



HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!

Happy Mother's Day! On Thursday, May 10, from 4:30-6pm we will be once again taking photos of you beautiful moms with your children. Dads, grandparents, and other guardians are also invited to the photo shoot, which will take place on the deck near the playground. Photos will be ready for pickup by the following day. We hope you will participate in this great Ellwood tradition!

WARM WEATHER REMINDERS

If you haven't already done so, please return your sunscreen authorization form to the front desk immediately. We cannot apply *any* sunscreen to your child unless we have a current form on file! We also ask that you apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school in the morning - we will reapply it throughout the day at least 20 minutes prior to going outside.

We also ask that your child does not wear flip flops to school, unless he is going to and from the swimming pool only. **For your child's safety, all sandals or shoes must have a heel strap.** Flip flops are not safe for running or climbing, and can easily break. We recommend your child wear socks and sneakers whenever possible.

Thanks for your help!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7 – 11, and we need you to help us celebrate! Because the fastest way to a teacher's heart is through her stomach, we are encouraging all parents to bring in goodies all next week. Doesn't matter what it is – breakfast, lunch, or sweet snacks – we aren't picky!

Thanks in advance for your appreciation – we are looking forward to some yummy munchies!

EMERGENCY CONTACT UPDATE

It's time again to update those emergency contact cards for all of the children. **We are asking all of our families to complete a brand new card, even if nothing has changed.** (Families that have enrolled after April 1 don't need to do anything.)

Things to remember when completing your card:

1. All emergency contacts must be local. It doesn't help your child if the emergency person lives an hour away or in another state.
2. All emergency contacts must have complete addresses listed. We are required by law to have this information.
3. A separate emergency contact card must be completed for each of your children.

Look for a new contact card in your child's mailbox, or ask for one at the front desk. We ask that you return your new card no later than May 18.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Some important dates for you to remember:

- Friday, May 4 – Happy Star Wars Day!
May the Force be with you!
- Thursday, May 10 – Mother's Day photos on the deck
- Thursday, May 10 – The Eagles' Art Show
- Monday, May 28 - Closed for Memorial Day
- Monday, June 18 – Swimming starts for PreK, Sparrow & Eagle classes
- Thursday, June 28 – Summer Kick Off Party! 6-8PM
- Wednesday, July 4 - Closed for Independence Day
- Friday, August 31 - Closed for Reorganization Day
- Monday, September 3 – Closed for Labor Day

SPRING BREAK – A TASTE OF SUMMER VACATION

This year's spring break did not disappoint our Sparrow and Eagle children, as they were treated to a taste of what happens during our summer program.

In addition to the fun things that Mr. Otha and Mr. Jason had planned, the children had the opportunity to leave the center a few times. The visit to the Nature Center at Three Lakes Park was a big hit – the children had a chance to see displays of animal teeth and skeletons and were able to ask lots of questions of the interns. The weather was perfect for the field trip to play miniature golf. The younger children demonstrated interesting techniques to use their clubs, while the older children were out to win.

FANCY SCHMANCY PLAYGROUND

Hopefully by the time you are reading this our big playground will be functional again. At the end of April, the fall zones around the jungle gym and swings were resurfaced with rubber mulch. Rubber mulch is actually made of recycled scrap tires, and is the safest surface available.

We are also scheduled for improvement on our toddler playground, including new fencing around the perimeter of the yard!.

DAP: MATH MOMENTS

In every one of our classrooms at Tuckaway, at any time of the day, the potential for a 'math moment' exists. Our classrooms are one big learning center! Children learn to make sense of their world through everyday experiences.

To stimulate a math moment, teachers use a variety of materials and ideas to create an environment in which children explore math concepts. In the math center, things like board games, puzzles, matching and guessing games, and other objects give children opportunities to recognize numbers and build math skills.

Math moments don't just occur in the math center, however. Look around your child's classroom. In the block center, children construct cities (by sorting and organizing) and use words like *long*, *short*, *small*, and *tall*. At snack time, a child passes out one napkin and the same number of crackers for each of the children. We review the calendar and talk about how many days we've been in school. When the class takes a vote or does a graphing activity, children compare quantities.

Parents can accept the challenge to find math moments at home and in the neighborhood. With your child, identify numbers and shapes in your junk mail and newspapers. As you cook or run errands together, you can make comments or ask questions that encourage meaningful math understandings.



HOME SCHOOL CONNECTION

This month the unifying theme through our lesson plans deals with Mother's Day. In all of the classes, we will be discussing our families and the special people in our lives. But you can't have a mom without a baby!

One activity that is planned for both our Yellow Bird and Orange Bird classes is a matching game featuring mother and baby animals. This matching game is extremely easy to create for your child to use at home – all you need are some photos of animals (Thanks, Google!), some index cards, and some contact paper. Glue the photos on the cards and cover with contact paper for durability.

As your child matches the baby animal to its mother, introduce new vocabulary to describe the baby animals. For example, while your child may already know that a kitten is a baby cat, they may not know that a baby koala is called a joey. (Thanks again, Google!)

There is more to this activity than just matching animals. Your child is developing pre-algebra skills by identifying patterns and relationships while sorting the pictures. The ability to recognize patterns allows young children to make predictions beyond the information directly available.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to these Ellwood House friends:

Emerson P. – 5/4
Evan L. – 5/4
Margeaux Jean P. – 5/4
Henry S. – 5/8
Wyatt K. – 5/14
Henry N. – 5/16
Atticus L. – 5/19
Reina W. – 5/20
Miss Lauren – 5/20
Ryan M. – 5/23
Laura M. – 5/23
Claire E. – 5/31

WELCOME TO TUCKAWAY

Please join us in welcoming the following new families to Tuckaway Ellwood House:

The Bradshaw Family (OB)
The Tunner Family (BB)
The Leighton Family (BB)
The McClure Family (BB)



ELLWOOD HOUSE - MAY 2012