

Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 11

Issue 7

March 2019

Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

February was a fun, friendship-filled month! The children loved the Valentine's Exchange -- a big thank you for participating and for all the goodies that were shared! The children also loved learning about "Presidents," "African American History Week," and especially "Dr. Seuss!"

March will have its share of excitement as well. The students will be learning about "Space," "St. Patrick's Day," "Spring," and "Bugs & Insects."

Here are a few important reminders and dates to remember:

"Hands are for Helping Not Hurting" Presentation

On Monday, March 5th, the Lions' students will participate in a presentation about "Hands are for Helping Not Hurting" at 9:30 am.

St. Patrick's Day Party

On Friday, March 15th we'll be enjoying a little Irish fun! Please see your child's classroom teachers for party details.

Entering/Exiting the School/Picking Up Children

If you have a designated friend/family member picking up your child, please ask them to stop by the front desk and/or announce themselves to your child's teachers upon arrival with photo identification in hand. Pick-up time is a busy time and we would appreciate your communicating our protocol to your friends and family.

Spring Forward

On Sunday, March 10th we "spring forward" our clocks one hour for Daylight Savings time!

Giraffe Students Field Trip to the Naples' Zoo

On Tuesday, March 5th, our Lions' students will be going on a field trip to the Naples' Zoo. If you are interested in being a chaperone, please contact your child's teachers.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Thursday, April 18th we will hold our Annual Easter Egg Hunt

School Closed on "Good Friday"

The school will be closed on Friday, April 19th in observance of Good Friday.

Picture Day - April 26

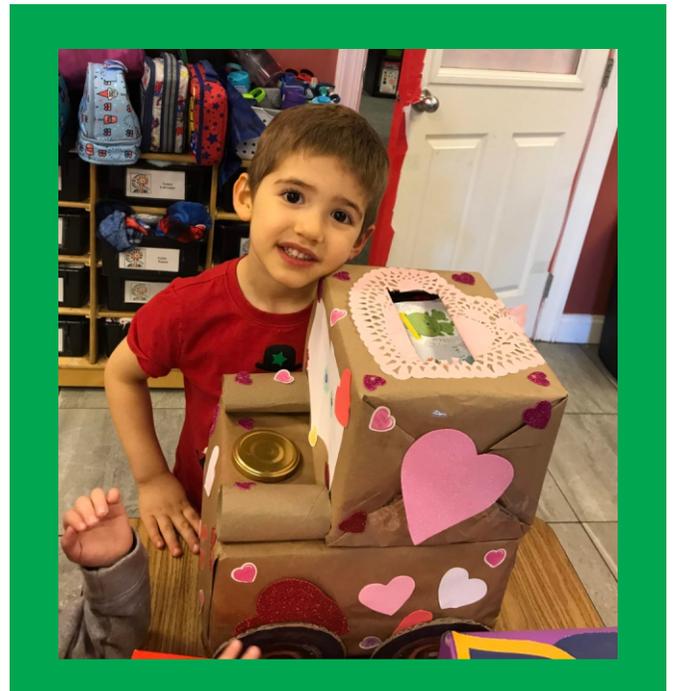
On Friday, April 26th, LifeTouch will return to take portraits of your children

Here's to a great March!

Warmly,

Janine

Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy



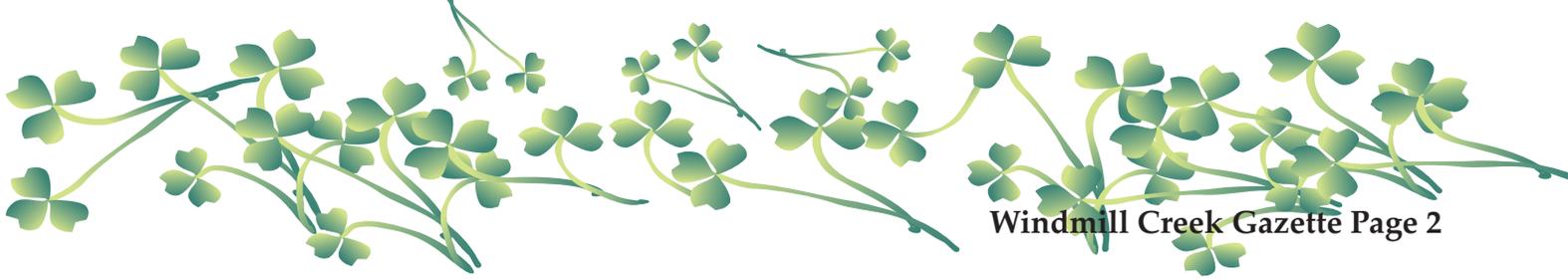
Thomas shows of his Valentine's Mailbox!

