



279 Egg Harbor Road Sewell, New Jersey 08080

APRIL 2016

Dear Chesterbrook Parents,

We would like to start off by thanking all of our current families who have re-enrolled for our 2016-2017 school year! It is sure to be another great year here at Chesterbrook!

Winter is officially over and now that April is here we are hoping the weather breaks and the temperature stays a lot warmer, because everyone is anxious to get outside and play.

April has a lot going on this month! **Here are a few reminders about upcoming events and special dates:**

•**Tuesday, April 5th** is Picture Day!! We will be having individual portraits as well as class pictures. The Kindergarten class will also be taking their Graduation pictures! WOW! They are not required to wear their uniforms that day. ☺

•The Week of the Young Child is **Monday, April 11th to Friday, April 15th**. *The Week of the Young Child* is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. That week we will be having a different theme everyday to celebrate! Our themes include: Phillie Phanatic day, pajama party Tuesday, preschool Prom day (dress to impress), Kickin' Flips Day, and Family Friday!!

•**Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day**. We will celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up our playground and releasing ladybugs back into nature. Be sure to wear red and black that day!

•Starting Tuesday, April 18th to Friday, April 22th Kindergarten will be taking the SAT10 Assessment. Your child needs to be present on all of those days and be in by **9am**. During that week, your child should get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast. The tests will go on all morning and afternoons will be used to do fun activities. ☺

Looking Ahead...

•**Monday, May 30th**- the school is closed for Memorial Day.

•**Friday, June 17th** - Kindergarten and Pre-K Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Wedgewood Country Club **at 1:00 PM**

Happy Spring everyone!

Stacy & Thien



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Infants

Happy April from the infant room! This month we will be continuing our practice with signing: please, thank you, more, and finished. We are very excited to take our Spring pictures, dress to impress! We are also celebrating Aishani, R.J., Adrianna, and Nathan's First Birthday this month! We will continue to work on gross motor skills in our room with tummy time & rolling over, crawling, and trying to stand and even walk! We are growing so fast and getting big in the infant room!

Toddler A

Welcome Spring! ☺ Toddlers are looking forward to exploring the playground and fun activities we have planned. Our color of the month is yellow, and our shape will be an Oval. Exploring the size of objects; big and small, will be a concept that we will be doing this month. We also welcome our new friend to our class, Conor! Thank you again for your support of daily and special events, we are successful because of you!

Miss Rhonda, Miss Lisa, & Miss Sammi

Toddler B

Spring arrived last month and the Todds are ready to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. Please make sure the children have weather appropriate clothing in their cubbies. Good luck to Nico, who has moved up to Beginner A, we will miss you! Welcome Luis and his family who have moved to our room. Hurray! For Mila, Macklin, Domenick, and Travis. They're all using open cups! Happy Birthday to Caroline. Yellow is our color this month. Some of their LTL skills for the month are turning around, counting from 1-10, and filling in words to familiar stories. We are busy bees this month in Toddler B!!

Beginner A

Welcome to April in Beginner A! We are excited to bring in the warm weather! That being said, please check your child's cubby for weather appropriate clothing. ☺ (I.E. - t-shirts, shorts) The children will learn new Spanish vocabulary such as "uno", one, and "muchos", many. We will also continue to work on using safety scissors. The children will all be working on potty skills. ☺ On Friday, April 22nd, please have your child wear red, it is our ladybug release for Earth Day! We are excited to continue learning and as always, thank you for allowing me to help your children grow each and every day!

Beginner B

Welcome to April in Beginner B! This month we will continue to work on letter recognition and focus on the letters in your child's name. For Math, we will work on simple patterns and begin to learn ABBA patterns. The children will learn and practice their new Spanish words "uno" (one) and "muchos" (many). This month we will be celebrating Earth Day! On Friday, April 22nd we will have our ladybug release. We will also celebrate Reese's 3rd Birthday on April 11th!

Intermediates

Welcome April! The children have been zooming through this year! In Language & Literacy, the children will continue working on explaining own ideas and answering questions logically. We will continue working on Social-Emotional skills, self-help, and social interaction. We are going to do some fun experiments in Science with exploring plants and insects. The children are ready for the beautiful weather and spending time outside!

Pre-K

Wow! April is already here, March flew right by us! Pre-K was very busy in March. They learned about the Solar System, new letter sounds, and celebrated 2 Holidays! April is also a busy month for us. We will be celebrating Parker Pine's birthday on the 26th and will celebrate Earth Day. Pre-K will explore how vegetables grow, continue and expand their sight word vocabulary, and use descriptive words and phrases. This month will surely be challenging and fun! Pre-K continues to succeed and reach their goals. We enjoy seeing and teaching Pre-K as they blossom into Kindergartners!

Kindergarten

Happy April! This month we are focusing on blending initial, medial, and final /e/, /j/, and /w/ letter sounds, reading text based comprehension such as classify and categorize, and setting, learning the Nonfiction and Rhyming Nonfiction genre, learning about solid and three- dimensional shapes in Mathematics, learning about Matter in Science, understanding what and how families celebrate in Social Studies, and much more! Mrs. Abbey will also administer the SAT 10 test the week of April 18th.

Calendar of Events:

Tuesday, April 5th **Picture Day**

Monday April 11th – Friday April 15th **Week of the Young Child**

Friday, April 22nd **Earth Day and Lady Bug Release**

Monday, April 18th-22nd-**Kindergarten SAT 10 Testing**

Congratulations to Erica Brasco

Teacher of the Month April 2016

Erica started working here in January 2014. She's worked in just about every classroom here at Chesterbrook, but spends most of her time in the Pre-k classroom. Erica has a lot of babysitting experience over the years and has even worked in the Child Care program at Washington Township high school. She has a brother & two sisters. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her family and friends. We are very lucky to have Erica as part of our Chesterbrook Family! Thank you Erica, for all you do!



Don't forget to visit our website for the lunch menu, special event dates, reminders and so much more...

sewell.chesterbrookacademy.com

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