

St. Andrew's Preschool News

April 2021



From the Director

Winter is behind us? Boy it's hard to say with one week 65 and the next 32. We are looking forward to spring weather with plenty of sunny outside playtimes. Even though our school year is beginning to wind down we have so much more to do and are so excited about our end of the year events. We can't thank you enough for your continued cooperation. We feel blessed to spend time with your children each day.

SCIENCE NIGHT IS COMING BACK! Mark your calendars for April 27th from 5:15-7:15. Please come and enjoy engaging in over 20 science activities that your children have done throughout the year. Capital Snow Truck is coming to Science Night too! Starting at 5:15. Fish, Penguins, and Lions will picnic outside with their families and enjoy a shaved ice for dessert and enter the building at 6:15 for Science Night. Kitten, Puppy and Frog classes will enter Science Night at 5:15 and then picnic outside and enjoy their shaved ice at 6:15. We will of course keep an eye on the weather and let you know if we need to adjust. If you have more than one child at our preschool, feel free to attend either session! We can't wait!

Your Victor O'Neil individual and class proofs will be sent to your email. If you have any questions regarding the proofs, please send an email to underclass@vos.com.

Thank you so much for our support of Teacher Appreciation Week! It was so nice to sit down and enjoy a delicious lunch in a beautiful setting.

Be sure to read the weekly email for dates and times of Spring Teas, Transition Ceremonies, and End of the Year Picnic.

Don't forget to sign up for Summer Fun! Look for the Sign Up Genius in the Weekly Email.

We have a few spaces left for the 2021-2022 school year. If you know of anyone interested in our preschool for next year, please send them to our web site preschool.standrews.net. There they can take a virtual tour and register by completing the inquiry form under the Link to Register tab. Of course, they can always call our office at **703-455-8458** or email our office at preschool@standrews.net.

We have enjoyed working with you this year and will look forward to seeing you at Summer Fun and Enrichment Camp. Knowing you has made our lives so much better!

As we sing at the end of each day-Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye. Goodbye my friends to you. God bless you everywhere you go and all you say and do! Warm Regards, Tami

Save the Date!!

- Science Night, Wednesday April 27 at 5:15 -7:15
- Spring Teas, Wednesday, May 11 and Thursday, May 12 11:30
- End of Year Picnic, Monday, May 23 9—3 Burke Lake Park, Shelter C
- Kindergarten Transition, Wednesday, May 25 & Thursday, May 26, 11:30 Parish Hall
- Last Day of School, Friday, May 27
- Summer Fun, June 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 9:15 - 12:15
- Enrichment Camp June 13-17, 9:15 - 1:15





The Puppy and Kitten Class



Happy Spring, everyone!

We hope everyone had a relaxing Spring Break. We are glad to be back at school. Thank you to all of the Puppy and Kitten families again for the wonderful treats and cards for Teacher Appreciation week. We really felt appreciated!

During the month of March, the Puppy and Kitten classes had fun completing units Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's Day, and Fairy Tales. The children enjoyed playing in the castle tent and dressing up in Fairy Tale costumes.

During circle time we have been reading wonderful stories relating to our themes. We have been playing memory games, practicing sorting and identifying colors.

The children enjoyed free art and creating whatever they like. We are working on lacing with wooden shape beads and making sticker pictures. These activities are great ways to improve fine motor skills. Some favorite art projects were building our own castles out of different shapes and making rainbows using a variety of art tools.

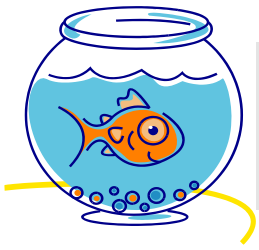
In April we are talking about Spring and Easter. We enjoyed sponge painting Easter eggs with making Easter baskets. The children enjoyed using droppers with watercolors. We will soon be reading Eric Carle books.

May will bring us to the end of the year! We will be having a Spring tea May 11th for the Puppy class and May 12th for the Kitten Class. More information will be sent later in the weekly email.

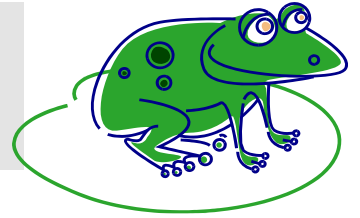
We have learned so much this year and we have enjoyed watching the children grow and make new friends.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kroeger and Mrs. Stites



The Fish and Frog Class



We hope that you and your families had a blessed Easter and a wonderful Passover. It's hard to believe that we've made it this far!! The time has flown by and we've enjoyed every minute of it.

During the first week of March, we focused on the magnificent world of Dr. Seuss. The children created fun hats and beautiful artwork. They loved telling us which Dr. Seuss story was their very favorite. We played games and had loads of fun! We also discussed "Green Eggs and Ham" and found out which brave kids would actually eat such a thing!