Character Training

March's Character Training Values

Kindness = Tenderheartedness & Consideration

Forgiveness = Understanding and Pardoning



Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

Bunnies

Our Bunnies are welcoming March with open arms! Gwen is growing fast and loves her floor and tummy time. She has a wonderful smile! Molly is reaching for toys and also loves floor time. She is eating baby food and is very vocal! Elliot has grown so much and is about to head up to the Cub's classroom. She is eating table food, standing up and crawling everywhere! Rocco is eating snacks and table food. He is very curious – constantly reaching for toys and crawling. Jason is eating table food and loves his breakfast! He is crawling everywhere and reaching for toys. Ryker is eating baby food and loves tummy time. Ryker is a great smiler as he reaches for toys! Our Bunnies are our lucky charms for the month of April!

Ms. Iris, Ms. Ileana, Ms. Mariah, Ms. Sami

Cubs

The Cubs' class would like to welcome in the month of March as we explore Dr. Seuss, Space, St. Patrick's Day, Spring and finally Bugs & Insects! So many new words to say, pictures to explore and books to read! All of our Cubs have achieved something new! Vera and Lennox are standing up. Avery is walking. Landon, Caleb, Javiera, Luca and Fox love “reading” books and love our flashcards, ABCs and colors at Circle Time. We look forward to a great month of exploration here in the Cubs!

Ms. Sofie, Ms. Ally & Ms. Kelsey

Bears

In February the Bears had so much fun celebrating Valentine's Day, making hearts and sharing love and friendship. The Bears learned about George Washington and the White House. During the last week of February we loved reading Dr. Seuss Books! All the rhymes and imaginative creatures of his books were enjoyed by all! In March we will learn about space, St. Patrick's Day, spring time and different types of bugs and insects. We would like to welcome Bella, Bear and John to the Bear's Den!

Ms. Rachel, Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Chelsey

Frogs

February was a busy month with welcoming new friends and celebrating Valentine's Day! Thank you to all the parents for very creatively decorating Valentine's boxes with your children! The students were very proud to show them off! We learned about Presidents and Rosa Parks. We especially enjoyed the last week of February as we read the many Dr. Seuss books. We look forward to

making cupcakes in celebration of his birthday! In March we will explore space, celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and discover all sorts of creepy crawly facts as we learn about “Bugs & Insects!” Thank you to the Grimes family for donating two more dump trucks to our classroom. The children love filling them up, pushing them and dumping the mulch out! Finally, we would like to welcome Tanay, Derek and Sophia to the Frogs' classroom!

Ms. Kayla, Ms. Raquel, Ms. Lena, Ms. Ana & Ms. Kally

Giraffes

The month of February went so quickly for the Giraffes' students! We learned all about African American history. We learned a new song in circle about Jackie Robinson and played a game of baseball. We also had a special treat with peanut butter when we learned about George Washington Carver and we learned about Rosa Parks and colored a bus. During Valentine's week we made a lot of crafts and beautiful pink and red decorations for our classroom. We loved seeing all the hearts dangling from the ceiling. We also made a toad that said, “I toad-ally love you!” We also made a cat that said, “To me, you are purr-fect!” During Dr. Seuss Week we made the Cat in the Hat and a fun counting game for One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. We continue to learn about the alphabet and shapes each week. In March we will learn about space and make the solar system. During St. Patrick's Week, we will paint shamrocks, make rainbows and find gold! We look forward to spring where we will make flowers and even fly a kite. We would like to welcome Barrett, Triston and Camila to the Giraffes' class! P.S. We are looking for donations of empty clean milk jugs please ... and thank you!

