

**SPRING** is finally here! April is a busy month and we will be showered with fun activities the whole time! This is a very special month at Chesterbrook Academy because we will be celebrating **The Week of the Young Child**. This week highlights the importance of early childhood education and shows our appreciation for your children; our amazing students! The Week of the Young Child will take place from April 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>! Look at the attachment to see what activities we have in full bloom that week!

### Links to Learning

The children will be having lots of fun during the month of April learning about Earth and Outer Space. This month, we will be learning about Seasons Change, Weather Watchers, The Solar System, and Going Green/Recycling and Earth.

### Spring Break Week:

We had so much fun the week of Spring Break!

### Summer Camp 2016 and Registrations

Thank you to all the families who came to our Open House on March 26<sup>th</sup> to take a look at our Summer Camp 2016 program. We have filled up for our Senior and Junior Camper programs already! All Preschool Children who will need a change in schedule for summer, please notify Sydney or Jessica ASAP.

# April

04.01.16-	April Fool's Day
04.07.16-	Facility Windows
04.08.16-	Cookie Fundraiser Ends
04.08.16-	Spring Scholastic Book Fair Preview!
04.08.16	BSFLF - Robotic Event 10:30am- 11:30am
04.11.16 -	Spring Scholastic Book Fair Starts!
04.11.16-	Week of the young Child
04.15.16-	
04.22.16	Earth Day! Lady Bug Release 11:00 am
05.02.16-	Teacher Appreciation Week
05.06.16	
05.05.16	Cinco de Mayo
05.06.16	Parent Date Night - Mother's Day 6:30-10:00pm
05.07.16	Joy of Dance Recital @ 2:30pm
05.08.16	Mother's Day
06.10.16	Save the Date: Graduation - Pre-K2



# EVENTS COMING UP!



## Week of the Young Child: Celebration of Early Learning

April 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

### *Monday, April 7: Promoting Early Learning*

Each child will be making a spring themed sensory bag. The children will be given different spring items for their bag and be able to explore the items in a fun and different way! This activity is great to start discussions about colors, textures, sensations, and increase spatial vocabulary while exploring the spring season!

### *Tuesday, April 8: Promoting Healthy Food*

To promote healthy eating and celebrate our supportive families, the school will sponsor a healthy breakfast for the parents in the morning as they leave the school to go to work. The children will participate in healthy cooking for their snacks throughout the day.

### *Wednesday, April 9: Promoting Literacy*

Each child will bring in their favorite book from home to share with the class. Then, each student will be photographed reading their book. The school will make a collage in the front lobby to promote reading. **\*please write name in book\***

### *Thursday, April 10: Promoting Physical Activity*

The school will have an outside field day filled with relays, races, bubbles, SPARK activities, and games.

### *Friday, April 11: Promoting Gardening and Nature*

The school will be planting flowers and gardens to learn about nature and life cycles. They will be plotting areas and caring for the various plants and flowers throughout spring and summer time. Our children will learn about nature and how to care and respect life.

### *Tuesday, April 22: Earth Day: Earth Day Hooray! By Stuart J. Murphy*

The children will be learning about lady bugs this week and will participate in our annual "Lady Bug Release" at 11:00 am.

## Spring Break Camp: Spring Neverland Week

April 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

### *Monday, April 14: Tea Party Day*

The children will be playing tea party with each other. We will provide healthy fruits and snacks. The children will learn about manners and taking turns.

### *Tuesday, April 15: Fairy & Pirate Day*

Come to school dressed up as a fairy or pirate! The children will get a fun face paint, glitter tattoos and mustaches for pirates!

### *Wednesday, April 16: Tie Dye Day*

Please bring in a plain white T-shirt to have your child participate in a tie dye activity. They will be making shirts for Earth Day and the lady bug release. Babies, bring in a white onesie to be part of the fun!

### *Thursday, April 17: Happy Feet Day*

The children will have a soccer class and will participate as a classroom. They will learn games and fun activities while staying physically active.

### *Friday, April 18: Egg Hunt & Egg Fun!*

Please bring in four plastic eggs filled with both safe and age appropriate items. Please no peanuts or nut products.



# A note from our Education Department:

## Linking Learning with Nature

- Spring is here! Flowers are blooming, days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. Now is a great time for children to explore these environmental changes happening in the world around them.
- Not only are children curious about nature, but research shows that it has a profound influence on their problem solving skills, creativity, imagination and cognitive ability. Because of this, our teachers incorporate nature in all aspects of our Links to Learning curriculum.
- Below are ways we connect learning with nature, as well as activities you can do with your child at home.

## INFANTS/TODDLERS:

- **In the classroom:** After reading a book about springtime, teachers bring children outdoors to explore and investigate objects in nature. The children have fun crumbling leaves, smelling flowers and looking at clouds.
- **At home:** Take tummy time outdoors and allow your infant to explore different sights, sounds and textures. Encourage him to move and grab things by placing objects just beyond his reach. For toddlers, ask questions like, “Who made that chirping sound” or “Can you point to the flowers?”
- **Recommended reading:** *Wake Up! Wake Up! A Springtime Lift-the-Flap Book* by Kathryn Davis, *Welcome Spring* by Little Scholastic

## BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

- **In the classroom:** Our Beginners read books about seasonal changes, then bring the story to life by going outdoors to find real-world examples.
- **At home:** Help make your child aware of the seasonal changes going on around him. Talk a walk with him and ask questions such as “Why do we see flowers growing now?” or “What do flowers need in order to grow?” Encourage him to use his creativity when answering.
- **Recommended reading:** *Over in the Meadow* by Olive Wadsworth, *Mouse’s First Spring* by Lauren Thompson

## INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

- **In the classroom:** Students plant seeds in their school garden and learn about the importance of caring for them. Through this activity, they practice math skills such as measuring, sorting, counting and making predictions.
- **At home:** Set up a bird feeder outside a window that your child can easily see. Let him help you fill it with birdfeed. As the birds come to eat, ask your child to talk about them. “What color are they?” “Are they big or small?” “What are they doing?”
- **Recommended reading:** *Little Seed* by Eric Carle, *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert

## PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (ages 4-5):

- **In the classroom:** Pre-K and Pre-K 2 students explore the sounds they hear in nature while playing outdoors. They then use recycled and natural materials, such as string and pine cones, to make their own wind chime.
- **At home:** Reuse junk mail for a fun arts and crafts activity with your child. Encourage him to look through flyers and magazines to find words and pictures that he recognizes. Then, ask him to create a collage by cutting and gluing them to a piece of paper or poster board.
- **Recommended reading:** *And Then It’s Spring* by Julie Fogliano, *About Springtime*, *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- We provide many opportunities for our preschoolers to think creatively and imaginatively about the world around them. By setting this foundation, children build confidence in their own unique thoughts and maintain a thirst for learning as they enter elementary school and beyond.
- – Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education