

# Chesterbrook Academy Wayne

April 2023 Newsletter

## Blossoming Away at CBA!

Spring is officially here, and we couldn't be more excited! Flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing, and our little ones are blossoming here at school! Be on the lookout for some reminders & updates as the weather warms up and the days grow longer. Hooray for Spring!

## Classroom Happenings

### Infants:

- Spring has sprung! We are so excited to learn about spring weather, flowers, activities, and more! We will read all about animals and insects that begin to appear during spring time as well! "Spring" from Bright Baby will teach us different spring terms while providing a sensory experience. "In My Tree" by Sara Gillingham & Lorena Siminovich will teach us about how different seasons/weather affect certain animals. "You're My Little Honey Bunny" by Natalie Marshall will teach us about different flowers and plants that bloom in the Spring! April 2nd is also International Children's Book Day - what a good way to celebrate!
- We will also celebrate and learn about Passover! "On Passover" by The Kiboomers is such a fun song that we will sing & dance to together as a group!
- Happy Easter! We have lots of bunny books which will help us learn and celebrate Easter traditions! We will also make a paper plate bunny craft to get into the festive spirit!
- Everyday should be Earth Day! We will take turns making different Earth Day handprint crafts in order to learn about all different ways to take care of our home!
- Rain, Rain, Go Away! With May flowers, we have to have April showers! We will sing, read, and make art about rain and clouds! We can't wait! Happy, Happy April!

### Young Todds:

- It's April and we can't keep calm!  
From creating wonderful art to exploring nature outside, we will be indulging in all things spring fun!!!

\*Little buddies meet the tini tiny Buggies!

As the sun is shining and flowers are blooming, some tiny friends like ants, ladybugs, bumblebees, grasshoppers, and butterflies make an appearance to enjoy the beautiful weather with our tiny tots. 🐜🐝🐌🦋🐛

Hop or stride!

Our little birdies will join some feathery friends in spring merry-making!!!

They will create the cutest birds and read some delightful books on birds.

It's time to chirp and fly together in the limitless skies of endless fun 🐦🐦🐦

\*Mama Earth, we pledge to love you and protect you always!

Starting young, our tots will learn the importance of taking care of Mother Earth not just one day but every day. We will celebrate her with exciting art activities. Also, we will read some interesting books on Mama Earth 🌍❤️❤️

### **Tods:**

We have a busy month coming up! It's hard to believe it is already April! Happy Spring!

- 4/3 – Our first theme this month will be Chicks! We will be reading the story “Five Little Chicks” by Nancy Tafuri. For art, we will be creating a chick popping out of an egg! This will be made from different shapes of construction paper.
- 4/10 – Our second theme for April will be Lady Bugs! We will read the story “The Grouchy Lady Bug” by Eric Carle and make a lady bug out of shapes using construction paper. We are also excited to be receiving bug catching kits. We will be getting magnifying glasses, bug observation containers, and binoculars for the kids to explore bugs and nature outside!
- 4/14 – Let get outside! This week we will be celebrating Earth Day! To reinforce the importance of our keeping our earth clean, we will be reading the book “How to help the Earth by The Lorax” by Tish Rabe. For art, we will be creating a picture of the earth using green and blue paint. Keep your eyes out for some ladybugs flying around! We will be having a ladybug release sometime at the end of this month!!
- 4/24- The last theme of the month will be Bunnies. We will read the story “Spring Is Here Grumpy Bunny” by Justine Korman. We will create a bunny out of different shapes.

### **B1:**

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- Happy April! This month our learning experiences are about all things Spring! 🐰☁️🌍🌸
- Week 1 - As winter recedes and Spring sets forth, Bunnies will appear everywhere this time of year. This week we will learn about Bunnies and read the book "It's Not Easy Being a Bunny by Marilyn Sadler. We will also include music and movement into our routine as we learn to tap our feet to the bunny hop dance.
- Week 2 - April showers bring May flowers. Bring out those bright raincoats, tiny rainboots and umbrellas as we gear up for a change in season. This week we will learn about rain, clouds and the weather, how it impacts our neighborhoods and slowly turns everything back to green. We will learn to make paper boats and read the book “ The Rainy Day” by Anna Milbourne.

- Week 3 - With Earth Day approaching on April 23th our little minds are inquisitive to know about planet Earth, the importance of caring for the world and the environment. We will work on a simple paper plate weaving activity and read the book Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration by Alyssa Satin Capucilli.
- Week 4 - From Buds to Blossoms, Spring Flowers will be in bloom everywhere. This week will learn about flowers, gardening and planting a few seeds and watching them grow. We will set up a simple Spring Flower sensory bin and make some observations along the way.

