**Learning Tree Cooperative Preschool**

**Older 4’s/Young 5’s Newsletter**

**April 2019**

 We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Spring Break! Unfortunately, the weather wasn’t as warm as we would have liked! It’s hard to believe our school year will be ending next month but we have lots of fun-filled activities planned to keep the children happy and learning! Our thanks to Katie Laundra who came in last month to give a talk about veterinarians and animal care. We all learned a lot and enjoyed listening to the heartbeat of either Joslyn’s cat or Jordyn’s dog!

 The children are now working on printing their last name when they check-in each morning. Many now know their phone numbers and addresses. Our thanks for helping your child whenever possible. The police also recommend that children know their parents’ names so that might be something to practice as you drive around town.

 Our first week back after break was busy indeed! The children worked very hard on their April calendars. They did a great job of forming their numbers correctly, doing the abc dot to dot and coloring carefully afterwards. We remind them of doing work they are proud of when it’s hung up at home!

 We have some great little gardeners in our class! We planted flower seeds last week and also carrot seeds in a root-view planter after reading The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss. The children are learning about the importance of TLC with daily watering and sunlight in order for them to grow.

 On Thursday, we enjoyed cutting up a variety of vegetables, comparing the seeds, then making our own healthy veggie pizza for snack! By all accounts, they were a hit!!

 **Home Reading Program** – We started our Home Reading Program this past week. The children each take home a short story book to read with an adult. This is meant to be an enjoyable, shared reading time together. Please do not expect your child to read with you when they are tired or hungry. The children are in various stages of early reading--some are just starting to realize that each word starts with its first letter while others are sounding out complete words. More details are included inside your child’s ziplock bag. One of us teachers will read it with your child before it goes home. There is no rush to return a book each day, especially if your child wants to read it a few more times! ☺

**“Hundreds Day”** is coming up soon! We’ll be enjoying several activities to practice counting to 100 and to celebrate this special day! They are all doing a great job counting by 10’s and 1’s every morning with our bundles and loose sticks and suggesting which numbers will make “80” or “87” compared to earlier in the year when they were just guessing. They’re showing a better understanding and seeing patterns on the hundreds chart. So proud of them!

 We are also working on the concept of “how many more” such as in “How many more days will we be able to make a bundle?” This is a difficult concept but they are catching on. Play this at home as a game…such as, “How many more plates do you need so everyone has one?” as they help set the table.

***A Look Ahead…***

**Field Trips -Tuesday, April 9** – Please mark your calendars. *Wear your LTCP blue t-shirt!*

**9:30 – Grace A. Dow Library** – We will have a short tour, some stories, and enjoy some “Move & Groove” time followed by a snack that the preschool will provide. Then, we’ll walk or drive across the parking lot to the Dow Gardens.

**11:00-Noon – “Butterflies In Bloom” at the Dow Gardens**. We will enjoy time in both the Learning Center or “barn” and also in the conservatory to see all the beautiful butterflies. The preschool will pay for all preschoolers. Parents are asked to pay their own admission and for any siblings 2 yrs. or older. ($1 each or with the Dow Gardens’ Annual Cards)

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**Vision & Hearing Screenings** **–**  **Monday, April 29**. I have received all your paperwork. Please contact your child’s physician if you have any concerns about your child’s vision or hearing before that date. If your child is absent that day, you will need to schedule an appointment with the Midland County Health Department for one of their set dates as per the flyer I sent out earlier (or see me for another copy). *Please remember to keep your child’s results in a safe place as they’re needed for kindergarten entry.*

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** – I will be holding another set of conferences at the end of April/early May. Sign-up sheets will be available later.

**Preschool Garage Sale** –Spring (Date to be determined) – As you do your spring cleaning, please remember to start saving and pricing your treasures (anything-toys, books, clothes, household items, etc.) to donate to our annual garage sale. Thank you in advance. We are still in need of a location. If you live in a high traffic or easily advertised area and could lend out your garage/driveway, it would be greatly appreciated. We typically hold it for one day only, on the first weekend of May, during the Midland-wide garage sales. We will also inform you when donations can be dropped off at the preschool. Please contact Dani Liphard (Masie’s Mom) for more info @ danimax29@hotmail.com or (989)980-9633.

**Flower Vouchers** – We are selling flowers again this year as a fundraiser in time for Mother’s Day gifts and spring planting. (vegetable flats too!) Please refer to the paperwork that went home recently or contact Dani Liphard as noted above. Order forms and money are due on Thursday, April 25.

**Ice Cream Social - Thursday, May 16 @ 6pm**

Mark your calendars now for our end-of-the-year family fun event! We are hoping to hold our ice cream social outside, but will move it into Williams Hall in the event of inclement weather. Friends are welcome!

**Year-End Dates –** Due to weather closures, then adding days, some dates have now changed.

Mon/Wed 3’s/4’s – Last day is Wed. May 15

Tues/Thurs 3’s/4’s – Last day is Thurs. May 16

 4’s/5’s – Last regular school day is Thurs. May 16

 4’s/5’s – Please join us @ 9am on Tues. May 21 for our Year-End Celebration!

**2019-20 School Year** – Classes are filling quickly but we are still accepting applications for next school year. Please check our website for further information or talk to Becki Sue Kugler or one of the teachers for further class details. Applications are available in the hallway or online.

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 The children all seemed to have grown an inch or two over the past month or so! So many of them have needed new spring clothes and shoes lately!

 ***Your children are a wonderful group of individuals who are so kind and considerate towards each other. It’s fun to watch them all play together! Like the beautiful blossoms of spring, wonderful friendships have continued to blossom and grow since the fall. We love each and every day with them!***

 ***Enjoy the sunny days of spring ahead!***

 ***Sincerely,***

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