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

After having been on sabbatical in the spring semester, it is wonderful to be back at the preschool. My sabbatical research focused on international attitudes towards cyberbullying. We found that middle school and adolescent students in the U.S. and Israel who believed it was OK to cyberbully were more likely to endorse aggressive behaviors in peer situations. While technology is of great educational value, it seems the take-home lesson is that learning to manage social interactions requires support from adults both in face-to-face and digital situations.

I had an enjoyable summer taking long walks, preparing my son Tommy for college as a 1st year student, spending time with my father who now lives closer to me, and going to a family reunion in Maine. This year we are excited to continue to be a nationally accredited school (National Association for the Education of Young Children- as of August 1, 2017). All of us are looking forward to spending the year with you!

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

We are excited about beginning a new school year with you and are looking forward to re-establishing friendships and forming new ones. For me, it was a wonderful summer vacationing in Vancouver, British Columbia, visiting with family in North Carolina, golfing and in general relaxing and having fun. It’s always a pleasure to come back to school in August refreshed and eager to meet our new classes.

September is a month of “getting familiar” with each other, our room, our playground, our toys and games and our daily routines. Although many of the children have been here before, we still find there is a benefit to re-establishing routines and becoming oriented to school. By introducing center projects, rules and the day’s activities one-at-a-time, the children will have a chance to comfortably adjust to their school rather than be overwhelmed. 

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

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

Welcome to preschool! We are very happy to start a fun and exciting school year with your children. For many of the children in the T/Th class, these will be their first experiences in a school setting. We will learn and grow together throughout the year. I cannot express how happy and excited I am for this school year. I look forward to getting to know the children and your family.

I enjoyed a busy and fun summer with my family! It was full of swimming, beach vacations to Emerald Isle, North Carolina, and spending lots of time with family. My husband Ned and I live in Slippery Rock where we are kept very busy with our five-year-old daughter Ella and our three-year-old son Peyton. We are very excited to be adding a new addition to our family in November!

(See T/Th continued on page 2)
This method also gives your child time to begin to form those important new friendships with peers and with teachers. We like to allow plenty of time for reassuring hugs and encouraging words. Your children will be creating a special booklet during this month that will allow all of us to learn about each other.

The relationships we build between home and school are important to us. Our staff will do its best to keep you informed about your child and our school through newsletters like this, our parent bulletin board, our parent library (located in our staff room), and biannual parent/teacher conferences. We also want to talk with you often! Please stay and chat after school or feel free to email or telephone us to share with us any information about your preschooler. We will want to tell you about all the wonderful things your child is doing!

I'd like to take a minute to tell you about our curriculum approaches that we adhere to at the Preschool Lab and that follow the guidelines established by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards:

- **Developmentally Appropriate Practice.** This means that three- and four-year-old children are learning skills in a way that is appropriate for his or her age. Years of research on children's learning and development document the many benefits that DAP has for children's intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and language development.

- **Emergent approach** encourages investigation and inquiry from the children as they become engaged in a topic of learning. Through our classroom observations we identify children's interests during play and elaborate on those ideas in curriculum planning.

- **Diversity** is especially important in schools and communities. Our goal is to create inclusive environments that nurture respect for age, gender, and cultural differences. We would encourage any of our families to share with us a life-style practice that we may share with our preschoolers. This may be special foods you eat, language you speak, holidays you celebrate, or any special family event.

Some things we'll be doing this month! Our class will be making their very own booklets about themselves. Each day we will work on one page of the All About Me books. Besides learning a little bit more about one another, we'll also be introducing basic skills such as cutting, gluing, holding a marker, color identification and counting.

We are off to a good start and look forward to a great year with you and your children!
**Parent Volunteer Clearances:**

Parent Volunteer Clearances are needed at the Preschool Lab. Due to recent changes in Pennsylvania law, if you or someone in your family would like to volunteer at the Preschool Lab they will need Criminal History and Child Abuse Clearances. Listed below are just some of the events clearances are required for. To receive these necessary clearances, simply go online to complete the paperwork to obtain these FREE clearances. It takes about 15 minutes of your time! The websites are listed below and we also have a detailed instruction help sheet in our preschool staff room that we would be happy to give you or email to you.

