From the Desk of the Director  
by Dr. Mandy Medvin  (email: medvinm@westminster.edu)

Happy spring! There are so many great activities going on in the preschool this month. Some of the events are guided by our celebration of ‘Week of the Young Child’ (April 16-20), an annual event sponsored by our accrediting organization, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This event was started in 1971 to raise national awareness regarding the importance of early education for young children and their families. We will ask you to celebrate with us during our annual family night on April 20th. I look forward to seeing you there!

M/W/F Class Head Teacher’s Notes  
by Debi Roud  (email: roudds@westminster.edu)

Welcome to spring! The Preschool Lab celebrates many things in the month of April, and one of them is the Week of the Young Child (WOYC). This national event spotlights the importance of young children and those that support their development.

Week of the Young Child, held April 16—20, is a time to recognize the needs of young children, and become involved in their education and care. Parents, teachers, caregivers, and other adults play important roles in the lives of young children, and Week of the Young Child celebrates their efforts.

(See M/W/F continued on page 2)

T/Th Class Teacher’s Notes  
by Missy Moore  (email: mooreml@westminster.edu)

Spring!! The T/Th class looks forward to warmer weather and a chance to play outside. Children love outside play. It’s a relaxing, tension-relieving part of the day, and a time when a lot of development and learning occurs. Physical developments take place as children exercise and strengthen muscles, practice important physical skills, and learn about their bodies and space. They learn about the world around them as they observe people, watch cars traveling, and see different types of jobs men and women work at. Outside play allows children to experience different seasons, learn about changes in plants and animals, and watch living things such as bugs, worms, and birds. Language development, cooperation, and turn taking are

(See T/Th continued on page 2)
The M/W/F class will be doing its own celebrating by these special events and speakers:

- **Music Monday!** April 16 - where the children will sing, dance, celebrate, and learn!
- **Work Together Wednesday!** April 18 – where our class will work together, build together, learn together, We will also celebrate Earth Day, recycling and keeping our earth clean!
- **Family Friday** April 20 - A Family Swim Night is in the planning stages. More information to come!
- **Artwork displayed** - First National Bank, New Wilmington Post Office, and the campus McKelvey Center
- **Guest Speaker** – Patrick Smith, head swim and diving coach for Westminster’s men’s and women’s swim teams, will be speaking to both classes about preschool swim safety!

We look forward to these experiences in the month of April!

Our Old ’77 days have come to an end for the year as the better weather arrives. We will try to get outside for at least part of the day from now until the end of the year. Please feel free to dress your children in play clothes.

We’d like to thank the parent party committee for our Spring Party. A big thank you goes out to our chairperson Amy Mansour, Deanne Tennant, Michelle Dudash, Sararose Lynch, Ali DuBois and Julie Mohr.

just some of the social skills that are practiced when children play together. With that in mind, let’s cross our fingers and hope the weather this month cooperates!

This year’s **Week of the Young Child** will be the week of **April 16—20**. This national celebration focuses on children's legislation, current early childhood issues and children's development. In honor of this special event, the Tuesday/Thursday class will be celebrating with:

- **Tasty Tuesday! April 17**—The children will be learning about healthy eating and exercise! Our chefs will make a fruit salad all on their own!
- **Family Night! April 20** —A Family Swim Night is in the planning stages. More information to come!
- **Guest Speaker**—Patrick Smith, head swim and diving coach for Westminster’s men’s and women’s swim teams, will be speaking to both classes about preschool swim safety!
HIGHLIGHTS-M/W/F CLASS:

April Showers
Clouds, rain, and mud are a few of the science concepts we will be discussing throughout the day. The children will engage in science activities and sensory play, while learning about this spring weather.

Purple Day
Hands-down this is the most popular color in the preschool! On purple day we will be wearing purple, hunting for purple, and making purple art projects!

Commotion in the Ocean
We will be exploring the ocean and will begin this unit by reading the book, Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae. Dolphins, sharks, whales, octopus, crabs, and fish are just some of the underwater sea life we hope to investigate. Each child will make an ocean poster to take home!

WYOC
Week of the Young Child activities: Music Monday, Work Together Wednesday/Earth Day and Family Friday!

Farm
This week will be brainstorming about farms; different kinds of farms (with emphasis on dairy farms), what kinds of crops grow on farms, farm animals, farm machinery and much more! We will conclude with a field trip to Shane and Brittney McFarland’s dairy farm! Please think about volunteering as one of our parent drivers for this special day.

Caps for Sale
This story is a classic! We will read it, re-tell it and practice acting it out throughout the months of April and May in hopes of showing off our acting skills for our end-of-the-year May Day program!

HIGHLIGHTS-T/TH CLASS:

Spring
We will begin the month talking about Spring and all the things we can do and see in this season. The children will be making beautiful flowers to decorate our classroom.

Dinosaurs
Dinosaurs are always a popular theme among children, but this year especially! Several of the children in the T/TH class love and know a lot about dinosaurs so this will be a fun few days at preschool. Our unit will cover several dinosaur species, vocabulary words (herbivore, carnivore, herb, fossil, paleontologist, etc.), dinosaur art projects, and a fun dinosaur foot print measuring activity.

Caterpillars and Butterflies
Aside from reading, writing, and creating our very own butterflies, we will be watching the metamorphosis of caterpillars to butterflies in our very own classroom. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle will be read to the class and we hope to “re-tell” the story for you at our Spring May Day Program.

Purple Day
Thursday, April 26th, will be purple day! Wear your purple to school!
**Songs We Sing**

**We’re Floating Down the River**

We’re floating down the river; we’re floating down below,
We’re floating down the river on the O-HI-O
(sung very slowly)
All in the middle and you can’t jump Josie--
(3X sung very fast)
Oh my Susan Brown--Whoo!
(use rhythm sticks or drum to tap the beat)

**Johnny Works with One Hammer**

Johnny works with one hammer, one hammer, one hammer.
Johnny works with one hammer then he works with two.
(Repeat up to five by tapping on the floor first one hand, then two hands, then one feet and two feet, then add a shaking head!)

**Recipe: Puddle Cake**

Put in a baking pan and mix:
1 1/2 cup flour
3 tablespoons cocoa
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda

Make 3 puddles and in one add:
6 tablespoons oil
1 tablespoon vinegar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Drizzle 1 cup of water over all and mix together like mudpies. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Yum!
PICTURE PAGES

One of Luke, Addy and Evan’s favorite things to do at preschool – Office Play!

Mia and Alivia spent quite a bit of time balancing blocks on end for their leprechaun tunnel!

It started out as a trap then changed to a town and then a princess castle! All I know is Alivia, Addy, Gigi and Zachary spent a long time cleaning up the block area!
PICTURE PAGES

Learning about weather!

Leprechaun Hunters!

Davey loves watching the “Tornado Tube.”