May 2018 Highlights

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

I would like to take a moment to thank Debi Roud for her 28 years of work here at the preschool. It has been an amazing experience to work with Debi and other talented staff members over the years—we will miss her incredible insight into what children truly need to thrive, her wonderful ideas and leadership, and most of all, her! We look forward to hearing about Deb and Jeff enjoying sunny North Carolina, their grandchildren, and many rounds of golf. I am also excited about working with Missy in the position of Head Teacher. We have many talented applicants for the opening of teacher, and feel confident that we will be able to continue the high quality early childhood program that we have had since the opening of the school in 1990.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy summer!

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

End of Year Picnic!
A family potluck picnic is scheduled for the last day of school, Friday, May 18, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at New Wilmington Borough Park. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. Beverages, cups and napkins will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted prior to the picnic on which you may indicate what food item you’d like to share. Mark this date on your calendars!

M/W/F Class Head Teacher's Notes
by Melissa Moore (email: mooreml@westminster.edu)

Our last month of preschool! Debi and I have really enjoyed working with your children. Thank you everyone for all your support this year and especially, for lending us your wonderful children. We’ve had a very successful, exciting, fun-filled year. We will also be saying good-bye to college aide Rachael Elliott. Rachael has been an important part of our classroom all year and we will miss her!

Vacation this summer? Vacations are an opportunity to build a sense of family togetherness without the pressures of everyday life. Where your family goes and how long you stay are not important. The best vacations are planned around the interests and the developmental levels of children.

When planning a trip with young children, remember they need and like routine. A family should keep naptime, mealtimes, and bedtimes as close to the normal routine as possible. It also helps when the itinerary is discussed so that kids know what to expect.

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

Swim Days!
If there is a warm, sunny day in May, we will email about scheduling a Swim Day! On these days, send your child to school wearing a swimsuit and bring a towel and sunscreen. Weather permitting, our playground will become a water park! We will splash!
to the following suggestions by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):

- Provide opportunities to sort and classify. For example, ask your child to pair socks as you sort laundry or to look for cars of a certain color as you drive.
- Surround your child with a variety of writing materials and encourage him or her to use them daily to make pretend invitations, write grocery lists, practice writing their names or the names of their brothers and sisters.
- Don’t push or pressure your child into reading and writing, but share reading times and other experiences with print. Be sure to show him that you value his efforts.

The first few days before kindergarten are usually times of starting-school jitters (for children and adults!). These tips may help to ease those feelings:

- **Enthusiasm is contagious.** If you convey confidence and anticipation, your child is more likely to be comfortable with beginning kindergarten.
- **Survey new territory.** Visit the school with your child before the first official day and try to arrange a meeting with the new teacher.
- **Find a familiar face.** Plan a one-on-one playdate or outing with another child from the class or program before school begins.
- **Create continuity.** Start a daily routine a few weeks before school begins and involve your child in the process of packing his lunch or choosing his clothes.
- **Prepare yourself.** Pay attention to how your child reacts to separation so you’ll know what to expect on that first day of school.
- **Help the child to ease in.** If the teacher encourages parents to spend some time in the classroom the first day, you can look around with your child. But remember to back off and let her get involved with other kids and adults.
- **Always say good-bye.** Be loving but firm as you leave, and never make a child feel foolish about being upset to see you go.

We think your children will make a transition beautifully from preschool to kindergarten and that these suggestions may be helpful. Stay in touch and let us know how everything goes!

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The family that travels with preschoolers should consider this age group’s self-centeredness, short attention span, and the need for movement. Children at age 3 or 4 make good travelers though! They enjoy physical activity, quiet playtime, and most of what parents suggest. They also enjoy exploring and talking about their observations and experiences.

By preplanning your vacation, ensuring some routine yet allowing for flexibility, everyone in your family can enjoy the adventure. We hope you and your family have a fun and safe summer. See you in September!

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**Thank you!** We would like to thank our parent representatives **Michelle Dudash** (M/W/F) and **Joanna McClelland** (T/Th) for working with us this year! Many thanks to all of the parents who made our year such a special one!
**HIGHLIGHTS-M/W/F CLASS:**

**Kindergarten!**
Do you believe your children are ready for Kindergarten! On Wednesday, May 2nd, we will spend the morning visiting the New Wilmington Kindergarten classes, eating a snack in their cafeteria, and riding the yellow school bus to Wilmington Kindergarten and back!