Criminal History clearance website is: [https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp](https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp)
Child Abuse clearance website is: [https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis)

- **Parent Readers** – This includes coming into the classroom one time for about an hour, beginning around 9:45 a.m. to read to small groups of children.
- **Chaperone and Drivers for Field Trips** – There are several field trips during the school year that require help from at least 4 or 5 parents. The parents will be asked to drive their own vehicle on the day of the trip, to help place car seats in their cars for their passengers, and to help with supervision of the children they are driving to the trip.
- **Party Planners** – There are four parties over the course of the year. The parent committee will be asked to provide a party snack, plan art/craft activity, and a party game. Please feel free to put the teachers to work as well!
- **Parent Night** – This evening is chaired by the two parent representatives named each year from each class. Volunteers are needed to assist the parent reps in planning an evening of family fun!
- **Circle time Guests** – Any parent/grandparent is welcome and may be asked to share their expertise with the children at our morning circle time. Some parents have offered to cook with the class, share holiday traditions or special hobbies.
- **Sled Riding Day** – Parents are asked to help out with sled riding/sled safety for our annual sled riding day located on college grounds near the amphitheater.

**Electronic Security Card System:**

The Preschool Lab has installed a security system to ensure that during classroom times only authorized individuals are allowed access. During the morning session, from 8:45 am - 9:15 am, and from 11:40 am - 12:15 pm the doors to the preschool will be OPEN to welcome children and their families. All other morning times parents will need to use their Titan Card to gain access to the school.

Titan security cards will be available at no cost to preschool parents, and may be obtained from the office of the Division of Cognitive and Quantitative Sciences in Hoyt 161, along with information on our card policy. All cards will be labeled with the acronym for the preschool on the front (WCPL) and numbered on the back. Numbers will be assigned to each family by the preschool secretary, Doreen Matune. Initially up to two Titan cards will be provided per child on an as needed basis.

Parents will be expected to return the cards when they are no longer in use, and report any lost cards immediately. All cards will become inactivate on the last day of the school year.
**Preschool Lab Newsletter**

**Newsletter:**
At the beginning of each month you will be emailed a newsletter like this one. This is one of the ways we pass on information about our activities, plans and special events. Parents have found the newsletter to be helpful in the home/school connection by using it to follow up with their preschooler on projects that have or will be taking place at school. Please use the calendar of each newsletter to keep you up-to-date on daily happenings. Let us know if there are other things you would like to see in the newsletters.

**Observation Room:**
This room is for your benefit. Please use it to enjoy watching your children as they participate in activities.

**Please note our observation policy:**
Using your electronic access card, we ask that you enter through the staff room door and sign in and sign out on the clipboard inside the observation room. In the event that college students are performing an observational lab, we ask that they have first priority in the observation room.

Please help your toddlers keep our observation room equipment safe from harm. Equipment and controls are pre-set but if you need anything adjusted (such as volume), one of the teachers would be happy to change it for you.

**Picture Pages:**
Each month several classroom pictures will be posted in our monthly newsletter. The pictures will showcase children, artwork, field trips, free play, whatever! We hope this will be a great way to share information and get to know one another.

**Show and Tell:**
This activity takes place on Thursdays (T/Th class) and Fridays (M/W/F class) towards the end of the morning. The T/Th class shares one special item from home. The M/W/F class has alphabet Show and Tell, which means we begin with the letter A and each week continue to the next letter. On Wednesday we will introduce the letter and by Friday your child shares something from home that begins with that letter.

**Curriculum:**
Every month you will be briefed about our monthly themes listed in the *Highlights* section of the newsletter. It is our hope to encourage curiosity and engage the children in projects and explorations that vary with their interests throughout the year. Debi will introduce the themes in every newsletter for the M/W/F class, and Missy for the T/Th class.

**Parent Information Center:**
This area is located in the staff room which is labeled room 145. The bookshelf houses material that may be helpful to you as parents of preschoolers. Please borrow the books at any time and mark your name on the lending sheet located below the shelf. **Return items within a few weeks.** The brochures are yours to take and share. Extra handbooks, newsletters and short flyers are available on the top shelf. Please use the center frequently!

