

Preschool Press

December 2011

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

WOW! The weather has definitely changed. Please be aware of the temperature and make sure your child is dressed to go outside every day that is possible. Please remember hats, gloves, and boots. December can sometimes bring severe weather, so I wanted to inform you of our school closing policy and how this is communicated to our families. When winter weather causes school closings or bus service cancellations for Ann Arbor Public Schools, a SchoolMessenger call will go the number that is listed as your child's HOME PHONE. There will also be announcements made over various radio and television stations:

WAAM - 1600AM

WTKA - 1050AM

WQKL - 107.1FM

WUOM - 91.7FM

WEMU - 89.1FM

WJR - 760 AM

CATV Channel 10

Local Television Channels 2,4, & 7

You may also call the school closing hotline at **734-994-8684** or the district web page www.aaps.k12.mi.us. I hope you all stay warm and healthy during these upcoming cold months.



SAFETY ALERT!
LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN YOUR CAR IS NEVER OK.

This year there have been a number of times that children have been left unattended in our parking lot. The dangers are well documented and can be tragic. *Michigan does have a specific law that addresses the issue of leaving children unattended in a vehicle (MCL 750.135a); it specifically states that no child younger than six can be left in a vehicle unattended. The person attending the child must be at least 13 years old and not be incapacitated. Leaving your child unattended in the car may result in the Ann Arbor Police being notified.*

For more information on child safety in cars you can go to <http://www.dmv.org/mi-michigan/safety-laws.php>

-Michelle Pogliano, Principal

Transportation Updates!



Most calls regarding Transportation will go to Amy at 997-1245 ext 56200

If there is a day you do not need transportation (for example your child being sick) AND ***if your child is the only student getting on the bus at that stop, you need to call the Transportation Department at 994-5515.***

If you move, change daycares, need to add a drop off or pick up, or add/cancel transportation you must see Amy in the main office; these things are *not* handled at the Transportation Department. If you have questions regarding our group stops, times, routes, etc please contact **Amy 997-1245 ext 56200**

Changes to routes are being made only once a month

Submit Transportation Form by 12 pm on:for Changes to Begin on:
Friday December 16 th	Monday January 9 th
Friday January 27 th	Monday February 6 th
Friday February 17 th	Monday March 5 th
Friday March 23 rd	Monday April 9 th
Friday April 27 th	Monday May 7 th
Friday May 25 th	Monday June 4 th

You will receive a new letter and bus tag from your teacher by the Thursday before the changes will begin.

Reminders

Be outside at the bus stop at ***least 10 minutes*** before your scheduled pick up time.

Wait for the bus quietly away from the road.

Do not move toward the bus until the driver opens the door.

Never cross in front of a bus.

Always use the handrails while climbing the stairs.

Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting on or off.

Obey the Bus Drivers and Monitors.

Always wear your Safety Harness.

Stay in your seat while the bus is moving.

Keep your hands to yourself while on the bus.

Language and Literacy Corner

Each month we will give you suggestions about how to help your child develop crucial language and literacy skills necessary when learning to read. When using these ideas, you will be taking a major step toward preparing your child for success at school while in the comfort of your own home. Everyone is sure to have lots of fun!

What the research says:

Let children start the conversation and follow their lead by responding with interest on their topic. These kinds of conversations motivate children to talk and are associated with children's future academic success.

Rodriguez, E.T., Tamis-Lemonda C.S. Spellman, M.E., Pan, B.A., Raikes, H. Lugo-Gil, J. & Luze, G (2009). The formative role of home literacy experiences across the first three years of life in children from low-income families. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 30, 677-694

Tips for helping your child develop language and literacy skills:

Daily Activities



During routines like dressing, meals, bath and play, speak face-to-face with your child. Being at the same physical level brings your child physically and emotionally closer and makes him feel you're really with him.

Pretend Play



When your child is pretending, observe what his play is about. Then join in and take on a pretend role that builds on his play. Remember to let him lead.

Reading Books



Encourage your child to "read" a book at his own pace. Spend more time on the pages he's interested in and wait to let him comment. When he does, respond with interest.

On the Go



When shopping with your child, watch closely to see what interests him. Then stop and talk about what has caught his attention.

-Speech Pathology Staff, AAPS Preschool

Discovery News

Once a week your child has Discovery with Ms. Thelma. Over the last few months they have done things like mixing colors, trying to see what can sink or float, experimenting with magnets and creating chemical reactions.

Ask your child things about each of those topics such as:



Mixing Colors

If you mix red and blue what color do you get? How about blue and yellow? Or red and yellow?



Sinking and Floating

What kind of things sink in water and why?



Chemical Reactions

What happens when you mix vinegar and baking soda? Or what happens when you put baking soda in a balloon and dump it in a bottle that has vinegar in it?



Magnets

Why do magnets stick to each other?

Check out Discovery next month to see what exciting things we've learned!