**Alphabet Day**
On letter Z day we will have covered every letter in the alphabet! By way of games and a beginning sound art project, the children will review all their letters. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin, Jr. will be our featured literature.

**Mother’s Day**
This day will be dedicated to moms! We look forward to making beautiful cards and a surprise Mother’s Day present. *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman will be the story of the day.

**Mr. Yuk**
Cleaning supplies, cosmetics and medicines may look good to smell or eat but are very unsafe. By recognizing the Mr. Yuk stickers, children learn that Mr. Yuk means NO!

**Play Day in the Park**
— Weather permitting, a walking field trip to the New Wilmington Park is planned along with reading the story *Friends in the Park* by Carol Bunnett.

**May Day Celebration**
Your children will be singing some of their favorite songs and dancing to a creative movement piece. Join our celebration on Monday, May 16. Friends and families are welcome!

**Personal Safety**
A representative for the Women’s Shelter will do a very age-appropriate program on personal safety for this class. Please feel free to stay and listen to the program.

**Swim Day**
If the sun is shining (and even if it is not) we will be wet and wild! Wear a swimsuit, and bring your towel and sunscreen for a day of outside play and water activities scheduled for the last day of school.

**HIGHLIGHTS-T/TH CLASS:**

**Rainbow Day**
Tuesday, May 1st will be RAINBOW DAY at Preschool. Have your child wear all the colors of the rainbow to school on our last “color day.” We will be reading *Elmer the Elephant* by David Mckee and making some rainbow “Elmers” of our own.

**Mother’s Day**
We LOVE our Moms! We will be celebrating “Mom” with special art and activities your preschooler will be excited to share with you!

**May Day Celebration**
Tuesday, May 15, will be a special day where you and your family are invited into our classroom for our Spring Program. We will be singing some of our favorite songs along with acting out the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. The children will be serving you a special snack immediately following the program. Please come and bring your family and friends!

**Swim Day**
Our last day of school (OR any nice day before the end of the school year! We will let you know) will be a wet one! Please have your children wear their bathing suits to school and bring a towel. Weather permitting, we plan to spend the day outside running through sprinklers, playing in wading pools, and having FUN!
Songs We Sing

Turtle Song
I have a little turtle, his name is Tiny Tim.
I put him in the bathtub, to see if he could swim.
He drank up all the water (gulp),
He ate up all the soap (yum yum yum yum)
And now he's sick in bed... with bubbles in his throat!
BRRRRRRRR!

Oh Mr. Sun
Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden sun,
Please shine down on me.
Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden sun,
Hiding behind a tree.
These little children are asking you,
To please come out so we can play with you.
Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,
Please shine down on me!

Recipe: May Day Chex Mix

Melt margarine in a large roasting pan in a preheated oven at 250 degrees. Stir in seasonings, then add remaining ingredients. Stir well so all the cereal is evenly coated. Bake for 1 hour, stirring mix every 15 minutes.

1/4 cup margarine
5 teaspoons Worcestershire Sauce
1 1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1 2/3 cups of Chex cereals (corn, wheat, rice)
1 cup peanuts
1 cup pretzel sticks

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

JUNE
Carter Mohr—June 1
Cate Peters—June 18
Evan Daugherty—June 21

JULY
Alivia Perna—July 3
Annika Perttu—July 15
David Kohler—July 20

AUGUST
Tessa Changoway—August 1
Kendall Schehl—August 11
Jenalise Mozzocio—August 24
Jewelise Mozzocio—August 24

May Websites:
http://www.pittsburghparent.com/
A nice website featuring children’s activities around the Pittsburgh area.

http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/
This website is easy to navigate and covers many health issues related to children.
An egg hunt and then Peter Rabbits’ ‘Mom’ came into the Shenango Home to tell the children the story about Peter Rabbit!

Very Hungry Caterpillars were made at our Spring Party!

MWF circletime!
Look how many preschoolers fit in a T-Rex footprint!

Kendall and Mia loved playing “Dinosaur Memory Match.”

Jason, Zachary, Roman, and Etta worked hard to dig out dinosaur fossils.