Later in March we transitioned into all things St. Patrick's Day! The kids created beautiful art. The Fish class made fun St Patrick's Day sun catchers, while the Frog class painted their very own Shamrocks. Both classes loved hearing about and looking for leprechauns. We walked all through the school looking for the sneaky creatures and even created a trap to catch them! Those leprechauns are elusive, so we didn't catch a single one.

After St. Patricks Day, we began our Community Helpers unit. The kids were asked what they'd like to be when they grow up, and they created hats that represented their favorite jobs. It was so fun! In the classroom, the kids really enjoyed dressing up in Community Helper outfits and we read books about police officers, firemen and teachers. We found out that a lot of kids would like to be police officers! The Fish class continues to learn all their letters. We just finished up with the letter S. The Frog class continues to practice their numbers.

With the arrival of April, we hopped right into our Easter unit. The Fish class made Easter bunny houses and the Frog class created Easter bunnies hiding in the grass. We had lots of fun with "find the letter" in the Easter Egg hunt. The kids read books about Easter and Mrs. Dutton provided a special Easter Blessing during Chapel.

During the third and fourth weeks of April, we will work on our Fairy Tale unit. We can't wait! We will discuss princes, princesses, knights and dragons. The kids will build castles and create towers with moats. We know the kids will love this unit. Hazzah!!

We have such awesome kids and we've really enjoyed getting to know them!! They delight us every day and surprise us with their creativity. We remain truly appreciative of the support we receive from our great parents as well. It certainly makes our job so much easier. Thank you!

Warmly,
Lisa Winand and Nandita Rebello



The Penguin Class



It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter of the year. Your children have been a big part of our lives. Their individual personalities entertain us and keep us on our toes. They are helpful, sweet, excited, inquisitive, smart and so much more.

During the month of April, we enjoyed talking about Easter, spring, and insects. We also had a wonderful celebration for our 100th day on April 12 with 100 balloons in the classroom and 100 water balloons to throw at the wall outside! In art, the children made stained glass Easter bunnies to decorate our windows, paper Easter eggs colored with chalk, spring stamp art, and kites! In our dramatic play area, the children enjoyed taking care of many cute little pets in our veterinarian's office. It is so much fun to see where their imaginations take them.

During circle time we learned the letters X, Y, and Z, by thinking of words beginning in those letters and writing uppercase and lowercase versions of each letter. The children have enjoyed practicing identifying the numbers 1-12 through games. We have worked on cutting out shapes and have reviewed our Mat Man song which helps us remember all the parts of a person when drawing.

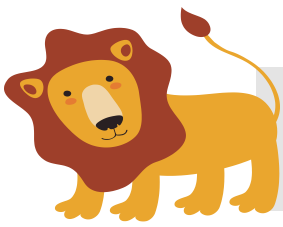
During the month of May our class will be learning about Eric Carle and reading many of his wonderful books! We will finish off the year by reviewing our favorite things from the school year and talking and reading about going to Kindergarten. We will discuss making new friends next year and what the new school year might be like. During circle time we will be reinforcing letter recognition, letter sounds, numbers and full names.

We are looking forward to our Spring Tea on Thursday, May 12. The Penguins will be having "tea" with their special guest. We will send out invitations with more information soon.

On Wednesday, May 25, at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall, we will hold a Transition Celebration for the Penguin class as they prepare to move on from preschool and attend kindergarten in the fall. More details in the weekly email.

We are so proud of our Penguins and all they have learned and accomplished this year! Thank you for sharing your children with us! We will miss them. Please say "hello" when you see us around.

Mrs. MacArthur and Mrs. Kockler



The Lion Class



Cat, Mat, Sat, Fat, and Rat - I bet you can guess where I am going with this...Dr. Seuss! We began the month of March finishing up our unit on Dr. Seuss and rhyming. We continued to practice rhyming during circle time and we loved hearing some of the real and made-up words the Lions came up with. Along with rhyming, we are working on learning syllables during circle time. As you probably know, during circle time we count our days of school to help learn place value and counting. The Lions have been very excited about our "100thDay of School". To celebrate this day, we made T-shirts with 100 fingerprint dots and did 100 exercises in groups of 10. The Lions made headbands to wear and we had a day of fun recognizing that 100 is a lot of anything! Following Dr. Seuss and our 100th day of school, we had a week of St. Patrick's Day fun. We read some fun stories about Leprechauns and rainbows. The Leprechaun visited our classroom and we had a scavenger hunt around the school. We concluded our hunt with Lucky Charms and Shamrock Shakes for snack. The Lions had a blast buying sweets with gold at our Shamrock Sweet Shop for dramatic play. We had many fun rainbow projects during this unit - a favorite being a collage rainbow. We learned the science behind rainbows and read many fiction and non-fiction books about rainbows. Before Spring Break we had a quick author study reading the books of Leo Lionni.

