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' which we have turned into 'Month of the Young Child'), an annual celebration sponsored by our accrediting organization, the National Organization for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC; for more information read further in this newsletter, and also explore [https://www.naeyc.org/woyc](https://www.naeyc.org/woyc)).

Thank you for returning the NAEYC self-assessment surveys to us. The teachers and I continue to work to prepare our preschool for the NAEYC accreditation review and visit, which will take place spring of 2017. We appreciate your support!

We are also starting to focus on the transition that our MWF children will (See DIRECTOR continued on page 2)

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**Mark Your Calendars!!**

**Parent Program**
Tuesday, April 12
11:45 to 12:45 PM
Guest Speaker: New Wilmington Police Chief Piccarillo
To talk about Child Safety
■ Free Babysitting provided ■

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**M/W/F Class 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 (WOYCY). This national event spotlights the importance of young children and those that support their development.

Week of the Young Child, held April 11-15, 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.

All month, celebrations around the country and our community will promote high-quality child care, preschool and other early education opportunities for young children.

(See M/WF continued on page 2)

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**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 11 - where the children will sing, dance, celebrate, and learn!
- **Parent Program with New Wilmington Police Chief,** April 12 - Chief Piccarillo will be talking to parents about child safety, bike safety, stranger danger, etc.
- **Work Together Wednesday!**  April 13 – where our class will work together, build together, learn together
- **Family Friday**  April 15 - Sharing family stories
- **Artwork displayed** - First National Bank, New Wilmington Post Office, and the campus McKelvey Center
- **Dr. Richard Dorman** – President of Westminster College, guest reader
- **Parent and Grandparent guest speakers**  Charlie Bruckner (seeds) and Mike Blasko (fishing)

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

The preschoolers will also be celebrating signs of spring in our classroom. In April we will begin to incubate chicken eggs. The children will be involved with turning the eggs and visiting the large incubator that is located in the Biology department. After 21 days, we hope to witness the newborn chicks hatching out of their shells. This is an annual event at the preschool and the chicks are one of the children's favorite things!

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 would like to thank the parent party committee for our Spring Party. A big thank you goes out to our chairperson Diane O'Donovan, Kevin and Carlee Webb, Mike Blasko, Michelle Dudash, and Diane Miles. Your time and creative efforts are very much appreciated!
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.

Plants and Seeds
Gardening is a hands-on activity that works well for this age group. We will be investigating plant seeds, bulbs, cuttings and roots. Math skills will come into play as we observe and record seed growth. The sand-table will turn into a pretend flower garden and a visit to our college greenhouse will be an in-house field trip.

Chicks!
The annual chick-hatching event will again take place at the classroom and the biology lab. The development of the chicken egg and learning about the incubator are all part of this life science unit. At the end of the month we expect to hear some peeping noises!

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

Dr. Seuss’s Green Eggs and Ham
will be the highlighted literature for the day! We look forward to rhyming words and making our own Dr. Seuss art.

Harry the Dirty Dog
"Harry the Dirty Dog" by Gene Zion is a delightful story about a dog named Harry who loves everything except baths! The theme for the day centers on clean and dirty and dogs of course.

Purple Day
Hands-down this is one of the most popular colors in the preschool! On Wednesday, April 20, we will be wearing purple, eating purple and talking about purple cows!

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!

1 Fish, 2 Fish!
Fishing is the topic of the day and guest speaker and walking to Brittain Lake to look for fish will be the highlight of the day.

HIGHLIGHTS-T/TH CLASS:

Chicks and Eggs
Which came first, the chicken or the egg? We are not really sure but here in our lab school, we hope to hear peeping noises after 21 days of incubation! We will incubate in our classroom and in the biology department. We can’t wait to see chicks!

WYOC
Week of the Young Child activities: Taco Tuesday and Artsy Thursday.

Earth Day
We will celebrate Earth Day on Tuesday, April 19th by discussing different ways even preschool children can help the Earth. We will take a walking field trip to Lake Brittain here on campus to clean up trash and complete a fun Earth Day scavenger hunt.

Purple Day
Thursday, April 21st, will be purple day! Wear your purple to school to enjoy purple art, play and even some yummy purple milkshakes!

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.
**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!
Patrick and Cooper stacking blocks!

Clayton Ty and Zoë made a house for rabbit and skunk!

Zoe Grace, Zachary, Noah, Cameron, Tennyson, Jack and Allison were busy coloring together!
Sophia is looking for a leprechaun on St. Patrick’s Day.

Silas and Finley are busy digging in the sand table.

Kai is making cookies at the play-doh table. Yummy!