



LOVE is in the air at Chesterbrook Academy! February is here and this month is full of fun events....DON'T MISS OUT! Some things to be aware of: Early Bird Re-Enrollment, Parent Date Night, Valentine's Day Parties, Read Across America and Picture Day.

LTL CIRICULUM LITERACY THEMES

This month's theme is "Healthy Children." During this time the children will learn about Dental Health, Eating Nutritiously, Journey into the Body and Five Senses.

READ ACROSS AMERICA!

January 11th-March 3rd

Join Pre-K2 in a contest to read 1,500 books by March! The whole school is welcome to participate! We encourage you as a family to use reading time as part of your home routine regularly.

If we succeed, on March 4th you could help make Ms. Jessica & Ms. Sydney into a BEAUTIFUL ART PROJECT with PAINT!!!

Contest Details:

As you and your child read books together, remember to write the name of the book on the "Weekly Reading List" sheet and turn it in weekly until the March deadline. You can find the worksheet and a drop off location of read books in the lobby. We will start marking off every our books read as we reach our goal to 1500! If we meet our goal we will celebrate on March 4th at 4:00 with a closing ceremony where the children will be painting Ms. Jessica and Ms. Sydney!



February

- 01.11.16- Read Across America-Starts
- 03.03.16 Read Across America-Ends
- 02.02.16 Groundhog Day
- 02.12.16 Valentine's Day Classroom Parties
- 02.12.16 Parent Date Night 6:30-10pm
- 02.15.16 Presidents Day - CLOSED
- 02.15.16- Early Bird Re-Enrollment 15-16 Pre-school Year
- 03.11.16 Early Bird Re-Enrollment Ends
- 02.19.16 Little Caesar Pizzas Arrive at school around 12:00pm
- 03.02.16 Lifetouch Picture Day - Infant, Infant2, Toddlers, Beginners, Siblings & Class
- 03.03.16 Lifetouch Picture Day - Intermediates, Pre-K, Pre-K2, Siblings & Class
- 03.03.16 Dr. Seuss' Birthday!
- 03.04.16 Read Across America Celebration-Come watch Ms. Sydney and Ms. Jessica get painted by the kids! And have a tasty

Reminder: we are **closed** on President's Day **Monday, February 15th** for our staff in-service training. Thank you and we are excited to learn more & continue to improve.

Parents and Teachers

Early Bird Re-Enrollment

As we get ready for priority registration, we would like to thank you for choosing Chesterbrook Academy to provide your children with a unique experience. We would like to offer you the opportunity to pre-register and secure your child's spot for next year. If you register between February 15th, you will receive a discount off the returning student registration fee.

*Please note that if you are an ACH family, then you do not have to submit a check for payment. The invoice will automatically come out of your account.

We highly encourage you to take advantage of this special registration offer!

Valentine's Day Classroom Parties!

Valentine's Day Parties will be on Friday, February 12th at 3:30 pm. Please look for a sign-up for your child's classroom party on their door. We ask if you bring treats in that they contain the ingredients and are nut free.

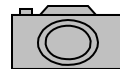
A friendly reminder that we are a nut free facility. If your child has allergies or food restrictions, please let your teacher know if you want to bring in a special treat that day.

Pre-K and Pre-K2 will be provided with a classroom list of names if you would like to participate in a Valentine exchange with their classmates.



Coming up...

Picture Day



Lifetouch will be here on Wednesday, March 2nd and Thursday, March 3rd to take our Spring Pictures. Pictures will be taken early in the morning.

On Wednesday, March 2nd, our Toddler classroom will turn into a picture studio and all Toddler students will meet in the Infant 2 classroom for their morning activities. Wednesday pictures will be held for Infants, Infant2, Toddlers, Beginners, Teachers and Class Pictures.

On Thursday, March 3rd, our Pre-K classroom will turn into a picture studio and all Pre-K students will meet in the Pre-K2 classroom for their morning activities. Tuesday Pictures will be held for Intermediates, Pre-K, Pre-K2, Teachers and Class Pictures.

Siblings pictures can be scheduled either day. Parents should let the teachers know. In addition, if your child is not scheduled on one of these days, we welcome you to join us for the pictures on your child's class day or whichever day works best for you.

