

Learning Tree Co-operative Preschool
Older 4's/Young 5's Newsletter
January 2019

Welcome back everyone and “Happy New Year”! We hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing holiday season with family and friends. Here we are, starting a new year with many wonderful things to look forward to! We would like to thank everyone for your warm holiday wishes and to those involved in our mid-year Clean-Up. Everything has been washed and sanitized to start the new year. I’d also like to thank Mrs. Farley for subbing for me so I could spend a few more days with my family in Edmonton.

This group of children continues to amaze us with their incredible work habits and love of learning! They enjoy being together and continually help and support each other. The children worked very hard on their letters to Santa, learning to form each letter correctly off the chalkboard. They all helped with sounding out words. We did a little each day over the course of a few days. They were so excited last week when they received letters back from the jolly, old man himself! Hope you have all found them in their backpacks and read them together!

We’ll be making and reading some early “emergent” books that focus on both sight words and phonics. The children are also learning about different punctuation marks—a period, comma, question mark and exclamation mark and how to read a sentence according to the punctuation mark at the end. We’ve also been working on rhyming words, counting/clapping out syllables and counting the number of words in a sentence.

On a nice winter day (when we get some snow!), we’ll be going back to do our Observation Circles in Barstow Woods and then will compare our findings with our fall observations. I will let you know about that later so you can be sure to send in the appropriate clothing that day for your young scientist! Then we’ll return again in the spring to observe the new seasonal changes.

Last week, the children worked on the number 7 and we’ll do number 8 (very tricky!) this week. After number 9, they’ll know how to form every number. Please watch when your child is writing any numbers to be sure s/he is doing them properly. It’s hard to reverse bad habits even once they’re in kindergarten. We often write the numbers in the air as we’re doing the calendar in the morning with this group. They are doing very well at counting by tens and ones as we add a stick to our hundreds chart each morning, counting the numbers of days we’ve attended school. (Shhh...We’ll have a special celebration on Hundreds Day!) Many are able to correctly add a number to the previous day’s number without “backtracking”. This is an important and often difficult skill. Many are also good at predicting what the next day’s number will be as well as counting how many more days until we “bundle” again. They have enjoyed doing dot-to-dot pictures with both numbers and letters. Later, we’ll be learning how to count by 5’s and 10’s using nickels and dimes.

Thank you for your help with practicing their phone numbers and this week, the children will be starting to learn their addresses. Please point out your address numbers on your house, mailbox, etc., the street name on your corner, and on pieces of mail. It all makes more sense to our little ones when they see a purpose for learning. Please continue working on these as you drive around town, etc. It’s also recommended that young children learn their parents’ first and last names so consider teaching them those also. Whenever we’ve had a police officer in to visit, he always asks the children if they know these things and if they don’t, tells them to work on learning them.

VISION & HEARING SCREENINGS – Monday, January 28/19

The Midland County Health Dept. will be coming in to do free vision and hearing screenings as required for kindergarten. Paperwork will go home prior to this screening. However, if you feel your child is experiencing either vision or hearing difficulties, please try to schedule an appt. sooner with your doctor or specialist.

A Look Ahead ...

Mon. Jan. 21- Martin Luther King Jr. Day -No Preschool (in conjunction with MPS)

Enjoy the long weekend!

Sat. Jan. 26- “Kids’ Day At The Mall” 10:00-3:00 - Always a great day with booths and displays from many organizations around town at the Midland Mall. Lots of free activities and things to see and do! Look for us there!

“2’s And You” Class – We are happy to announce that we’ll be starting a 2’s class on **Monday, Jan. 28** from 9:30-11:00. This runs for 14 weeks. Children must be two to start or may start throughout the session and tuition will then be prorated. Please contact Becki Sue Kugler for more details.

Scholastic Book Orders – Due Thursday, January 31/19 - School Code is TCQ9Y

Kids’ Prom – Friday, Feb. 8 @ 6:30-7:30 pm

Invite a friend or two and join us for our second annual Kids’ Prom! The children love to dress up and put on their dancing shoes for a very fun, family night!

Learning Tree Cooperative Preschool’s Open House – Saturday, Feb. 9 from 10-1. If you know of any friends or neighbors looking for preschool for ages 2-5 for next year, invite them to come for a visit!

MPS Kindergarten Parent Orientation Meetings –Midland Public Schools have now posted their parent kindergarten meeting dates for each elementary school @ www.midlandps.org. You are asked to call and RSVP so they have an idea on how many to expect.

Midland Public Schools:	<u>Please check the MPS website for all school of choice deadlines</u>	989-923-5001
Adams	Tuesday, February 5 5:30 p.m.	989-923-6037
Central Park	Tuesday, February 5 5:45 p.m.	989-923-6836
Chestnut Hill	Tuesday, February 5 5:45 p.m.	989-923-6634
Plymouth	Tuesday, February 5 5:30 p.m.	989-923-7616
Siebert	Tuesday, February 5 5:30 p.m.	989-923-7835
Woodcrest	Tuesday, February 5 5:30 p.m.	989-923-7940

I will forward further information from other districts as they become available. If your child will be attending kindergarten in Midland Public this fall, you are encouraged to attend the meeting at the school where your child will attend so they can plan for busing, staffing, etc. You can also make an appointment to meet with the principal and kindergarten teachers to discuss kindergarten in more detail. The schools have their carnivals and other events coming up and even children and their parents without older siblings presently enrolled are welcome to attend to become familiarized with the school, staff, etc. Please let the school know you plan to attend. These fun events all help to make your child (and you!) more comfortable in starting a new school. If your child will be attending another school (parochial or other), please contact that school so they know you are planning to enroll your child there.

I would also encourage all of you to take a few minutes to peruse the MPS (or your district’s) kindergarten parent handbook available online, to become familiar with the goals, indicators and expectations for this age group.

Attached to this newsletter, is a **“Passport To Kindergarten”** which is a list of ideas to help you prepare your child for kindergarten and some necessary requirements for parents to attend to. Please keep this list handy and refer to it frequently.

As always, thanks for sharing your children with us and for your continued support. They are like little sponges--eager to learn and absorbing so much daily!

**Sincerely,
Wendy Fritsch, Stacy Grillo and Sarah Hahn**