Ms. Daisy, Ms. Krystal, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Amanda & Ms. Alondra

Lions

February flew by! We enjoyed making Valentine crafts, counting, sorting and graphing candy hearts – and of course – the Valentine's Party! We are excited to march, lol into the new month with our first Field Trip to the Naples' Zoo! It is so much fun sitting in the zoo classroom and learning about animals so close-up. To experience the zoo is fun but to do so with all our classmates will be awesome! We continue to munch our way through the alphabet! We had “Q”uesadillas and “R”ice crispie treats and “S”tone soup as we explored the letters. Soon we will have learned writing all our numbers to 20 and will focus more on simple addition, patterns and one-to-one correspondence!

Ms. Kristen, Ms. Ali, Ms. Kally



March Birthdays

Ms. Daisy - March 7
 Luca B - March 8
 Lennox B - March 8
 Avery S March 10
 Vera B - March 16
 Zen R - March 18
 Ms. Kally - March 20
 Vera W - March 22
 Ms. Chelsey - March 22
 Tessa G - March 24



Keep your eyes
 peeled for
 the patter of
 Leprechaun feet on
 Friday, March 15th!

... will we have a little
 visitor?

Only time will tell!

What Does "Kindergarten Readiness" Really Mean? by Eliza Clark

As the new year turns, parents of four and five-year-old preschoolers are looking back and looking forward and thinking: can it be that there is only half a year of preschool left? **And then we're onto...kindergarten?!** And each one of us is also thinking: is my child ready for this? Am I ready for this?

Even though kindergarten is not necessarily so very different than a good pre-k program, it still feels like a big jump. The hours will be longer, no doubt, and the days more structured. But the biggest difference is that our little ones will be going to the same school as the really big kids! Preschool can feel like a cozy extension of babyhood.... Not so kindergarten. Sigh.

So maybe some of us parents are not quite ready, but that's not the truly important question, is it? Rather, this is a good time of year to begin asking whether or not our kids will be ready to make this big transition by the fall.

Your child's preschool teacher can give you most of the answer to this question, but as a parent it is useful to know what sorts of things a teacher looks for in a kindergarten kid. Overall, it is not so important that a child enter kindergarten with any particular set of knowledge, but rather that he or she be equipped and ready to learn in a school setting.

Self-care skills

Most kindergarten classes have a significantly lower teacher-student ratio than in preschool, so it is important that the children be able to handle their own basic needs. Among these: wiping their own noses; using the toilet independently; washing their own hands; taking off and putting on their own coats, hats, shoes; eating unassisted; cleaning up after themselves; and so on.

Social skills

Learning in a large group requires everyone's cooperation, so social skills are crucial. A child will do fine if he or she can separate comfortably from a parent or caregiver; follow an adult's directions; play well with a group of other children; sit and listen for short periods (circle time!); understand and follow basic rules.

Intellectual skills

Here it is important to caution that children learn letters and numbers and all the rest at dramatically different rates at this age, and generally most kids catch up to each other a couple of years down the line. When entering kindergarten, the key is that a child be comfortable in a school setting and express curiosity and eagerness to learn. Tell-tale signs of readiness are: an interest in books and reading; knowing some songs and rhymes; recognition and/or writing of some letters; pretending to read and write; knowing how to use pencils and scissors; expressing ideas through drawing; ability to retell a story; counting to twenty; willingness to try to complete a task.



Carter tries
 his hand
 at the violin!



Ms. Iris March's Teacher of the Month!

Please join us in congratulation Ms. Iris in our Bunnies' classroom as March's Teacher of the Month. One parent writes; "Ms. Iris has now taken care of both of our babies and we can't even put into words how much we love her! When people ask, 'Is it hard to leave your baby?' We always say, 'Of course, but when we know Ms. Iris is there,

we feel like we are leaving them with family and that makes it easy.' She has been a big part of our babies and our lives for almost 3 years now! She absolutely deserves this recognition for every month of the year!" We couldn't agree more! Thank you, Ms. Iris, for being such a wonderful member of our teaching team and the WCA family!



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