



March 2010 Newsletter

Belmont Weekday School

Spring Luncheon and Art Show

This year our spring luncheon will feature your children performing songs under the guidance of our wonderful music director, Ms. Sheila. Each class from the Two's to Pre-K has chosen a special children's song and has practiced just for you.

Our luncheon will coincide with an art show which will showcase your child's art work inspired by Eric Carle. This event has been very popular in the years past. The children love to show off all that they can do! Our luncheon will be held in the Community Center on March 11th.

Mark your calendars for this exciting event and stay tuned for more information.



March Need of the Month:

As Spring rolls around and it's not quite time for the playground again we keep the children happy indoors with extra fun activities.

March's need is **washable tempera paint and Playdough** (brand name playdoh please, not "Rose Art"). Any color is much appreciated.

From the Director

Taken from [The SECA Reporter](#), Winter 2010 issue, "Car Seat Safety: When can Children Ride in Seats that Face Forward?"

A recent newsletter of the American Academy of Pediatrics generated a lot of concern about a "new" recommendation concerning car seats, one that determined when children could begin to ride in car seats that face forward. It turns out that the Academy hasn't issued a new recommendation but just seeing the discussion begin was seen as a positive by the Academy. The experts at the Academy want parents to be well-informed to ensure the safety of their children while in a vehicle.

The Academy still recommends that children ride in rear-facing car seats until they have reached the limits of the manufacturer's weight and height recommendations. This may leave some children riding in the rear-facing seats much longer than parents would like, but safety experts say that's the safest position for small children.

If you'd like to get more information about car seats and what the Academy recommends, go to www.healthychildren.org and enter "car seats" into the search engine. You'll find a wealth of information. Also, most states have a program that will assess the safety of any car seat that you are using. Check with your state transportation agency to see if they have a program in your area.

— Ms. Jean

Dates to Remember

- *March 11: Spring Luncheon*
- *March 15-19: Spring Break—WDS Closed. Classes Resume March 22*
- *March 30—April 14: Parent-Teacher Conferences 3's, 4's, and 5's*

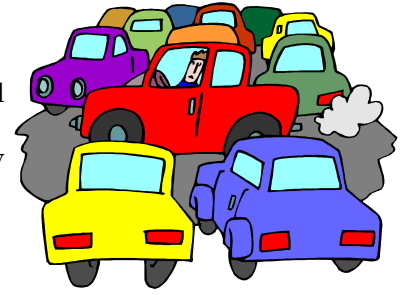
Parking at the Weekday School

Parking can be a hassle sometimes around the preschool but with a little patience, parking is usually available. You may park along Magnolia Avenue. You may have to walk a bit further than you would like but at least you will know that your car is not parked blocking someone in or in a place where you will be towed.

Space along the curb near the fire hydrant is a **NO PARKING** zone, and you will be ticketed, and/or towed. Metro police have resumed ticketing illegally parked cars. Perhaps you witnessed an accident there last month when someone illegally parked there during morning drop-off. Parking your vehicle by the curb blocks—

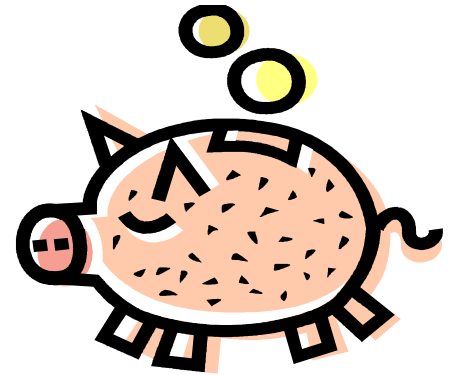
in cars that are legally parked in designated spaces. **Several times a week, cars are blocked in spaces when a WDS parent parks by the curb to “quickly run in to pick up or drop off a child”!** Also, please do not park in the Hillsboro Imaging lot off the cul-de-sac at any time of day. Their office is open until 8:00pm on weeknights, so please keep that in mind if you are here after hours for either church or WDS business.

Thanks for minding these few simple parking rules and courtesies.



The Weekday School is Collecting Your Spare Change

Shake the couch cushions! Belmont Weekday School is collecting your change. This February & March, Belmont WDS fundraising is getting a little change-up! We will be collecting bags of loose change that will be placed into our “Big Belmont Jar,” a large clear container that will show the children our progress. Ask your friends, family, neighbors or co-workers if they have a bag of change at home that they’d like to contribute. Look for the containers in the main hallway and outside room 116 and drop in your contribution. We’ll be tracking our progress on a big board in the main children’s hallway through March. You’d be surprised what we could do with a little change!



