



News YOU CAN USE SPRING Newsletter

Hello Families!

I believe as of this newsletter we have 20 days of school left for the year! How is that possible! Please make sure you continue to check SeeSaw, backpacks and emails, so you do not miss anything! This newsletter contains important upcoming dates and links for families to plan ahead.

It has been so busy around the center with field trips, parent activities and fun things for our students! As you know, we celebrated a few fun days this month in April. We kicked off the month with celebrating Autism Acceptance and Awareness. Our students had dress up days with themes, participated in sensory activities and we even had a parade to celebrate all of the things special about each person!

We celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd. Our students learned about recycling. Ms. Stachulak kindly arranged to have a recycling company come to the EC Center with a real truck. Students were able to explore the truck, learn more about what happens at a recycling center and even were able to sort items brought from home. It was a great learning experience!



April Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month/NeuroDiversity

We celebrated a few fun days this month in April. We kicked off the month with celebrating Autism Acceptance and Awareness. Our students had dress up days with themes, participated in sensory activities and we even had a parade to celebrate all of the things special about each person! It was a wonderful week as we partnered with Lane to make it really fun, while learning new things.

As Autism Awareness/Neurodiversity Month comes to a close, the key is to learn the signs of Autism, familiarize yourself with developmental milestones and early detection of delays. We do respect that all children develop a little differently and many factors impact our growth and development (birth history, family history, traumatic events, illness, etc), but it is important to become familiar with the milestones. Sometimes giving things time, exposing your child to new experiences or making changes at home with sleep, diet, screen time limits and structure can really help. However, we can not always assume the delays are something a child will grow out of without support. Included below are links to developmental milestone checklists and other resources since the key is early detection.

With the increase in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Neurodiverse conditions, parents have shared they face long wait lists for evaluations and obtaining services, in addition to hurdles with funding/insurance. Trust your instincts as a parent, reach out and ask questions. The best place to start is talking to your pediatrician. School staff can also discuss your concerns or may reach out to discuss our observations and together, come up with ways to support your child. Our school is fortunate to have such caring and amazing professionals to partner in your child's early learning experience.

As an educational team, we are always shifting our focus to learn new methods and navigate best practices to meet our students' needs. As a parent myself of a child diagnosed with Autism and other Neurodiverse needs, I understand and empathize with any parent facing the reality that your child is struggling, whether it is something short or long term. While it can be a long road, filled with ups and downs, addressing the issue is key. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, etc.

Here are some great resources to check on about child development-Click on the links below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

[How to Help Your Child](#)

[Parent Resources State of Illinois](#)

[Category: Tip Sheets | Illinois Early Learning Project](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

5/1-Laps at Lane-families who ordered t-shirts for this event-check backpacks. Wear your red shirt!

5/3-No School for the ECC-it is a half day in the district.

May 6th-May 10th-Staff Appreciation Week

5/20-All School Field Trip to the Oak Lawn Children's Museum. Permission slip coming home 5/1.

5/24-No School for D126 students

5/27-Memorial Day-no school for D126 students

5/28-ALL SCHOOL END OF YEAR CELEBRATION.

5/30-Last day of school for ECC students only.

5/31-Last day for K-7th grade students

6/12-Returning student registration opens for all district students

Returning Student Registration for 2024-25

For families returning to the EC center for 2024-25, returning registration will begin June 12th on Skyward Family Access. Families will receive a letter in the mail. If you do not receive a letter, you will need to contact the building principal or district office. If you have moved, please let us know, as we continue to check residency to ensure families are enrolled in the correct district. We can assist with transferring your child, if you are in a different district.

Returning Preschool Session Preference Request 2024-25

Please complete this link to request which session you would prefer for your child next school year in preschool. Our sessions are 8:35am-11:05am or 12:05pm-2:35pm. We will try our best to honor your requested session, either AM or PM. Please read the information at the top of the form included in the link.

