

Monthly Family Newsletter

March 2016

Important Dates

3/2: Dr Seuss birthday- Read your favorite book at home.

3/5: Early Registration Conference

3/7-11: Parent Conferences

3/10: Popcorn Day

3/11: Last Day Priority Registration

3/12: Open House 10-1 pm

3/14: Summer Themes go Home

3/17: St. Patrick's Day-Wear green to school.

3/25: Waffle Day

3/25: Art to Remember Orders Due

3/30: National Doctors Day

Get ready for the 2016-2017 school year now, with early registration! Enroll now with 50% off the new registration rate! Got questions about the registration? Come to the conference and talk to your principal.

Last day is March 11th.



Parent Conferences

This is the time you get to hear all of the great things your children are learning throughout the school year! Please take this opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss about your child's progress. The teachers are excited to share all the great news about the skills and progress of each individual child has made so far in the school year. Don't forget to sign up for an appointment. You can find a sign up list on each classroom door.



Links 2 Home Connection

Dear Families,



I am pleased to announce that our school will soon be offering an exciting electronic communications program for parents, called Links 2 Home. We know how much you have enjoyed the photo emails of your children that our teachers have been sending, and now we will be able to share so much more with you.

Starting on March 14th, each of our classrooms will be equipped with an iPad Mini which will enable teachers to send a photo for each child each day. Parents of younger children who currently receive printed daily reports will begin receiving them via email instead. Parents of older children will start receiving a daily learning update by email. You will begin receiving these additional e-communications on March 14th.

As a safety measure, the iPads are locked down, so the teachers do not have access to the Internet or any other apps. As previously, you will not be able to reply to the teachers through email so that they can remain focused on the children at all times.

If you have not already done so, please fill out and return the attached Applicant Information Form for each of your children. It is critical that we have accurate contact information to ensure that you receive all electronic communications.

Links 2 Home is powered by Tadpoles, the leader in preschool communications, but is tailored specifically to tie with our Links to Learning curriculum. Links 2 Home has a mobile app that you can download to get started. The app gives you the ability to easily view photos, notes and daily reports from teachers, as well as the ability to easily notify us of special drop-off information or absences.

Download Links 2 Home at the below online stores and create an account using the email address that is on file with our school. Both parents are able to create accounts.

itunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/links-2-home/id1081483198?mt=8>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nobellearning.links2home&hl=en>

Feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback as we strive to continuously improve our communications with you, our valued families.

Sincerely,

Prachi Patel, Principal

Tuition Due Dates:

Weekly tuition is due every Friday for the upcoming week. Fees are considered delinquent at noon (12:00 pm) on the day following the due date (Monday). Late charge will be assessed in the amount of \$25 for each week the full tuition that is not paid on time.

If tuition and any other outstanding charges are not paid within seven days of the due date, attendance at the school is not permitted until the past tuition and current period is paid.

In order to avoid repeated late charges, all families are urged to sign up with automatic payments through Chesterbrook Academy and their banks. We also accept credit card payments now. Please stop by the front of to get more information.



Developing Confident Future Readers

March is National Reading Month, so it is a great time to reinforce how important it is to expose children to books from an early age. We engage all of our students in language and literacy activities every day throughout the school year.

Research has shown that reading aloud to children has a profound influence on their speech development and listening skills. Reading allows children to experience the wondrous world depicted in books, and thrive on the interaction with adults.

Below are age appropriate activities that we implement in our classrooms to get children excited about reading, as well as recommended books to read with your child at home.



INFANTS – Linking sensory and reading experiences

In the classroom: We introduce language and literacy beginning with our infants, by consistently speaking, reading and singing to them. Teachers choose interactive books with bright colors, different textures and pop-up designs to help stimulate infants' growing sensory awareness.

Books to read at home: *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt, *Fuzzy Yellow Ducklings* by Matthew Van Fleet and *Baby Danced the Polka* by Karen Beaumont

TODDLERS – Rhyme and repetition

In the classroom: Toddlers enjoy hearing the same books read over and over again, because they are able join in as the stories become more familiar. Teachers read books with rhyme and repetition, such as *Goodnight Moon*, and vary their voice each time they tell the story. The change in tone gives children a chance to hear different sounds, and encourages them to practice making the sounds themselves.

Books to read at home: *All Fall Down* by Helen Oxenbury, *Where is the Green Sheep* by Mem Fox and *Big Red Barn* by Margaret Wise Brown

BEGINNERS – Engaging the imagination

In the classroom: Around age two, children begin to develop a love for the world of imagination. It's important to engage children's imaginations and encourage them to participate in shared reading experiences. A picture walk motivates children to rely on pictorial clues to decipher the story's plot and make predictions. Before reading the story, the teacher and student flip through the book, and the child is encouraged to make predictions about the characters and plot. The teacher then reads the book aloud with the student. When finished, the child is asked to relate his predictions to the actual outcome of the story. For example, "Now that you know what happened, why was the elephant wearing a tutu?" or "What would you have done if you were the elephant?"

Books to read at home: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff, *Corduroy* by Don Freeman or *Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer

INTERMEDIATES – Exploring the wider world

In the classroom: As our Intermediates are introduced to the Citizens of the World component of our curriculum, they read about different places, cultures and traditions in books. Books help children understand and enjoy learning about the diversity of human experience. During circle time for example, we may read a story about children living in another country, in a different type of house and wearing different types of clothes. Afterward, the teacher connects the story back to what the children know by asking, “What does your house look like?” and “Who lives in your house with you?”

Books to read at home: *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros, *So Much* by Trish Cooke and *On Mother’s Lap* by Ann Scott

PRE-K/PRE-K 2 – Nonfiction Adventures

In the classroom: Children are naturally fascinated by the lives of real people and the world around them. Our teachers cultivate this fascination by exposing students to nonfiction books. For example, the class may read both a fiction and nonfiction book about animals. Afterward, they are encouraged to compare and contrast the two books and discuss what was accurate in the fiction book.

Books to read at home: *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon (fiction) and *Bat Loves the Night* by Nicola Davies (non-fiction)

By experiencing a literacy-rich environment, both at school and at home, we instill a love of reading and provide the foundation for our students to become successful, confident readers in elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD- Director of Early Childhood Education