Classroom News: Infants

Spring is just around the corner! We are so happy to welcome the warm weather back. The babies will be spending more time outside starting this month. Please make sure your child brings a coat and appropriate shoes to play outdoors.

The babies have really grown this past month. They all love to help Ms. Ashlee and me. They also enjoy washing the toys and baby dolls and even like to wipe down the table and shelves. So if you need help with your spring cleaning be sure to enlist your little one. We know they would love to help out!

We will be exploring the color green through books, various art activities, and nature walks.

Please remember to check your child’s daily report everyday. We use these daily reports to remind you of upcoming events and daily happenings in the classroom.

We hope that you all have a safe and fun spring break!

Ms. Jade and Ms. Ashlee

“You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the
stars”

— Desiderata

Classroom News: Toddlers

Greetings from the Toddler Class!

We cannot believe it is already March. Where do the days go?

Every day we are busy learning and growing and having fun! This month our color focus is green and our shape focus is the shamrock. Both of these will be incorporated into our class art projects.

Remember, this month we have our spring luncheon on the 11th and spring break is the 15th through the 19th, with class resuming on the 22nd. As always, please remember to label all of your child's belongings brought into the classroom and be sure to cut up all fruit sent in the lunchboxes.

Thank you and come on spring!

Ms. Karina, Ms. Kim, and Ms. Meaghan



Classroom News: Twos

Hello from the 2's world!

During the month of March, we will be exploring the changing of seasons. Spring will be here soon! Insect snacks and various art projects will be made. We will be focusing on the color green, discussing St. Patrick's Day, and counting clover petals (numbers 1-4). The 2's will also go on a "Treasure Hunt" for gold.

We will definitely miss Ms. Rachel in our classroom, but look forward to welcoming Ms. Mimi (MWF) and Ms. Lauren (T/TH) this month.

Ms. Emily, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Mimi, and Ms. Lauren

"Lose yourself in nature and find peace"

— Unknown

Classroom News: Nearly Threes

The month of February was crazy with all the unexpected snow! Following our scheduled activities on our February calendar has been difficult, but we eventually got to do everything.

March, hopefully will not be disrupted because of inclement weather. We will learn about clouds, rainbows and wind. We'll even make our own puffy clouds with rainbows. If the weather allows us some sunny days, we'll try to create rainbows in the classroom with prisms. One of the books we'll read is [It Looked Like Spilt Milk](#). We're busy practicing our song for the spring luncheon on March 11th. Don't forget spring break is March 15th –19th (back to school on March 22nd).

As always, thank you for entrusting your children to our care. We love them.

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Claire



Classroom News: Younger Threes

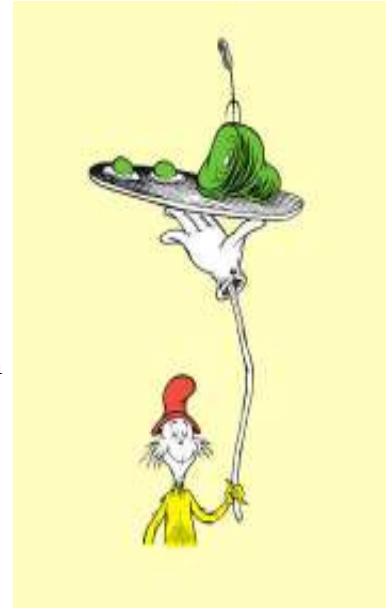
First we would like to say thank you for all your hard work in helping us get ready for our assessment! We especially appreciate the wonderful lunches that you prepare and send to school everyday.

This month we will be discussing Dr. Seuss in honor of his birthday on March 2nd. We hope to get a visit from the Little People, the Leprechaun, and after they leave, we will be looking for the Easter Bunny. We will be sharing some of our favorite fun books, Green Eggs and Ham, Jamie and the Big Potato, and The Night Before Easter. Ms. Shelia has new songs that we are sure your children will be singing at home, as well as around the classroom.

Upcoming dates: We are getting reading for our parent/teacher conferences, which will occur April 5th and 6th. To serve as a reminder, Belmont Weekday School will be closed March 15th-19th for our Spring Break and it will also be closed on April 2nd for Good Friday.

Thank you for helping make our Valentine and Easter class parties a wonderful experience for the children! We are so blessed to have such amazing kids and parents!