**Parent Information Bulletin Board:**
Please note the bulletin board next to the preschool door. This is a place to gather information that has anything to do with preschool age children such as local programs, swim lessons, entertainment, museum exhibits, college events, etc. We count on you to be contributors! Tear articles out of newspapers or magazines and feel free to tack them up when you visit the preschool. College students often place babysitting ads on this board. Information on the parent bulletin board is changed monthly. Check it out!

**V.I.P. Very Important Person:**
The T/Th class will begin V.I.P. pages in September. This is simply a small poster about them. When it is your child’s turn to be V.I.P., you will be given a page that asks questions about your child, their families and some of their favorite things to do. Children are encouraged to complete this page at home and bring it back to school the next preschool day. In the spring, we will begin a “Mystery Bag” take home project.

**Star of the Week:**
The M/W/F class will begin Star of the Week in September. This is a special time set aside each week during circle time, when each child will have an opportunity to be the “star.” Your child will bring a “star bag” home and should bring it back to school on the next class day with 1 or 2 special things from home to share with the class. This will begin in the next few weeks and everyone will have a turn to be “star” during the course of the semester. In the spring we will begin our Very Important Person (VIP) Can. We post the names of the star and V.I.P. on our outside easel.

**Come in Grown-Ups:**
Both classes send a “special helper of the week” into the hallway at the end of the day to say, “Come in grown-ups!” Check the outside easel to keep you informed! Everyone in both classes will get a turn to be the special helper.
Snacks

Our snack schedule is included in every newsletter and is also posted outside our classroom on our easel board. Please note our classroom is peanut and tree nut free. In accordance with this policy all birthday and party treats brought into the classroom must be from the “Approved Treat List.” The list is included with this newsletter and if you lose the list, we’d be happy to email you another one. We encourage good nutrition and trying new foods during snack time. Unless it is a special occasion, apple juice and water are served daily.

Our college aides for this fall semester are Rachael Huff Elliott (T/TH class) and Alyssa Peters (MW/F class). Rachael is a Psychology major and Alyssa is an Early Childhood Education major. Both aides have had working experiences with young children. They are eager to begin their term with the preschoolers. Our college aides are an important part of our staff and are trained accordingly.

We always have several college volunteers in the Preschool Lab throughout the semester. They usually work with small groups of children and may offer experiences in foreign language, music, computer, art, or extra story time. We will introduce them to you through the newsletters and each of them wear nametags during their time in the classroom. Take a minute to get to know our college aides and volunteers! You will hear about them
September Websites:
http://families.naeyc.org/ NAEYC family information website
http://www.pbs.org/parents/goingtoschool/grade_tips.html Parenting/separation issues website
http://www.webmd.com/parenting/tc/toilet-training-topic-overview Parenting/toilet training website

Songs We Sing

Hello Everybody (Our Circle Song)
Hello everybody, yes indeed
   Yes indeed, yes indeed
Hello everybody, yes indeed
   Yes indeed my darling!

Good-bye Song
We'll see you on Wednesday (next day of class)
Good-bye, good-bye (repeat first two lines three times)
Good-bye (blow a kiss)
Come in Grown-ups
Come in Grown-ups
Come in Grown-ups
We're glad to see you here.

Finally, please call/text/email us at any of these numbers if you have any questions.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Our Preschool Lab phone is 724-946-7174

Head Teacher, Debi Roud’s cell phone is 330-314-4789, email is roudds@westminster.edu

Teacher, Melissa Moore’s cell phone is 724-699-0183, email is mooreml@westminster.edu

Preschool Lab’s website is:
www.westminster.edu/about/community/preschool/index.cfm.
September Highlights (Both Classes):

**Getting to Know our School** – We will become oriented to preschool routines through Circle Time discussion and fun activities. The children help to establish safe rules in our classroom.

### M/W/F Class Highlights:

**All About Me**
The children will be getting to know each other as they share things about themselves. Throughout the month of September, we will be making “I Am Special” booklets to share with you. Not only do children realize they are special, but throughout the month/year, children develop the capacity to care about themselves, others, and their world.

**Blue Day**
September 22nd will be a BLUE kind of a day! We will be playing with blue, talking about the color blue, and making blue art projects. Please have your child wear something blue to school on this special day.