Little Caesar Pizza Arrival

Thank you to those who participated in our Little Caesar Fundraiser! We really appreciate all of the support! Orders will be delivered at the school on February 19th around 1:00 pm (with a 1 hr window). Orders can be kept at room temperature for up to 6 hours.

Thank you to the parent's who filled out our **PAR** Surveys last this winter. We are currently reviewing the surveys and will be sending a letter follow up very soon.

Helping Your Preschooler Develop Positive Friendship Skills

Are you puzzled by some of your child's social behaviors? Have you noticed that your toddler doesn't interact with other children very often? Does your three-year-old get frustrated when a classmate won't play with him? Will your four-year-old only play with her best friend?

These are all normal social behaviors for preschoolers. Learning how to develop friendships is a lifelong process. Children's social behaviors evolve from smiling and cooing at others, to engaging in parallel play, to eventually forming friendships and playing together.

Below are ways we help develop friendships in the classroom, as well as ideas for you and your child to do at home.



INFANTS:

In the classroom: Before they can communicate verbally, infants build connections by smiling, cooing and crying. By two months old, they might turn toward other infants, and by twelve months, they begin to imitate their peers. Teachers help facilitate this relationship by sitting infants near each other during activities such as story time and tummy time.

At home: Even though infants don't really play with one another, they still benefit from "play dates" with other infants. Sit your infant face-to-face with another infant or in close proximity to an older sibling, and provide each child separate toys. Note when your infant watches the other child and what captures his attention.

Recommended reading: *Friends* by Helen Oxenbury and *Let's Play* by Leo Lionni

TODDLERS (ages 1-2):

In the classroom: Many young children tend to engage in "parallel play." They play near other children, but each child is doing something different. This is a natural phase of development. As children get older, they begin to enjoy more shared activities with their peers. For example, they might enjoy splashing their hands at the water table with others, looking at books while sitting close to a friend, and dancing to music with their classmates.

At home: Invite another parent and child to your home for a play date. Blocks, balls, dress up clothes and toy kitchen sets are great toys for children at this age. Don't force them to play with each other. Instead, let the children decide on the level of interaction.

Recommended reading: *Do You Want to be My Friend?* by Eric Carle and *I Can Share* by Karen Katz

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: In the Beginner classroom, teachers refer to classmates as "friends." Students learn about personal space and begin to practice good manners by saying please and thank you.

At home: Model positive behaviors while playing with your child. Say “I’m going to roll the ball to you. Can you please roll the ball back to me?” Afterward, say “Thank you. You are being a good friend.”

Recommended reading: *How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?* by Jane Yolen and *Let’s be Friends* by P. K. Hallinan

INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: Between ages three and four, children attempt to understand social situations, but often do so from an egocentric point of view. They need adult guidance to help them navigate peer conflict and model appropriate friendship-making behaviors. Small group activities help children learn how to follow directions, take turns and develop friendships.

At home: Ask your child about their friends and what games they played together. If he says, “Andrew didn’t play with me today. He’s mean,” you could say, “Andrew may have wanted to play a different game today. Maybe you can play together tomorrow. What does Andrew like to play?”

Recommended reading: *Just My Friend and Me* by Mercer Mayer and *Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney

PRE-K/PRE-K2 (ages 4-5)

In the classroom: Friendship in Pre-K and Pre-K2 is usually reciprocal and deliberate as children become more skilled in social interactions and look for peers with shared interests. Our character education program reinforces friendship making skills using songs, games, books and brain-builder activities to nurture skills such as collaboration, understanding feelings and resolving conflicts.

At home: Bring your child to events that include multiple children, such as birthday parties, or encourage your child to play a board game that requires multiple players. Ask him to introduce himself to the other children, or encourage him to play the game taking turns. If you notice frustration from your child, say, “In order to play the game, we all have to play together.”

Recommended reading: *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel and *A Splendid Friend, Indeed* by Suzanne Bloom

Don’t be concerned about the number of friends your child has, as it is more about quality than quantity. Each child will develop friendships at his own pace. What matters most is the development of social skills such as collaboration and problem-solving, which will help him transition into elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education