## **B2:**

- B2 is excited to hop into a new month!  
-This month we will dive into science, gross motor skills, weather, and animals.
  - Week 1 - Our theme for the week will be 'Bugs and Butterflies' we will read the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar.' Beginners 2 will also work on our gross motor skills by cutting out trails for our very hungry caterpillars. As well as our Days of the Week workbooks.
  - Week 2- Our class will learn about gardening. We will plant beans and emphasize plant words like seed, roots, sprout, stalk, and leaves, as well as science process words like experiment, test, compare, describe, observe, and predict.
  - Week 3- We will read 'In the rain with baby duck' and center crafts around our reading.
  - Week 4- With continuing on with our seasons and weather. We will learn about April showers and the effects rain has on plants.

## **Intermediates:**

- April may bring showers, but for our Intermediate learners it brings birds, bugs, and bunnies!
- We're embracing the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) Challenge!
- We'll be exploring Spring's metamorphosis with caterpillars & butterflies, "Rockin Robins" musically, and doing the Bunny Hop!
- We're planting seeds & making bird feeders. Oh, and for a special Earth Day surprise, on Friday April 22nd we're letting a dozen butterflies set soar in our community garden!!

## **Pre-K:**

- Welcome April! This month we are getting down to it! The first thing we will be focusing on in Pre-K is money honey! Students will practice identifying all the coins and dollars we use here in the U.S.! We will learn how many of each it takes to create the next, and will even have a mock shopping day! Then we are telling time on the dime! Students will practice reading clocks! We have our own clock to practice on where we will be examining the differences between seconds, minutes, and hours! Then it's all about loving this Earth! We all live here, and we all must take care of our planet! Earth Day is April 22nd, and we will prepare! Students will learn about recycling, the 3 R's, and how much the Earth affects us, and we, it! Lastly this month we are doubling down on our letters and sight words! We will learn the alphabet in order, out of order, and even backwards!! We will practice our common sight words and manner sight words! In Pre-K we are even playing scrabble!! We will use scrabble blocks to spell our names, and put the alphabet in order. Lastly we are labeling everything in our room! Yay Pre-K!

## Pre-K 2:

I can't believe it's April already, this school year is going by so fast!

- This month we're getting down to the nitty gritty! We will be working on getting our skills down. We will also learn all about earth day and easter!

We will first start off with our math skills. We start off with number recognition and number matching games. We will then work on some simple addition and subtraction problems. Then we will work on grouping and understanding what it means for numbers to be, greater than, less than, and equal to.

We will then work on our letters and writing skills. We will work on letter recognition and letter sounds. We will also do matching games to help better understand which is an uppercase letter and which is a lowercase letter. We will then practice writing letters on our own and tracing them. We will also work on writing our names in the proper case.

We will then work on our reading skills. We will review some of the sight words we learned and practice sounding out words. We will go over what features identify a book and what makes a book a book. Then we'll learn about what word families are and make sentences using the sight words we learned!

I will also be sending out homework each week to help these skills grow stronger! April here we come!

## Upcoming Events

### Scholastic Book Fair

#### WHEN

Monday, April 3rd, 7am to Friday, April 7th, 6pm

#### WHERE

Our School

#### MORE INFORMATION

Our Spring Book Fair is coming back! Get ready to check out some cool new books thanks to Scholastic!

## Saturday Book Fair

### WHEN

Saturday, April 8th, 10am-12:30pm

### WHERE

Our School

### MORE INFORMATION

Missed the Book Fair during the week? Come visit us for our Saturday Book Fair hours! We will be **open from 10AM - 12:30PM**

## Spring Picture Day

### WHEN

Tuesday, April 18th, 7am to  
Wednesday, April 19th, 12pm

### WHERE

Our School

### MORE INFORMATION

LifeTouch will be visiting our school on April 18th & 19th for our bi-annual Picture Day! Look out for flyers & forms for your child's photos.

## Summer Camp Open House

### WHEN

Saturday, April 29th, 10am-1pm

### WHERE

Our School



# Earth Day Celebrations

## WHEN

Friday, April 21st, 7am-6pm

## WHERE

Our School

## MORE INFORMATION

We will be taking today to celebrate Earth Day! We will be exploring nature & finding ways to be kind to the beautiful planet we call home!

## Reminders & Announcements

### NAEYC's Week of the Young Child

Week of the Young Child, April 1-7, recognizes young students, their teachers, and their families for all their hard work. This annual event, sponsored by The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), allows us to showcase the importance of early childhood education, our Links to Learning curriculum, and everyone who makes it possible. We have many fun activities planned for Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. We will send more information via Links 2 Home soon.

### April Teacher Appreciation Day

Our Teacher Appreciation Day this month is Wednesday, April 19th. Please sign up to participate at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48AAAB2FA6FBC34-april1>

### Chesterbrook, PA is #1!

According to NBC 10, the suburb of **Chesterbrook, PA** has been ranked as the top place to live in the U.S. by data company Niche for the fourth year in a row! According to NBC "Niche based the rankings on data from the U.S. Census, the FBI, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the CDC and millions of resident reviews. They account for school quality, crime rates, job opportunities, housing trends and local amenities in towns, cities and neighborhoods across the country."