**Fall**
Science, science, science! We look forward to a science table full of seeds, pods, gourds, Indian corn, acorns, squash and pumpkins. We will introduce the season and brainstorm about fall colors, why leaves fall off trees, and how the weather changes in the fall. Foil art, fall tree art, and leaf patterns are some of the things we will be experiencing while exploring the topic of fall.

**Fall Field Trip**
On September 29th we will be taking a walking field trip to the New Wilmington Borough Park and, on our way will be looking for signs of Fall. This is always a popular field trip and an easy one for the beginning of the school year. Pick up on that Friday will be at the park!

### T/Th Class Highlights:

**I Can**
This unit focuses on all of the things your children know and can accomplish as 3 year olds! We will be learning to paint, cut, glue, and so much more. We will celebrate your children’s independence as we learn about preschool together.

**All About Me**
This unit has proven to be a winner in September. Children are most familiar with their families and themselves. Each day we will work on a page for a special booklet. The children will be sharing their art projects, words, special activities, and pictures. We can’t wait for you to see it!

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom**
We will be enjoying this fun book by Bill Martin, Jr. This is a great way to introduce the letters of your child’s name in a fun and interactive way.

**Apples**
We will be learning all about this fun fall fruit! The children will learn apple vocabulary words to go along with a fun art project for our bulletin board. Ask your “apple expert” what he/she knows after this fun day!

**Blue Day**
It will be a BLUE kind of a day on Tuesday, September 26th! We will be playing with blue and talking about the colors. *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle will be our book of the day. Please have your child wear something blue to school!

**Fall**
We will end our first month of preschool by talking about the season of Fall. We will share our favorite Fall activities and post the children’s words on the wall. Look for these posters throughout the year. Some other activities include sorting leaves and making beautiful Fall trees.

### Important Dates
- **Thursday, September 14**—Bring a Stuffed Friend to School
- **Thursday, September 21**—First Show and Tell Day
- **Tuesday, September 26**—Blue Day (wear something blue to school)
Approved Birthday and Holiday Party Treat List

All Fresh Fruits
T ‘Marzetti’s Carmel Fruit Dip
All Fresh Vegetables
Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing

Dole Fruit Bowls
Mott's Applesauce Cups
Sun-Maid Raisins

Betty Crocker Fruit Flavored Snacks and Fruit Roll Ups
Annie's Organic Bunny Fruit Snacks

Nabisco Oreos (original, double stuff)
Nabisco Chips Ahoy (chocolate chip, candy blasts, chewy, mini)
Keebler Vanilla Wafers
Hostess Twinkies, Ho Hos, Cupcakes
Kellogg's Rice Krispies Treats

Jell-O Gelatin Cups
Jell-O Pudding Cups (chocolate, vanilla, Oreo)

Dannon Danimals Yogurt (drinkable)
YoPlait GoGurt
Kraft String Cheese

Minute Maid Juice Bars (cherry, grape, orange)
Dole Juice Bars (strawberry, grape, raspberry)
Good Humor Fudgesicles, Popsicles, Firecrackers, Scribblers
Breyers Ice Cream (vanilla, chocolate)

Kraft Cheese Nips (cheddar)
Utz Cheese Balls (plain)
Pepperidge Farms Goldfish (cheddar, colors, pretzels)
Keebler Grahams (original, cinnamon, honey)
Nabisco Teddy Grahams (cinnamon, honey, chocolate, chocolatey chip)
Nabisco Barnum Animal Crackers

Kellogg's Nutra-Grain Bars (apple, cherry, raspberry, blueberry)

Frito Lay Lay's Potato Chips
Rold Gold / Utz Pretzels

Tootsie Rolls
Skittles
Smarties
Rolos
Sour Patch Kids
Starburst Fruit Chews
Twizzlers
Hershey's Chocolate Bars (1.55 oz.)

IMPORTANT NOTES!

- Please purchase the brand names provided on the list.

- If you are unsure of a snack, please ask a teacher prior to bringing it to preschool. If a snack is not on the list we will have to turn it away. (For birthday treats and holiday parties)

- Absolutely NO homemade food.

- All food must come to preschool unopened.

- In the event fruits and/or vegetables need to be cut or cleaned, we will do it at the preschool. (We don’t mind and it’s fun for the kids!)

Updated August 2017