



Belmont Weekday School

BELMONT WEEKDAY SCHOOL

February 2019 Newsletter

SPRING SING-ALONG LUNCHEON & ART SHOW

This year, our spring luncheon will feature your children performing songs under the guidance of our music director, Ms. Sheila. Each class, from the Toddlers to Pre-K Fives, has chosen a special song they are diligently practicing just for you!

Our luncheon will coincide with an art show, which will showcase your child's artwork. This event has been very popular in years past, and the children love to show off all they can do!

On March 8th, the spring performance will begin at 12:00 noon, in order to accommodate the MNPS school schedule. Our luncheon will be held in the Community Center, following the performance.



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

PARKING

Some of our parents were recently ticketed by motorcycle policemen while illegally parked during drop off/pick up. One of the policemen told a parent that if he had known what the parent was doing, he would not have written a ticket. Instead, he would have come back in 15 minutes to make sure the car was gone. With that in mind, we are handing out laminated cards to put in your front window, in case there are no legal parking spaces available. This identifies you as someone who is simply dropping off or picking up a child from the pre-school. Please note we CANNOT GUARANTEE

that you won't get ticketed even with the placard. A different police officer may not be as lenient. We also suggest turning on your hazard lights when you park.

Please do not park on 20th Avenue in front of Hillsboro Imaging. This not only blocks cars from exiting the spaces in front of the Weekday School, but it puts you at greater

risk of getting a ticket and/or being towed. You may park legally on Magnolia, 17th or 18th Avenues South, or the side streets. **Please be aware that the BUMC parking lot is one-way, as is the alley off 21st Ave. The alley is not an exit to 21st Ave. South.**

When you park and come into the Weekday School, please do not leave purses or anything of value in your car. Thieves have recently been targeting childcare and day care centers to steal from both unlocked and locked vehicles. Please make sure you lock your car doors as well.



Please remember **NO CELL PHONES** are to be in use during drop off or pick up, and your child must remain with you at all times.

SCHOOL HOURS



At the Weekday School, the “school day” begins at 9:00am. When you arrive late in the morning, please be aware that your late arrival is a disruption to the rest of the class who are in the middle of the morning’s activities. This late arrival can also “throw off” your child and the teachers.

Please try to be on time—if you cannot be here at 9:00am, please call the office.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT & FUNDRAISER

Please join us for our annual fundraiser on March 29th at InDo Nashville!

We are pleased to be offering food, cocktails, and music by DJ Dan, and we look forward to a great time!

Last year, we raised enough money to make some amazing improvements at the WDS (please see the bulletin board in the main hallway for pictures of our sweet children enjoying them!) We’d like to continue that trend, and hope you will participate by buying tickets, even if you can’t make it to the event. All ticket purchases go directly to the school.

In order to make this a success, we need EVERYONE’S help!

Tickets are \$25 each and can be bought with cash or check in EnaShea’s office. You can also purchase them directly through Eventbrite, via the link sent to you by email.

We are also looking for donations for our silent auction. Do you own a store or restaurant? Provide a service such as photography or spa treatments? Have access to sporting events or concert tickets around town? Make fabulous jewelry or art? The possibilities are endless, and all of them make excellent auction items!

Not only will these auctions items directly benefit the school, it is a great way for your business to gain exposure with fellow BWDS families!

If you have anything to donate, or know someone who does, please send an email to Katie Truex (katietrux@gmail.com) who is heading up this effort.

We can't wait to party and celebrate our school with you on March 29th!



NEED OF THE MONTH



The Three classes (Room 114 & 116)
are collecting
Play-Doh & construction paper.