How cool is that? Our community is #1! Check out the remainder of the article here:

<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/business/niche-best-places-live-chesterbrook/3529164/>

## Vacation Credit & Hiatus Reminders

Summer will be here before you know it! Let us know if you are planning on using your **vacation credit**. Please remember:

- Vacation credits require **two weeks' written notice** in order to be utilized
- Credits reset on July 1st.

If you are taking a **hiatus** for the summer, please note:

- We require a 30-day (4 week) notice for a hiatus date
- We will require a specified **return date** before we can place your child on hiatus in order to maintain their spot on our roster.

## Cubby Clothes Reminders

As the weather is warming up, remember to change out your child's spare cubby clothes accordingly! As a reminder, we recommend all children have extras of the following clothing items in their cubbies:

- Shirts
- Pants
- Undies
- Socks
- Shoes

Also, with summer just around the corner, we want to remind all families that **open-toed shoes are not permitted at school**. Close-toed sandals, sneakers, and other footwear are recommended for summer shoe usage!

## Clothing Donations

If you are doing some spring cleaning, we are taking donations! We can always use extra sets of clothes here at school. In particular, we are in need of clothing - pants especially - size **4T or larger!**

## Pickett Post, Construction, & Parking Etiquette

Pickett Post has informed us that the new tennis court should be installed at some point within the next 4-6 weeks! We will also be partnering with them to have our parking lot seal-coated. This project will likely take place during a weekend, but **with all of this construction in mind, we felt that now was a good time to provide a reminder of our parking lot etiquette guidelines!**

We understand that our parking lot is small and can become very busy. With this being said, engaging in a community culture of respect is of the upmost importance here at our school. Please remember the following when entering and exiting the parking lots:

- Please watch your speed & take turns **slowly**
- You should enter the parking lot and follow the right side of the traffic circle to find your spot & follow the same path to exit
- Remember to **double check all blind spots and rear-view mirror** for little ones as they are tiny but quick!
- Please remember to **hold your child(ren)'s hands and help them practice safe choices** as well (stop, look both ways, etc.)
- Please **avoid parking in front of the dumpsters** and/or in designated Pickett Post parking spaces.
- Please remember to be **courteous of doors** when taking time to buckle your little ones in
- **Always turn your car off** while you are in the building with your child
- And most importantly, please **be respectful** and communicate with others in a productive manner

We understand that everyone is busy and that it can be tough during crowded moments, but please take your time, be respectful, be helpful, and reach out as always with any questions or suggestions.

## Sunscreen & Water Bottles!

With the weather warming up, we want to be totally prepared! Here are some quick reminders about sunscreen and water bottles during the warm weather months:

### Sunscreen:

- Please provide at least one bottle of unopened, unexpired, liquid or stick sunscreen to be kept at school for your child to utilize during the spring/summer.
- Sunscreen sprays are not permitted.
- Sunscreen must be applied **at home** before school in the mornings. Teachers will re-apply sunscreen to students in the afternoon.

### Water Bottles:

- You may provide a reusable water bottle for your child to bring outside during trips to the playground.
- Plastic, single-use water bottles are not permitted.
- All water bottles must be **labeled clearly** with your child's name.



Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions!

## Toys from Home

As a friendly reminder, we typically ask that all families **refrain from sending toys from home to school**. Students are permitted to have **one soft toy** to utilized at **naptime only**, and otherwise be kept in their cubby. Toys or other objects from home such as action figures, cars, trains, books etc. are not permitted, as they can be lost/broken/cause classroom disagreement.

Thank you for your flexibility!

## Spring Forms!

This month we will be completing an audit for all of our child files! Please be prepared to sign & update forms as requested. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out!

## SMG Parent Survey

**We wanted to take a moment to thank all of our wonderful families who participated in the SMG Parent Survey this past month!** We appreciate all of the feedback we received to help us continue to make our little school community a wonderful place for your children to learn & grow! Here are some systems you can expect to see us continuously improve upon to ensure a quality learning experience for all students & families:

- **Communication:** We pride ourselves on having excellent school-to-home communication! We will continue to practice appropriate methods of communication, including ensuring that all child daily reports are detailed & updated for each student, corresponding with families for school-wide updates in a timely manner via email, Links2Home, & our monthly newsletters, and ensuring that all of our wonderful teachers understand expectations with appropriate communication.
- **Cleanliness & Facility Maintenance:** We are so very proud of the fact that our school is located within a historic community building, but we know this comes along with some drawbacks! We are continuing to partner with the **SEG Facilities Team** to ensure that our facility receives appropriate building & campus maintenance. We also are working continuously with our **custodial team** to ensure that everyone is aware of the expectations to keep the facility in tip-top shape, as well as implement new cleaning initiatives, such having our carpets deep-cleaned!
- **Menu Options:** We are working to improve our food options as outlined on our monthly menu! We order all of our food items from a supplier, and often times our menu is subject to what our supplier has available. With that being said, you can expect to see new food options on our menu, such as quinoa, fresh veggies, and more!

Again, we appreciate all of our Chesterbrook families for continuing to make our school the amazing community that it is! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.



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