Have a marvelous March! Ms. Diane and Ms. Ashley



Classroom News: Older Threes

We are enjoying our class of boys and girls so much. Each week we see someone reaching a new milestone, and we are all having fun together while we learn and grow.

March Reminders: 11th spring luncheon; 14th Vaughan's birthday; 15th-19th spring break; 20th Dylan's birthday; and 30th and 31st parent teacher conferences.

Here are a few and ideas about how to strengthen fine motor skills.

Between the ages of three and five children usually make rapid progress in developing fine motor skills. These skills still require time, patience and plenty of practice.

1. Manipulation activities we do at school and you can also do at home: Manipulating playdough: rolling it into small balls, long rolls etc. Tearing paper into fine strips – use them for collage or crumple them into balls. Screwing up whole pieces of newspaper in one hand at a time to develop strength. Threading beads or macaroni onto string. Lacing activities. Cutting with scissors, using the correct grip. Manipulating clothes pegs to pick up small objects. Performing finger plays.

2. Sensory activities: Finger painting or manipulating other liquids with the fingers and hands e.g. slushy mud, pudding, shaving cream etc. Picking up small objects with the fingers, like pegboard pegs, rice grains, cracked corn etc.

See you at school!
Ms. Maria & Ms. Christy



Classroom News: Pre-K Fours

Happy Special Day to you....! This month we begin our special day celebrations. This allows us to honor your child and his/her uniqueness. We look forward to sharing this day with your family. The class is excited to celebrate!

Our class is still learning about the wonders of the rainforest. We are exploring each layer and the animals that live in each. Have you heard about a kinkajou, a tapir or a quetzal? Ask your child, I'm sure he/she can tell you all about these unique animals. This unit will conclude with a tasting extravaganza. Please sign up to bring an exotic fruit that grows in the rainforest for the class to taste.

Also in March we will begin to learn phone numbers. Please let us know what number you would like your child to learn (either home or a cell number).

Thanks to all of the wonderful chaperones for making our field trip to the Nashville Children's Theatre possible.

Ms. Val, Ms. Liz, and Ms. Michelle



Classroom News: Pre-K Fives

Hello from the Pre-K classroom.

We had a wonderful and busy February filled with parties and fieldtrips. We would like to thank all of the parents who volunteered to go on our Papa Johns field trip. We are also thankful for everyone who brought in supplies for our Valentines party and 100 day celebration. We danced and had fun at our sock hop, watched the birds and squirrels eat our bird feeders, and practiced counting during our 100 day celebration.

We have planned many enjoyable activities for the month of March. Our letters this month are A, V, and M. For A week we will have an alphabet review, make airplanes, and learn about alligators. For V week we will learn about the violin, vans, and violets. For M week, we will make our own musical instruments, make mouse paintings, and read The Mitten. Don't forget that our spring break is the week of March 15-19.

We hope you have a wonderful March!

Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Carol



Belmont Weekday School

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Educating and Nurturing
Children for Over
60 years

Save The Date: WDS Spring Gala Coming in April

Stay tuned for more information about the WDS spring gala. This is an adult only event which will feature good food and wine, live music, and great items to bid on including art projects created by your child's class.



A History of St. Patrick

St. Patrick was born to Catholic parents about 385 in Britain. His father was a nobleman and a deacon. But Patrick's privileged life came to an end at age 16 when he was captured by slave raiders from Ireland. With a large group of prisoners, he was transported to the then pagan island.

Sold as a slave to a king in the northeast, Patrick had the lonely task of tending the pigs and sheep. In the midst of these harsh living conditions, Patrick's faith flourished as he turned to God in prayer.

After being held captive for six years, he heard a voice in his sleep say, "Soon you will go back to your homeland." A short time later, he heard the same voice say, "Your ship is ready."

Trusting in God, Patrick set out on a 200-mile journey through unknown territory. When he arrived at the ship, the captain at first refused to take him. But Patrick prayed to God for help, and the captain changed his mind. Then began a lifetime of dedicating his life to becoming a priest. He envisioned returning to Ireland to teach the Irish about Christianity.

During his 30 years in Ireland, Patrick founded more than 300 churches and baptized more than 120,000 people. Yet he still encountered much opposition, "Daily I expect either murder, robbery, or enslavement," he wrote in his Confessions. He escaped from 12 attempts on his life. Patrick died a natural death on March 17, 461.

By the end of the 7th century, many legends had developed about him. One, of course, says he charmed all the snakes in Ireland and led them to the sea to drown. Another, probably the most popular, is that he used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity to unbelievers. This is probably why shamrocks, now Ireland's national flower, are worn by the Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