*****Please note-Students in Mrs. Mueller's classroom, session assignments will be discussed with you on an individual basis. Please still fill out the form. Click Here—>2024-25 Session Request***



Staff Appreciation Week May 6th-10th

We will celebrate our amazing staff May 6th-10th. If you would like to have your child make something special like a card or drawing, please encourage this! Our staff loves receiving these each year from families.

Here is a link to a special project I am asking parents to please fill out to recognize staff members working in our school—>[Staff Shout Out!](#)



End of Year Celebration

On Tuesday, May 28th, we will roll out the red carpet for our preschool students to celebrate the year in preschool. The Theme is Reach for the Stars! This year, we will pair up with another classroom to have the event in the Lane Gym. We will have a photo booth, students will receive a certificate and have a slideshow. The sessions will begin promptly at the times listed, so please plan ahead to find parking and enter the building. More information will follow!

The schedule will be as follows:

Coffey, Stachulak and Mueller

AM-9:00-9:45

PM-12:30-1:15

Leggett and Colesby

AM-10:15-11:00

PM- 1:45-2:30



Parking on Orchard Street or the Village Hall Lot to Drop off your child

I am asking for all families' cooperation to continue to have a safe pick up and drop off line. Unless you have prior approval through Mrs. Fiske (some families do for specific reasons), **please do not park on Orchard or in the Village Hall Parking Lot to walk your child up to start their school day.** Everyone should be using the pick up and drop off line. It only takes ten minutes or less to drop your child off to school. This can be a good time to listen to fun music together or talk about what they are learning in school. When families park on Orchard Street, it is difficult for our car line to move and exit safely. Your cooperation is appreciated. *Please note, this does not apply to students who are in Mrs. Mueller's classroom.

A couple of reminders-

1. **Attendance**- Please remember to call your child into the attendance line of our office (not the teacher's phone number) if your child is not going to attend for the day. Our families have been doing a great job with this, but keep it up. If you do not call us, Mrs. Gomez is required to contact you to find out why your child is absent. **The phone number is 708-631-0490 select option 2.**
2. **Pick up and drop off**-One thing we ask is for safety reasons, **please do not drive around another car to exit the line.** We know it might take some of our students a little longer to get into their vehicles.

Heggerty

Many families ask for resources of what they can do at home to help support their child's learning. For preschool, simple activities which take just a few minutes of your time can help make a lasting impact. One program we expose your children to weekly is Heggerty. This is carried through when they enter elementary school as well. Here is an attachment of activities through Heggerty you can do at home to build early literacy skills. Click on these links for more information.

[**10-Activities-for-Home.pdf**](#)

[**EPK-Parent-Newsletters.pdf**](#) [**Parent-Newsletters- -Spanish- -Pre-K- -Orange.pdf**](#)

I have also included links to Heggerty videos most of your children have already been exposed to. If you play the videos, have your child show you what they learned in school!

<https://my.heggerty.org/watch/c7a7e9a0-642d-4171-b998-f71a8a756bd9>

<https://my.heggerty.org/watch/372db0c4-1440-4126-bf93-465ef52328eb>

<https://my.heggerty.org/watch/ab063fd5-61b2-426d-90d1-366406af89fa>

Special Services available at the Early Childhood Center

Children who have various therapies during the school day such as Social Work, Speech and Occupational Therapy, have been meeting with the teachers or therapists regularly for services. If you would like the contact information of your child's therapy provider, please reach out to the classroom teacher or Mrs. Fiske.

If you have a concern about your child's development, please contact your child's teacher. We always believe in giving your child time to acclimate to their new environment and love to get to know them first! We also know how important Early Intervention is for our students and will contact parents regarding additional screenings.



Parent Resources-Check it out!

Alsip Library Upcoming Activities Click here: —>[Alsip-Merrionette Park Library](#)

Do you need to reach us?

Here is a one page sheet with our information, office hours and staff contact information--->>>[ECC Information Sheet](#)



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