



The Bellefonte Playschool Family Newsletter March 2012



Registration for Fall Classes

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year at The Bellefonte Playschool is underway. Registrations forms have been sent home and more are available on the information shelves outside Room 27. We are pleased to see many children already registered! Remember to enroll early! We would hate for any of our current families to be disappointed and miss out on a space for next year. There is a discounted registration fee, until May 1. Interested parents may call 357-9086, visit our web site at www.bellefontefaith.com, or e-mail us at playschool@bellefontefaith.com for more information.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

March is the month for Parent-Teacher conferences at The Bellefonte Playschool. These short, 15-minute, meetings are designed to discuss a child's educational, social, and emotional development and to address any concerns that parents or teachers may have, if any.



Please schedule an appointment with your child's teacher. It's a good opportunity to have a few minutes outside of your child's presence to discuss his or her

progress. Most conferences are held before or after class time, but other times may be scheduled if necessary. Some conferences may occur over the phone in the evening, if that's more convenient. Thank you for your cooperation!

Spring Fundraising

Our spring fundraiser, Little Caesar's Pizza, is coming soon! We are looking for someone to help coordinate the fundraiser. If you would be interested, please let us know. We will also need help with sorting on delivery day. Thank you!



When I participate in circle time activities, I am learning ...

to pose questions and listen to the ideas of others.

contribute to class discussions and that my contributions have value.

share experiences when asked

listen and respond attentively to conversations.

ask and answer relevant questions.

to wait when others are talking.

new vocabulary connected with the topic of discussion.

to remember and recite the words of songs and poems.

the names of others in the group.

to cooperate and be considerate of the needs of others.

Adapted from WHEN I PLAY I AM LEARNING, written by Karen Miller, Children's World National Director of Education



Dr. Seuss Week

The beginning of March will highlight Dr. Seuss and his very original stories. March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday so many classrooms everywhere celebrate this week by reading his classic books. Our teachers will be sharing lots of Dr. Seuss stories and activities with our classes..

Dr. Seuss books are known and loved for their fun rhyming patterns. Rhyming is an important early literacy skill and our Playschool teachers will spend extra time this week talking about rhyming with the children.

At home, rhyming can be a fun game! Start with your child's name, and change the first sound to create silly rhyming words. (Billy, Silly, Dilly, Pilly, etc.) Take other words and change them in the same way. Have fun with your child saying these silly rhymes out loud!

In elementary school, the rhyming skill leads to word families, where children recognize patterns in words, which builds their word attack and word recognition abilities.

Terrific Threes

Included in our Dr. Seuss week for the Three-Year-Old classes will be the reading of **One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, and **Hop on Pop**. The children will be doing a special painting activity!

The children will continue their color study with the color green. They will be painting with green peppers! They will wear **Green** on Thursday, March 15th, which will be "Alligator Day." We will play with green playdough and make a "green monster" out of blobs of green paint. The following week, the threes will do a painting activity to accompany the book, **Mouse Paint**. Also, this month they will make a rainbow!

The threes will not have school on **Thursday, March 8**, due to the school district's spring break.

Fantastic Fours

During our Dr. Seuss week with this group, we will be reading **The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham**, and **Wacky Wednesday**. **The children are asked to wear something wacky on that day, Wednesday, March 7th.** Something wacky can be anything fun or silly! Have fun helping your child with his or her selection! It will be fun to see what everyone wears! Activities for these books will include art projects as well as cooking green eggs!

Other literacy based lessons this month will include the books, **Skyfire**, **The M&M Counting Book**, and **If You Give a Pig a Pancake**.

The four year olds will be learning a little about the weather later this month, with wind and air experiments, after reading the book, **The Wind Blew**. There will also be some fun lessons about Saint Patrick's Day. Please help your child select something green to wear to Playschool on **Wednesday, March 16th** when we will celebrate Saint Patrick's Day!

Please note that the Pre-K students will not have class on **Friday, March 9th** due to the school district's spring break.

Pre-K Lunch Bunch

Along with all the papers coming home this month, the Pre-K students have an invitation to the Playschool's Lunch Bunch. This is a program that has worked well for several years, and this year is being expanded from six weeks to eight weeks! Lunch Bunch children will remain at school after class on Mondays, and dismissal time for them will be 12:30. They will bring packed lunches from home, except for one week when we will eat a hot lunch prepared in the church kitchen.

The Lunch Bunch is an opportunity, that is optional, for Pre-K students heading off to kindergarten to practice eating lunch away from home and with their friends. The invitation explains the details of the program and the registration form is due back no later than **March 9th** for planning purposes. Let us know if you have any questions!

Reminder

As the weather warms up we hope to be playing more outside. Please be sure to dress your child appropriately with proper play shoes and a coat or jacket. Thanks!



Thank You!

We would like to express a big thank you to parents who provided healthy snacks in February. The children enjoyed fruit, yogurt, shape crackers, cheese, and so many more yummy things! They also absolutely loved the classroom fruit salad! It was so much fun for each child to contribute something to the wonderful bowl of beautiful fruit! Thank you for helping to show the children that healthy eating can also be fun and delicious, and we look forward to serving more healthy snacks in the weeks ahead. Remember that the snack guidelines in our Parent Handbook provide many helpful suggestions, also.

Kindergarten Registration

Believe it or not, it's almost time to register Pre-K students for kindergarten in the fall! To schedule your time for Kindergarten Registration, call the school your child will be attending to make an appointment. The numbers are:

Bellefonte Elementary 355-5519

Benner Elementary 355-2812

Marion-Walker Elementary 357-2425

Pleasant Gap Elementary 359-2739



However, before you actually attend the appointment, please speak with your child's Playschool teacher at a conference this month! Our teachers are experienced educators and are very skilled in recognizing the needs of preschool-age children. They have observed how each child has progressed compared to their classmates, and they understand what will be expected of each child in the years ahead. Your child's teacher will be able to recommend the next step for your child's education. Please consider her suggestions carefully. Thank you!

Kindergarten Registration

To be eligible for enrollment into Kindergarten for The 2011-2012 school year, children must be 5 years old before September 1, 2011

School	Address	Date #1	Date #2
Bellefonte Elementary (814) 355-5519	100 W Linn Street Bellefonte, PA 16823	Tuesday, April 5 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Thursday, May 5 12:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.
Benner Elementary (814) 355-2812	490 Buffalo Run Road Bellefonte, PA 16823	Thursday, April 7 1:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 12 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Marion-Walker Elementary (814) 357-2425	100 School Drive Bellefonte, PA 16823	Wednesday, April 20 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Tuesday, May 3 12:20 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.
Pleasant Gap Elementary (814) 359-2739	230 S Main Street Pleasant Gap, PA 16823	Tuesday, April 19 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Wednesday, May 11 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Please note the following:

- Children must be five years of age before September 1, 2011, to be eligible to register for Kindergarten.
- Please contact the appropriate school in your residence area to schedule your registration appointment. Parents must register their child in the enrollment area of their current residency.
- When attending your registration appointment, please bring
 - your child's birth certificate,
 - your child's immunization record
 - a parent's proof of residency which includes a utility bill or mortgage or lease agreement.

If you have questions regarding the documents required for registration,
please call Mrs. Kathy Ulmer at 355-4814, extension 3033.