-Thelma Kinlaw, Planning Teacher

INDOOR FUN FOR THE WINTER WEATHER

Here are some indoor exercise ideas to keep your family active and fit while the snow falls and the wind blows outside!

- ◆ Stay home and play **movement games** like Simon Says, yoga poses or imitating animals (hop like a bunny, walk like a bear).
- ◆ Buy or rent exercise or dance **DVDs and CDs** for children. Check out your local library for some great (and free) children's music CDs or DVDs.
- ◆ Head to **Briarwood Mall** to walk or go to the play area.
- ◆ **Jump City** (moved to Carpenter Rd, close to Sam's Club, 734-995-5055) has an inflatable bounce and jump playground. Admission is about \$7 per person. Go to www.jump-city.com for more hours and information.
- ◆ **Urban Toddler** (7025 E. Michigan Ave, Saline 734-944-3628) has an imagination-driven play area with lots of props and toys for 0-5 year olds to play with for hours. Admission is about \$5/child.
- ◆ **Jungle Java** (reopened 3900 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor 734-926-2990). It is a climbing café for kids of all ages. Admission is \$7 for children over 2, \$3 for 1-2 year olds. Adult and children under 1 get in free.

Remember, when heading out to play at indoor play areas, keep the kids home if they aren't feeling well...and always encourage your child to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently, especially before they eat and when they are done playing. -Kathy Gaines, PT

Toys and Games that Help to Develop Strong Vision Skills

Nearly all humans are born with the potential for good eyesight, but vision (the ability to interpret and understand what is seen) is learned and developed, starting from birth. One vision skill builds on another while we grow. It is important to have efficient visual skills as 80% of all information we receive is visual. Vision is a critical part of learning, working and even recreation. It is important for children to have time to play with toys and games that help to build strong vision skills. -Occupational Therapists, AAPS Preschool

Toy/Game	Visual Skill Area
Lite Brite	Fixation, Eye-Hand Coordination, Form Perception
Lego/Duplos/Tinker Toys	Eye-Hand Coordination, Form Perception
Blocks	Form Perception
Mazes	Oculomotor Skills, Eye-Hand Coordination
Ball Games/Balloons	Gross Motor, Eye-Hand Coordination, Spatial Concepts
Memory	Visual Memory
Tangram	Form Perception, Visualization
Lincoln Logs	Eye-Hand Coordination, Form Perception
Bed Bugs	Fixation, Eye-Hand Coordination
Toss Across/Bean Bag games	Eye-Hand Coordination, Spatial Concepts
Stringing Beads	Fixation, Eye-Hand Coordination

“Shine your Smile Day” is coming!

School is hosting Smile Programs...the mobile dentists on _____.

We have invited the Smile Programs...the mobile dentists to coordinate on-site dental care at our school because we know of how important taking care of your children's teeth is to keeping them healthy. Best of all, **your child can receive dental care at NO COST TO YOU**, as Medicaid, CHIP and most other insurances cover 100% of prevention treatment.



Tooth decay is the most common chronic and infectious disease among children. In addition, kids with oral disease can suffer with pain and difficulty eating.

The dental team will set up a mini-dental office in our building and provide dental services for all children who return completed forms.

Dental services can be provided to families who need financial assistance, and there are subsidized fees for those who choose to pay for preventive care.

The Smile Programs has been servicing schools, and creating healthy smiles, for over 14 years. All dentists are state licensed and will conduct a complete dental exam.

Signing up your children to see the mobile dental team is an easy way for them to get necessary dental care. **If you want your child to see the dentist on “Shine Your Smile Day,” just fill out the permission slip and return it to the school.**

You can learn more about Smile Programs...the mobile dentists by going to mobiledentists.com and watching the short video about the dental care program.

A Note of Thanks.....

The students and staff of Classroom D107 would like to thank the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation for our grant. This money will be used to continue music therapy in our classroom twice a month. This is a great program and we are very fortunate to be able to participate in it.

Attention Preschools Families

Did you know we offer Wraparound Childcare for Head Start & Great Start Readiness families who work or attend school at least 20 hours a week? There is a small hourly rate and it is available only when school is in session Monday through Thursday. If your child attends the AM session the Wraparound childcare time is 7:30a - 8:30a, therefore your child would not be able to have transportation services TO the school. If your child attends the PM session the Wraparound childcare time is 3:30p - 5p, therefore your child would not be able to have transportation services AFTER school. For more information call Evelyn 734-997-1245 ext 56201.

Ann Arbor Preschool & Family Center

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 No School ALL Preschool Students	3
4	5	6	7	8 Policy Committee 2p (at Preschool)	9 School in Session ALL Preschool Students	10
11	12	13 Policy Council 5:30p (on LeForge)	14	15 Mobile Dentist	16 Transportation Changes Due 12 p	17
18	19	20 Free Produce 11a-1p	21	22	23 <hr/> No School <hr/> Winter Break	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<hr/> N o S c h o o l W i n t e r B r e a k <hr/>						
BACK TO SCHOOL ON JANUARY 9, 2012!!						