2018-2019 Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

2/14: Valentine's Parties - individual classrooms

MARCH

3/8: Spring Luncheon -
Community Center

3/11-3/15: Spring Break **WDS CLOSED**

3/29: Parent's Night Out Fundraiser

APRIL

4/18: Parent Teacher Conferences
WDS CLOSED

4/19: Good Friday **WDS CLOSED**

MAY

5/9 & 5/10: Mother's Day Coffee & Treats
- WDS Hallways

5/17: Pre-K 4's & Pre-K 5's Graduation -
Sanctuary

5/20: End of the Year Celebration Picnic
Last Day of Spring Session 2019

5/21 - 5/24: Teacher In-Service
WDS CLOSED

5/27: Memorial Day **WDS CLOSED**

5/28: First Day of Summer Session 2019

JUNE

6/13 & 6/14: Father's Day Coffee & Donuts - WDS Hallways

JULY

7/4: Independence Day Holiday
WDS CLOSED

7/29: Last Day of Summer Session 2019

7/30-8/2: Teacher In-Service
WDS CLOSED

AUGUST

8/5: WDS Classes Resume



CLASSROOM NEWS

INFANTS



Hello, February! The Infants' class has had a fascinating, albeit frigid, January. We spent the entire month learning about all things winter. The topics of winter clothing, winter animals, and winter weather (including snow and ice) have provided intriguing opportunities for the class. We especially enjoyed ice cube sensory play, making collage snowmen, meeting Arctic animals, painting with ice cubes, and learning the motions to "The Chubby Little Snowman" song. We have made great progress in learning to use our hands appropriately and using words to express our wants. We will continue to focus on these social/emotional skills throughout February, as well as learn about the Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, "I Love You" rituals, red, pink, and hearts. We will also begin to work on the skills necessary to move up to the Toddler room in May. More information will be provided about this in the near future.



Ms. Amy Kathryn & Ms. Tahnee

TODDLERS

Hi, friends! January flew by in the Toddler room! Potty training is in full swing for all of us, and we are so excited to be big boys and girls. January was full of winter activities and learning about the Arctic. We played with snow sensory and made snow cream; it was delicious! We dot painted winter hats as we learned about cold weather and how to dress appropriately. However, nothing can top our favorite activity, the snowball dance! We rolled snow, patted it, threw it, and danced the days away!

Here are a few of our favorite things we've discovered in the toddler room



this month: princess skirts, Elmo, the song "You're Welcome" from Moana, and Play-Doh. We absolutely can't

wait for February and all of the exciting things we have in store. We will have a Valentine's feast, make cookies and decorate them, and make valentines for our friends. When you bring in your valentines, please do not address them to any classmate in particular. Just sign them with your child's name. This makes distributing the cards much easier for the children. We can't wait to deliver our valentines to all of our friends!

Ms. Hannah, Ms. Jennifer, and Ms. Rachel

TWOS

What a busy month it has been in the Twos' Classroom! January was filled with so many exciting activities. Some of our students' favorites were playing in our snow sensory, making winter art projects, and building a felt snowman. We focused on a handful of winter topics in January, including snow, polar bears, penguins, and hibernation. Our students loved learning about these subjects, reading books and singing songs (their favorite!). Some of our students are still singing Jingle Bells from our Christmas Program.

Our class is very much look-

ing forward to February. We cannot wait to celebrate Valentine's Day and have our Valentine's Day parties on Wednesday, February 13th and Thursday, February 14th. During February, we will also be discussing a diverse range of topics such as Black History Month, Valentine's Day, weather, and Read Across America. We are so excited to learn about these new topics with our students!



Ms. Brittany, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Shelby

NEARLY THREES

Welcome to February in the Nearly Threes. In January, we learned about winter, snow and ice, the ocean (cold water), and the Arctic, and had the best time doing it. We learned that the winter season comes every year, and discussed what we should wear to be comfortable during it. We compared winter weather to the weather in other seasons. During snow and ice week, we enjoyed snow ball fights with cotton balls, explored ice, and made snow out of shaving cream and baking soda, which we found gets really hard if you leave it out overnight. We also played with Insta-Snow, an amazing foam-like substance that fluffs and becomes cold once water is added. During Arctic week, we explored the many animals that live in the Arctic and learned how they live in such extreme weather. We performed a blubber experiment to show how whales and seals survive the

cold water. We put our hands in ice water and determined that we would not be able to swim in it, then put our hands in a plastic bag filled with Crisco and put them back in the ice water. We discovered the water didn't feel cold anymore! The Crisco acted like blubber and kept our hands from getting cold. We made snowy owls and learned that the majority of Arctic animals are white in order to blend into the scenery for protection. Finally, we talked about the ocean (cold water). We did a fascinating experiment on ocean currents to see how they work. We tried a drink for snack called "ocean water" which looked like the ocean. We also introduced the concept of "big, bigger, and biggest" during our lessons, and determined which animals fell into each category. However, it didn't taste like it! In February, we will be learning about dental health, as it is Dental Health Month. We

will be doing a Valentine's week, during which we will share a potluck lunch with all of our friends. Please watch for a sign-up sheet, which will be coming soon. The students may bring valentines for all of their friends. If you need a class list, please let us know. We will also be doing a health and safety week and a week on Dr. Seuss. February may be a short month, but it's going to be packed full of health and love.

