



play & prep  
preschool

## News from the Directors

The Art Show was a huge success and we were glad so many of you were able to attend. The staff and students have worked very hard on their projects.

Thank you to those who supported our last fundraiser with Kollman's Garden. Flowers will be delivered in time for Mother's Day.

Our End of Year family picnic will be on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> along with our last service project, The St. Jude Children's Hospital Trike-A-Thon (students will need to bring their own bike and helmet). We will be providing our families with pizza, carrot sticks and cake. Please make sure you RSVP for this event. An invitation with RSVP slip and Trike-A-Thon pledge sheets went home last week.

Thank you for sharing your children with us this school year. For those moving on to kindergarten, good luck and come visit us!  
Happy Summer!

Mrs. Halley and Mrs. Juergemeier



## Important Dates

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Mrs. Pecherkiewicz and Mrs. Schofalvi's class field trip

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> - Messy Monday

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Staff Meeting noon

May 9<sup>th</sup> - Plants ready for pick up

May 13<sup>th</sup> - End of year picnic/Trike-A-Thon

May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Last day 3s/PreK

End of Year Celebration 10:45am/2:30pm

### **Summer Camp Sessions**

June 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

### Reminders:

\*Final tuition is due by May 15th.

\*With warmer weather coming, we will be outside more.

Please dress your children in play clothes and sturdy shoes for active play. NO Crocs or flip-flops.

\*We cannot apply sunscreen to your child without an authorization form on file; please put some on before they come to school.



## Pre K Class - Balog

I can't believe this is our last month of school! We may have a short month, but we have a lot of fun activities planned. Starting off our month, we will discover what it takes to be a super hero. We will learn that we are ALL super heroes and make our very own masks. Next, we will be making special gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Finishing up our month, we will learn about Community Helpers. We will discuss all the amazing community helpers around us and how important all their jobs are. Our final project will be self-portraits and what we want to be when we grow up! Thank you to all my families for an incredible year and thank you for sharing your children with me. Good luck in kindergarten!



## Pre K Class - Zerk

We had a great April, enjoying lots of outdoor play in the springtime weather. We worked hard finishing up our alphabet studies, and in May we will have an alphabet party! We learned about plants, insects, and ocean life, and had some first-hand experiences with these subjects in the garden and at the aquarium. In May, we will celebrate all we've accomplished this year, and we will also celebrate our awesome moms and dads as we make special gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day. We look forward to singing for you at the special celebration on Wednesday, May 22! Thanks for a great school year; enjoy your summer!



## 3's Class - Pecherkiewicz

I cannot believe we are in the final weeks of school already! This year really has flown by and it has been such a joy to watch all the students learn and grow. We will wrap up the year finishing exploring the last of our five senses, hearing and taste. Then we will discuss all things summer! We will look forward to our zoo field trip on May 1st with Mrs. Schofalvi's class, as well as the Trike-A-Thon, and finally the year end celebration with all the students on May 22nd. It has been an honor to have each of your children in my classroom this year! Thank you all for making it an awesome school year!



### 3's Class-Schofalvi

We have had an incredible month of hard work building our classroom forest, which has resulted in an amazing Art Show exhibit. I am so proud of our students. The creativity of our 18 different forest creatures has been astounding. Time has also been spent searching for, sequencing, writing and making the sounds of the alphabet; counting and sequencing numbers 1-20; and searching for and identifying shapes and colors. We even have a reader. It has been a pleasure observing the tremendous growth in language, focus, ability and independence of the children this year. This month, we will go on our zoo field trip, celebrate Mothers and explore nature through art.



### Extended Day

April brought us sports, weather and bird themed weeks. As we enter our final month of extended day, we will be exploring insects, spring, and community helpers through stories, crafts, activities and hopefully lots of outdoor time! We will enjoy a visit from the Solon Library for a special story time and yoga with Miss Julie. It has been fun spending the afternoons with the students this year!

Mrs. Balog and Mrs. Perlberg



### Science

Our caterpillars have made their way to stage 3, chrysalis! When they finish their cycle and are butterflies, we will take them outside and release them. For our last month of Science, we will be spending it outside. First, we will be experimenting with baking soda and vinegar, doing one of the student's favorite activities, volcanoes! Then we'll be learning about the science behind bubbles. We will finish out the school year with water and the students will be able to experiment with funnels, eye droppers, cups, bowls and scales. What a great year we had in Science! Have a great summer and don't stop exploring our world around us!

Mrs. Chapek



### Woodshop

We had lots of projects going on in Woodshop in April. Our PreK students finished up their stuffed animal beds while the 3's created "build your own" wood masterpieces. Some classes also made butterflies with wood clothespins to accompany the Science lesson on butterflies. In May, we will work on a year-end gift which will take a couple of weeks to finish.

Mrs. Chapek and Mrs. Johnson



### Music

We are busy preparing our musical performances for our end of year celebration! The students are excited to show their families and friends all the fun things we have been working so hard on!

Mrs. Perlberg



### Creative Movement

We "hit it out of the park" this month in Creative Movement. We did a baseball unit practicing our throwing and catching. The weather cooperated so we had some practice running the bases outside too. In May, we will try some traditional "playground games" such as kickball and tunnel tag. We will also work on our biking (tricycle) skills prior to the Trike-A-Thon.

Mrs. Johnson



### Messy Mondays

It has been exciting to see Messy Monday grow from a fall and spring offering to a yearlong program. It has also been wonderful to add lots of new friends. We hope our friends moving on to kindergarten come back to visit us and we hope the rest of you will be back for more Messy Mondays and Outdoor Preschool on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons next year. The Learning Garden will be buzzing this month with bees, bugs and butterflies as everything starts to bloom! We will celebrate our year on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> complete with a butterfly cake and berries!

Mrs. Juergemeier and Ms. Zerk

## Healthy Habits

Biking skills typically begin around 18 months of age with ride on toys and progress to tricycles by the age of 3. At about 4 years of age, children typically can begin riding bikes with training wheels and by 5 years of age many children ride bikes independently. Here are some ways to get your preschooler biking by summer:

**Tricycles** teach kids how to steer and pedal while being very stable.

- Set up little driving courses on the driveway or a playground basketball court using cones (or any miscellaneous objects that mark a turning point) and have the child weave in and out.
- Make a course such as a big circular race track. These activities help develop steering skills.
- Play "Stop Go" games to teach speed control.

**Two-Wheeler Bikes with Training Wheels** are essentially a bridge between a two-wheeler and a tricycle. The two outrigger training wheels are slightly higher, so the child has the sensation of tipping over before the extra wheel catches and stabilizes the bike. Try the activities above with your child on a bike with training wheels.

It is very important that a **Two-Wheeler Bicycle** bike is properly fitted. Beginning bikers should start with a slightly smaller bike so the feet can easily reach the ground to prevent falling.

Here are some ideas to help your beginning biker:

- **Curb Training:** Position the bicycle parallel to the curb. Have the child sit on the saddle with one foot propped up on the curb and the other on the pedal. Gently tip the bike away from the curb so the child must move the foot off the pedal to stop a fall.
- **Curb Scooting:** Once the child is proficient at blocking a fall with the pedal side foot, the child begins to use the curb side foot to propel the bike forward (like a scooter). Over time the child should begin to glide. Now repeat this whole sequence while holding the bike seat with the child on it. Tip the bike to the right and left so the child must figure out which foot to use to stop a fall. Then the coach stabilizes the bike as the child pedals.