

Chesterbrook Academy – Preston

March Newsletter



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to a new month! I am certainly looking forward to some warmer days!

I want to send out a special thank you to all of our parents and grandparents who participated in our PJ day for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. We collected \$900.00 for the LLS! They were so thrilled and thankful to get our donation! Thank you for your generosity!

We will be busy during the month of March as we have our **Early Bird Fall Registration, Open House – Spring Fling and more!**

Special Welcome to our new families who have joined our school. We have had quite a few as the word of our excellence is getting out! Please remember to tell me if you refer a family so you earn your referral credit

Hope you all have a great month!

Tawni S. Connor, Principal

In this Issue

- Important Dates for March
- Early Bird Registration
- Summer Camp Registration
- Open House Spring Fling
- Dr. Lauren Starnes' Educational Article

Important Dates in March

- March 1 - Happy Anniversary Miss Tawni - 26 Years at CBA!

- March 2 - Happy Birthday Miss Susan!
- March 3 – Happy Birthday Miss Erika!
- March 6 – Early Bird Registration Begins
- March 13 – Butter Braid Orders due! YUM!!
- March 14 – Happy Anniversary Miss Sally!
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day Classroom fun!
- March 21 - Happy Anniversary Miss Shahidah! Happy 13th Anniversary!!
- March 25 – Open House Spring Fling 10 am – 1 pm
- March 25 – Happy Birthday Miss Faryal!
- March 31 – Last Day for Early Bird Registration!
- Every Tuesday – Happy Feet Soccer!
- Every Wednesday: Gymnastics / Dance Class!
- Every Thursday: Amazing Athletes!

2017 - 2018 Early Bird Registration News!

It is that time of year when you need to Re-Register your child for our new school year. Everyone who plans on having their child here for the new school year needs to Re-Register their child to continue enrollment for 2017 - 2018 school year. All forms and the registration fee must be turned into the office by Friday, March 31st to secure your spot for the new school year. If you register during that time, you will also be eligible for our Early Bird Registration promotion of ½ off your Registration fee! The Registration credit will be issued in September and you will be able to take it off your tuition in September. Please email me if you have any questions.

Summer Camp 2017 is Coming Soon!

I am in the very beginning stages of planning our Summer Camp 2017! The kids and teachers had such a great time last year with all the fun activities we planned and the special guest presenters that came to visit our school! I can hardly wait for summer to arrive and do it all over again! If your child is in our Toddler – Pre K 2 classes, you will need to sign up for Summer Camp 2017 and pay the onetime Camp Activity Fee. All of the necessary forms and information will be coming home end of April. You will need to sign up for camp by end of April so start planning your summer now!

Open House – Spring Fling

On Saturday March 25th from 10 am - 1 pm, we will hold an Open House Spring Fling for our families! More details will be coming out soon but mark your calendars and plan on attending! It will be a lot of fun!

Introducing Your Preschooler to the Fascinating World of Non-Fiction

When you think about children's books, you might envision princesses in castles, talking animals or a flying magic school bus. Although it's fun to read these types of stories with your child, it's important to also introduce him to non-fiction books. You may be surprised to learn that he's fascinated with exploring real people, places and things!

Non-fiction is not only interesting to children, but it also creates an important foundation for learning. It helps children build new vocabulary, develop critical thinking skills, fuel their curiosity and gain a better understanding about the world around them.



Below are ways we integrate non-fiction in the classroom, as well as activities you can try at home.

INFANTS:

In the classroom: Infants love to look at faces, so our teachers choose non-fiction books that include photographs of people, such as *Global Babies* by Global Fund for Children. Afterward, they show the baby a photo of his own family and talk about the people in the photo. For example, "Look, Ben. Here's your mom. Who's she holding? That's you."

At home: Read multi-sensory picture books with your child. Choose non-fiction books with different textures and bright colors to help stimulate his growing sensory awareness.

Recommended reading: *Families* by Rena D. Grossman, *Bathtime (Baby Touch & Feel)* by DK Publishing

TODDLERS (ages 1-2):

In the classroom: Toddlers learn the names of different animals and vehicles and the sounds they make. While singing songs with students, our teachers ask, "What does a pig say?" or "What sound does a fire truck make?"

At home: Point out photographs of familiar animals and vehicles in magazines or books. Ask your child to mimic the noise that each item makes. This can also be done in the car as you're driving around your neighborhood.

Recommended reading: *Baby Animals* by National Geographic Kids, *Noisy Trucks* by Tiger Tales

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: Teachers and students read non-fiction books by going on picture walks. A picture walk motivates children to rely on pictorial clues to decipher the story's plot and make predictions.

Before reading the story, they flip through the book, and the child is encouraged to make predictions about the characters and plot. The teacher then reads the book aloud to the student. When finished, the teacher asks questions to start a conversation about the text.

At home: Visit a library with your child, and let him choose a book. Take a picture walk through the book with him. When you're finished, ask the librarian to recommend a non-fiction book about the same topic. For example, if you read *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, your child might also be interested in *Puppies, Puppies, Puppies*, a non-fiction book by Susan Meyers.

Recommended reading: *My First Baseball Book* by Sterling Children's, *Everything Spring* by Jill Esbaum

INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: Our Intermediate teachers combine non-fiction reading with dramatic play. After reading a book about farm life, children create their own farm in the dramatic play center and pretend to be farmers. Children gain a better understanding of the book, practice problem solving skills, and use new vocabulary.

At home: Select a book with large photographs or illustrations. Flip through the book, and let your child stop on pages that interest him. Don't worry about reading every page. Ask him to tell you what is going on in the pictures, and encourage him to make comparisons to experiences he's had in real life. For example, if you pick a book about weather, you might ask, "Where do we go in the summertime when it's hot?" or "Why do we use an umbrella in the springtime?"

Recommended reading: *Watching the Seasons* by Edana Eckart, *Wings* by Melanie Mitchell

PRE-K/PRE-K2 (ages 4-5):

In the classroom: Our older preschoolers read a non-fiction book paired with a fiction book, and compare and contrast the two stories. After reading *Stella Luna* and *Bat Loves the Night*, the teacher might ask, "In *Stella Luna*, the bat slept upright. Is that how a real bat sleeps?" Students may also create a Venn diagram that shows similarities and differences in the two books.

At home: Read various forms of non-fiction with your child, including books, brochures and flyers. Challenge him to find sight words in the text. Afterward, ask him to write in his journal what he would like to learn about next. Use that information when choosing another piece of non-fiction.

Recommended reading: *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin (fiction), *Wonderful Worms* by Linda Glaser (non-fiction)

By introducing children to both fiction and non-fiction texts in the preschool years, they become comfortable with a wide range of subjects and acquire the skills needed to comprehend important information in kindergarten and beyond. They are better able to tap into their interests and enjoy learning about real world people, places and things.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education