

♦ ALL ABOUT US ♦

Volume 53 Issue 8 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 April 2018

Calendar Notes

April 2

Student Holiday~ No School

April 10

Staff Training Day

****School Hours: 9:00-Noon****
(Dress Down Days 4/10 & 4/11)

April 11-12

Kidwell Field Trips

April 16

Student Holiday~ No School

April 16-20

Week Of Young Child

Units Of Study

Signs of Spring
Birds, Nests, and Seeds
Dinosaurs
Earth Day and Recycling



We are hoping that this newsletter finds everyone looking forward to Spring and the return to warmer weather.

Each year during the month of April, the NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, celebrates the Week of the Young Child. This annual event celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers and their families. Our staff is planning lots of fun and exciting activities this month as we mark this important occasion. Be sure to keep your eyes open to see all of the wonderful and creative art work which will be displayed throughout the school marking this occasion.

As educators, we know that children develop best in an environment of order and consistency. They are happier when they follow a regular routine. As parents, we have all experienced times when we just can't seem to motivate our children to listen and follow directions while trying to keep to a set schedule. In today's busy world, and the number of activities children are involved in, it can seem like a daunting task for parents when children dawdle and take forever getting ready to head out the door. This type of behavior can create frustration, cause parents to lose tempers quickly, and make those morning transitions very difficult.

Young children are not concerned with keeping to a set schedule or the timing and your need to be at a certain place at a certain time. They tend to be engaged only in what is happening at the moment and can usually focus only on one thing at a time. If they are busy playing with toys or dressing up as their favorite princess or super hero, they will most likely ignore any requests to get ready for mealtime, bedtime, leaving the house, etc. All of the reminders, you give them will most likely be ignored since their focus is not on what is happening next. Preschoolers and young children do not necessarily care about the same things adults care about. With time and maturity, they will eventually learn to appreciate schedules, but for right now, this is not realistic.

So, what is the solution and answer to this problem? Can you change this type of behavior? Rather than spinning your wheels with tactics that do not work and can only exacerbate the behavior, parents need to know what does work and is effective with preschoolers.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director's Desk , continued from page 1

Here are a few suggestions which could prove helpful when trying to maintain your schedule while helping move your children along.

- ♦ Keeping to a strong and predictable routine is fundamentally key. You can do this by making it fun and engaging for your children through the use of games, songs, dances, etc.
- ♦ Be positive and consistent, yet firm, when you transition your child. Explain any deviation from the normal routine since children are most content when the same thing occurs at the same time every day. Should plans suddenly change, be sure to let your child know this ahead of time and explain the situation and the changes you are making.
- ♦ Make room for any tears that come along when children do not get their way. Just let them know that you empathize when they have to stop playing with their favorite toy, etc. Say something like, "I know it makes you feel really sad when you have to stop playing with Batman, doesn't it?" Welcome and acknowledge these emotions, even while you are trying to move your child along.

We hope you will find these suggestions helpful when you encounter changes in schedules and routines for your children. To young children, a predictable world is a safe world.

We hope you all have a Happy Spring!

Lexie



Help Us Celebrate The Week Of the Young Child

To celebrate the Week of the Young Child, Accotink will be collecting new and *gently* used children's books for the **Reach Out and Read** organization, a nonprofit literacy based program affiliated with Children's Hospital of DC and Van Dorn Pediatrics of Alexandria, Virginia. This organization prepares America's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with pediatricians to prescribe books by encouraging families to spend time reading together. Children who are exposed to reading and books at an early age enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies and stronger language skills.

During the week of April 16-20, we are asking families to donate new and *gently* used children's books, geared for ages 0-5, which we can send to this organization. These books will be distributed to the hospital and pediatric offices which will be given to patients on their well-child visits as well as being placed in waiting rooms. We will have a donation box located in the entrance hallway under the Accotink banner where families can place these books. This organization reaches out to underprivileged children and their families who otherwise would not be able to afford new books. As always, we appreciate your generosity and contributions!



***** Uniform Exchange Coming in May ! *****

Watch for information coming out next month regarding our used uniform sale. This is a great way to exchange uniforms your children have outgrown as well as purchasing larger sizes, etc., for the upcoming school year. We will need lots of parent volunteers to help with this sale. If you are interested, please let the office staff know. **We are only able to accept shirts and blouses that have the Accotink logo on them. Both navy and khaki items such as shorts, pants, skorts, as well as dresses and jumpers will also be accepted.**

Sunshine Summer Program

Join Us for a Fun Summer Camp Experience!

When: June 4-June 29, 2017

Where: Accotink Academy Preschool

Age: 3 - 6 year olds

Child must be 3 years old by April 1, 2018 and toilet trained. Child's 7th birthday must be after

December 1, 2018. ***Proof of age is required for children who have not previously attended Accotink.***

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday



Week 1 (June 4-8) Adventures in Nature

Week 2 (June 11-15) Adventures in Books

Week 3 (June 18-22) Adventures in Yoga

Week 4 (June 25-29) Adventures in Games

Registration: Ongoing through May 25, 2018. Registration forms and a non-refundable registration fee of \$50.00 may be turned into the office. Please address questions to the camp director, Mrs. Fran McBride. She can be reached at 703-451-5797.

Box Tops For Education Collection



Don't forget to continue saving your box top logos from General Mills products for our school. We will continue to collect box tops through the end of the school year and summer camp. Together with the Child Enrichment Program, we have been able to buy additional equipment for our playground. We would like to thank Mrs. Merrick, for being our box top coordinator this year. We are looking for another parent who would like to take over this responsibility for the 2018-19 school year. If you think you might like to volunteer for this position, please stop by our office and let us know.

Spring Sing

Our students have been hard at work practicing their song and dances. They can not wait to perform for you at the Spring Sing. The Spring Sing will be held in the sanctuary at Messiah United Methodist Church. This is a much anticipated event so be sure you have your calendars marked for Thursday, May 3rd and Friday May 4th at 11:30! Each show will last approximately an hour. Below you will find the schedule for each class with the time of their performance.

Thursday, May 3rd at 11:30-12:30

Mrs. Buell's 2 Day Class
Mrs. Jacewitz's 2 Day Class
Mrs. Winston's 5 Day Class
Mrs. Altman's 5 Day Class
Mrs. McBride's 5 Day Class

Friday, May 4th at 11:30-12:30

Mrs. Druggan's 5 Day Class
Mrs. Buell's 3 Day Class
Mrs. O'Pray's 3 Day Class
Mrs. Scavongelli's 3 Day Class
Mrs. Yocom's 3 Day Class



Upcoming Conferences



During the month of May, our teachers will be holding Parent Teacher conferences. This is a time for parents and teachers to communicate and share information about their child and his/her progress over the course of the school year. Close communication between parents and teachers is an essential and vital component to a child's learning environment and developmental progress. Our teachers will let you know when these conferences will be held.