Ms. Amanda and Ms. Maria



THREES—ROOM 114



Happy New Year! During January we were excited to learn what it means to celebrate a new year. MLK week was filled with peace and joy as we talked about having love in our hearts. We learned that even though we look

different on the outside, we are all the same on the inside and love the same way. We did a demonstration with white and brown eggs to provide a visual for

the students. After cracking the eggs, we learned that, though they were different colors on the outside, they were both yellow on the inside. Other January topics included Arctic animals, winter, hibernation, and Groundhog Day. One of our favorite activities was our snowball fight. We had a blast! January birthdays included: Jude (5th), Graham (9th), and Paisley (14th). They all turned 4! February is the month of love, and our topics will include: Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, President's Day, Black History Month, and dental health. We are looking forward to an extremely exciting month, and we will be celebrating Valentine's Day and Ms. Susan's birthday with parties! Ms. Elizabeth will also

begin teaching our health and safety curriculum. This will be age appropriate, if you have any questions, please feel free to ask. February birthdays include: Ms. Susan (14th) and Stella (22nd). Happy birthday, Ms. Susan, we love you! Letters of the month will be N, O, P, and Q. Please send in items that begin with these letters, so the children may share during circle time. Happy Valentines Day!

Ms. Diane and Ms. Susan



THREES—ROOM 116

In January, our lesson plans included: polar animals, Martin Luther King Jr., hibernating animals, and Chinese New Year. We had a lot of great language experiences this month. Some of them were planned, like our "I have a dream" clouds, and some of them were unexpected, such as



our discussion after reading the poem, *Bear in There* by Shel Silverstein. The children talked for days about what they would do if they found a polar bear in their refrigerator! We also spent a great deal of time exploring the concepts of fairness and equality during MLK week. Our centers had signs posted that said



things like, "No Girls," "No Brown Eyes," and "No Black Hair." The children handled the experience well, but several asked when we were going to take the signs down! In February, we will be learning about dental health, Valentine's Day/hearts, and transportation. We will be preparing for the Spring Sing-Along, and welcoming Ms. Elizabeth on Tuesdays and Fridays for our personal safety lessons. We only have one birthday in February; Elias will be four on the 27th.

Ms. Liz and Ms. Melissa

PRE-K FOURS

Describe the perfect Valentine's dinner date:

Emma: "They will go to the movies and eat at a special place: McDonald's. They will wear a shirt dress, and scarf, and a jacket and shirt."

Rhapsody: "They will eat pizza at a pizza store. They will wear pants, and shirts, and their hair will be special."

James: "They will eat donuts and stuff like that. They will drink coffee. It will be at Copper Kettle."

Zi Yao: "They will eat lunch at home. It will be noodles and pizza."

Alison: "They eat pizza and mac & cheese. It will be at a wedding and they will wear wedding clothes."

Elliot: "Ice cream! They will eat it at church."

Adalie: "They will take turns holding a baby."

They will go to the toy place outside. They will eat two pizzas and hold ice cream for the baby. It will be at the restaurant of the jumping place."

Mila: "They would eat some cookies, cupcakes, cake, celery, and pizza with mushrooms. Everyone they know in the whole world will come to party with them. They will have lots of things to do, like lots of snacks, and treats, and vegetables, and fruits. Real fruit."

Zoe: "They will have special things, like sugar. It looks like a golden table with grapes."

Otis: "It's a Saturday. They get to eat lobster, shrimp, and fish. My dad will drive them and they will go to McDonald's."

Oliver: "Probably lasagna. Probably they will wear a dress and a big thing like nice clothes."

Van: "They will eat next to the river and get

ice cream."

Addison: "They would go to a ramen place. My Grandpa Tom would drive them, and I want them to wear something special."

Katya: "Apples, and chocolate, and yummy candy."

Gracie: "They will give each other Valentine's cards. They will eat at a fancy restaurant with the best food ever. Then, they will drink lemonade."

Oscar: "They will go to Starbucks. They eat chicken and go to Jett's. Then they go to school."

Maddie: "They would eat at a party. They will give presents."

Rate: "They eat special food-French food. Then they go to a park or a hunt, like somewhere like the terrarium."



It's been a cold, (mostly) snowless January...we need to start DANCING! Well, at least for enough snow to stick around anyway. Us big kids can't sled in "a light dusting."

The Pre-K 4s were eager to jump into 2019. Memorable moments included conversations about the great Martin Luther King, Jr., otherwise known as "Love" to this group. We had another friend join our little classroom community and we got to celebrate Oscar's birthday! During our study of *The Mitten*, by Jan Brett, we were able to enrich our learning with a small presentation of Ukrainian keepsakes from Gracie and her family. Finally, we demonstrated some cool ice experiments during our week on winter science. February will bring another special community event, as Zi Yao's family helps teach lessons on the Chinese New Year. Lydia and her family will be able to travel to China this year to celebrate the holiday.

