



April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Chesterbrook Families-

Spring has finally arrived, and we want to make sure all of our students can take full advantage of our outdoor playtime. Please make sure that your child has a spare set of well-fitting, weather-appropriate clothes that are labeled for his or her cubby. It's still a bit chilly in the mornings so please send a light jacket or sweater. Our teachers are planning fun outdoor activities for the children in April. We can't wait to share these activities with your child! As always, we are very thankful to our families for their ongoing support and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Kristen Suh, Principal

Graduating PreK Students

Our PreK graduation is on June 4th. We will be having a drive through graduation celebration for our PreK children instead of our usual in-person graduation in our courtyard. Our drive through graduation will include cap & gown, tassles and diploma! We celebrate our graduating class of 2021 and at the same, we are sad to see our little ones leave for Kindergarten in the Fall... it is a sad time for all of us-

Week of the Young Child

Week of the Young Child is April 12th-16th. We have many fun activities planned all week for Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday and Family Friday! We will send more information via Links 2 Home soon.

Earth Day 2021- Lady bug Release Day-

On April 22, we will celebrate Earth Day and take care of the planet by releasing 1500 ladybugs throughout the school yard and back into the environment on plants, flowers, and trees. Students and teachers will be dressed for the occasion in the likeness of ladybugs, wearing red and black colors and antennae. During the week of April 22nd, teachers will plan their activities around Earth Day and students will learn that ladybugs serve as a natural pesticide by feeding on insects that could otherwise harm the health of gardens, trees, and shrubs. Due to COVID guidelines, each classroom will release lady bugs during their outside playtime.

We can't wait to share photos on tadpoles!

Important Dates:

April 12th-16th – Week of the Young Child

April 22nd — Earth Day

April 22nd – Lady bug release day

April 30th—End of the Month folders go home

[*Please read our Preschool Blog on the next page:](#)

“The Importance of Routines for Preschoolers”



The Importance of Routines for Preschoolers

As we continue to navigate the everchanging COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining a consistent routine for our students in a safe and fun environment is our top priority. Below are a few reasons why routines are important for young children and how we help achieve this in the classroom.

Children learn to manage themselves when they understand expectations in their environment and what comes next.

An organized, clean and welcoming classroom is not only the foundation for quality teaching, but it also helps shape and define positive student behavior. Our classrooms have developmentally appropriate interest areas called centers that reinforce writing and other curriculum skills. In centers, teachers encourage student choice and exploration with the guidance of a visual center management system, which helps children know when they can move to a new center. This practice helps them learn routines, self-monitoring and decision-making. Other visual cues in our classrooms include footprint outlines to remind students where to line up, picture instructions of how to wash hands, and picture/word labels to help children know where each toy goes.

Children handle change best if it's expected and occurs in the context of a familiar routine.

During times of potential chaos, a structured routine provides comfort, stability and a sense of safety. Transitions from one activity to another can be frustrating and stressful for children, because they take time and can involve waiting. To help ease transitions and help set expectations, our teachers provide verbal and non-verbal cues, such as songs or sounds. They may also wear a silly hat to attract attention or provide children with small toys, such as bubbles or action cards, to make the transition fun and engaging.

Routines help children demonstrate independence, while fostering feelings of belonging and self-confidence.

Circle time is a part of our students' everyday routine that helps establish roles, reinforces learning, encourages student interaction, creates unity and builds relationships. During circle time, students select helper jobs such as flag holder, book holder or weather observer. These jobs help them actively engage in the activity and see themselves as important members of the classroom community. Teachers make children feel valued by acknowledging how the helpers are important to the circle time routine.

A grandparent of one of our students recently told us, "My granddaughter is only a toddler but it's clear that she understands her school routine. When she visits me, she stops at the coat closet until I hang up her coat. At lunch, she hands me her bib and says "up" to get seated in her highchair. After eating, she carries her dishes over to the sink and helps wipe off her tray. Thank you for instilling these routines with her. It makes our time together run smoothly!" What a great example of our classroom routines in real life!