle cam has helped to enhance our bird unit. It has been fascinating to observe the eagles care for the egg and eaglet. Our class named the eaglet through the voting process. Three names or candidates were chosen - Liberty, Star and Stripe. After each student voted, the ballots were opened and recorded on a graph. The "growing" graph displayed equal to, more than, less than and most. The most ballots were cast for the name - Star. Math skills continue to be sharpened through center work in individual tubs. We have added people patterns to our exercises. Student AB, ABC or AAB patterns are created using hair color, gender, shoe type, etc. It has proven to be a favorite large group activity. Also, as a group we are rote counting to 25 and might try for 30 soon. The students have imitated the artwork or style of the following famous artists: Kandinsky; Matisse; da Vinci; Van Gogh and Monet. The impressionism style of Monet has been dubbed "fuzzy art" by the students. Each holiday and special event has brought fun projects and times - Valentine's Day, Grandparents Day, Book Fair, Doughnuts with Dad, Easter Egg Hunt and Wacky Wednesday. One of the most important things we offer is free, unstructured play time. Here is where the students experiment, problem solve, take risks and sharpen their social skills. Mrs. Maxwell and I feel very privileged to be able to work with your children.

### Pre-K Class

#### Mrs.Norton/Miss Wilson:

We had a wonderful start to 2018! January was filled with snowflakes, snowman, and lots of "Winter Fun!" We compared Jan Brett's, *The Mitten* and *The Hat* as we discussed winter clothing. These two books also helped us understand sequence and characters in a story. In February we loved learning about the Groundhog, Washington and Lincoln, celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. On the 100<sup>th</sup> day we had fun grouping ten groups of ten pennies each to make 100. We celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss at the beginning of March. His books gave us a closer look at rhyming words. During March we welcomed spring, enjoyed Easter and our yearly Easter Egg Hunt. April has been a study of insects, butterflies (their life cycle), plants, trees, and Earth Day. Of course, continually, we are working on our numbers, counting, letters, letter sounds, and putting letters together to make words. Miss Wislon and I consider it a pleasure to work with each of these precious children.

### DATES:

<i>May 4</i>	<i>Last Lunch Bunch/Earlybirds</i>	
<i>May 9</i>	<i>10:30 in the Sanctuary</i>	<i>Pre-K GRADUATION!!!</i>
<i>May 11</i>	<i>Last Day of School</i>	
<i>May 29- June 1</i>	<i>Vacation Bible School (Register at <a href="http://www.firstpresathens.org">www.firstpresathens.org</a> if your child is currently in our Three Year Old program or older)</i>	
<i>June 6</i>	<i>FIRST Wonderful Wednesday!!!</i>	