We are very excited to begin our work for the Spring Art Show. Coincidentally, Valentine's Day will fit right in. We hope you are as ready for the lovely blast-from-the-past as we are! Finally, we will end February with our famous "rhyming week," paying tribute to Dr. Seuss.

Ms. Ann Walker and Ms. Karina

PRE-K FIVES

It's difficult to believe month one of 2019 is already coming to a close! We spent the first week reacquainting ourselves with classroom rules and routines, and celebrating the new year by establishing our own class resolutions. Our most ambitious goal appears to be conservation (namely in the Art Center), which prompted quite a few subsequent lessons on the concept of using materials to their fullest, how to refrain from wasting, and the importance of keeping our space clean. Other week one highlights included our homemade slime, New



Year's handprint paintings, and our festive, confetti-filled sensory bin.

Week two was all about snow. While we only caught a brief glimpse of it outside on the playground, it made a memorable appearance in our lesson

plan! We enjoyed Insta-Snow in our Sensory Center, made mittens to hang on our bulletin board, created melted snowmen out of shaving cream, and played hide-and-seek with numbered paper snowflakes. It certainly got us in the spirit for colder weather!

The holiday in week three gave us occasion to celebrate the inspiring and influential contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We read about his life, discussed his impact on our history, and came up with ideas about what each of us might be able to do to change the world. We also spent the week learning about Arctic animals, with fun polar bear paintings, 3-D penguin art, and tons of fun facts about our friends who live in the polar regions. Another important facet of week three was the introduction of our Health & Safety curriculum, beginning with "I am special; I am unique."

During our final week of January, we learned about hibernation, accompanied by a secondary lesson on that wily predictor of spring's arrival, Mr. Punxsutawney

Phil. Apparently, the groundhog did not see his shadow this year, so we should anticipate an early spring...but until we know whether or not his prediction is correct, please make sure you keep bundling up your children each day! In honor of Groundhog Day, we conducted a shadow experiment. We also created a collaborative class book to continue our hibernation study, and the students learned their home addresses in Health & Safety.

We are looking forward to a February filled with love and valentines, along with other special celebrations such as the Chinese New Year! Wishing you warmth as we make our way through the rest of the winter months,

Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Jenna



WEEKDAY SCHOOL SICK POLICIES

The Weekday School has adopted the Model Child Care Health Policies from the American Academy of Pediatrics. These criteria were developed to control the spread of infectious diseases in the classroom. The criteria outline symptoms for which you should not bring your child to school or for which you will be called to come pick them up.

If you are ever called to pick up your child up for illness, you should do so within an hour of the call.

Children should not be brought to school if they have taken multi-symptom cold remedies or fever controlling medications within the last 6 hours.

Young children are building their immune systems. They will be ill from time to time, in spite of our efforts to provide a healthy and clean environment for them. Please plan a back-up system - for example, having alternative care in place when you work prevents you from being at home with your sick child.

We want to prevent the spreading of illnesses to the other students as well as teachers!

FEVER: Your child should not be brought to school until they have been fever-free (less than 100.0°F) for the preceding 24 hours **WITHOUT** medication.

VOMITING: Your child should not come to school until they have been vomit-free for the preceding 24 hours.

DIARRHEA: Your child should not come to school until they have been diarrhea-free for the preceding 24 hours.

STREP THROAT: Your child should not return to school until he or she is fever-free and has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.

LICE: Per DHS rules and regulations, you must provide proof of treatment before readmission to the WDS.

When your child is absent because of illness, please notify the school before 9:00am on the day missed. If your child is at school, he or she should be well enough to participate in all activities. We ask you to give your child enough time to recover from being sick before bringing them back to school.

The WDS reserves the right to ask you to present a doctor's note upon your child returning to school. Thank you for your cooperation.



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Soon you will receive information regarding the Parent/Teacher Conferences that will be held on Thursday, April 18th. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in your child's classroom, and conferences will be scheduled in 15 minute blocks. Please be courteous to other parents and arrive on time for your conference. This is a good opportunity to discuss issues or concerns you may have regarding your child or your child's classroom. It is also a good way to promote positive, consistent learning from school to home and home to school. It is always a good idea to write down any thoughts you may have on what you wish to discuss, and bring it with you to the conference. If you are not able to attend on April 18th, please let your child's teacher know so you can schedule another time to meet.



*****Please Note*** WDS will be closed for students on this day.**



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Belmont Weekday School serves children ages nine months to five years. The WDS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, handicap or disability, sex, or age in its employment policies or in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

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