Following St. Patrick's Day and the 100th Day of school we moved into our unit on Fairytales and Folktales. We discussed the elements of a Fairytale and how it is different from a Folktale. As well, we discussed that these are stories that are repeated over and over again throughout time. We read different versions of several stories showing how the same story can be told with a different twist by different authors. The Lions wrote another writing prompt on why they are special and decorated mirrors with a self-portrait. I always love hearing what the kids come up with when they speak their minds. The class made castle suncatchers, princess and the pea beds (counting the mattresses), castles made from shapes and a Goldilocks emergent reader. They had a lot of make-believe fun dressing up in the dramatic play center and playing with castles in the block center.

We have introduced the Lions to chapter books! We started the Mercy Watson series that my own children loved when they were little. They are a great introduction to chapter books since they have short chapters and include a few introductions.

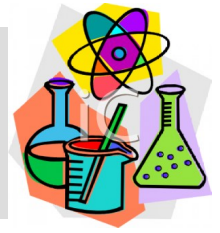
We will spend the first week in April talking about Easter. Currently we are focusing on Eric Carle since his stories fit perfectly with spring! We hope you have a wonderful and safe spring break. We look forward to hearing about many adventures when our Lions return.

The year is flying by and we are looking forward to more nice weather and outside playground time. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at Kelly@thenymans.net.

With love and a roar, Mrs. Nyman and Mrs. Jacobs



The Discovery Room "Where no discovery is too small"



How does the solar system hold up its pants? With an asteroid belt, of course! Learning about the two belts within our solar system (the other belt is called Kuiper) is just one example of the plethora of astronomical facts students discovered throughout March. We began our unit focusing on the day/ night cycle and planetary characteristics. We read Nelson's Day and Night book, which clarified a popular student idea that the sun turns off or gets too tired to keep running in the evening. We conducted a mini experiment using a flashlight and foam earth ball to demonstrate where the light shines as earth rotates on its axis. Students practiced critical thinking skills by justifying why it is better to do certain activities at night or during daytime. I was really impressed by the depth of conversation generated by this unit. Students even learned to differentiate between the frequently confused twenty-four-hour rotation versus yearly revolution. The moon was introduced with Gail Gibbon's fact filled The Moon Book. Students practiced identifying and ordering the moon's phases. We concluded the unit with a popular bottle rocket experiment which uses a plastic snap top film canister containing a shaken mixture of water and antacid tablets placed upside down on pavement. The one rule after you shake it is to run and watch what happens! By the conclusion of this unit students could easily identify and order all eight planets with the help of the following famous acrostic: My very eager mother just served us nachos.

The final week of March we decided to 'bug out' with an entomology unit which will continue throughout April. The students were immersed in the insect experience from books, to stations, to art, and even hands-on insect experiences. The students discovered that insects have six legs, three main body parts, two antennae, an exoskeleton, and most have wings. We learned about how butterfly wings are symmetrical by folding splattered paper to observe the same pattern copied on both sides. Did you know that insects use their antennae or feelers to touch, taste, hear, and even smell? We played with plastic bug scenes, insect versus non-insect sorting containers, insect puzzles, felt scenes, and examined insect slides under a microscope. If you ask at home, each student can probably regale you with a 'head, thorax, abdomen' song to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." The next few weeks of this unit focused on life cycles. The students sorted the life cycles of butterflies, beetles, ants, and even frogs! They enjoyed using plastic versions of these animals and accompanying charts to sort each life cycle in the proper order. To reinforce the order, students completed oversize ant, butterfly, ladybird beetle, and frog life cycle foam puzzles. Students created aluminum foil lily pads and tested how many frogs could float in a mini pond using STEM skills they learned in the previous machines unit. Two containers of caterpillars arrived in the mail and we watched them grow over the course of two weeks from tiny larvae to giant pupae wrapped in chrysalis. The pupae were transferred to the butterfly habitat containment and we look forward to releasing butterflies as soon as they emerge. We spent the final week of our insect unit specifically focused on ants, bees, and non-insect arthropods, including spiders and worms. Students gained new respect for ants and bees after learning about their complex social structures and how they have more in common with us than we thought. The book Hey, Little Ant by Phillip and Hannah Moose imparts the critical message that it is important to care about all creatures, big or small. In Discovery, students played the honeybee tree game, placed tiny bees on flowers to pollinate them, and explored an interactive garden complete with dirt, ants, and even lifelike gelatinous worms hidden throughout the display. They used packing foam and pipe cleaners to create their own anatomically correct ants. The unit culminated with each class going on a bug hunt complete with their own bug containers, tweezers, and checklists. Students caught worms, ants, millipedes, larva, and beetles. My favorite part was observing how fearlessly and respectfully the students collected specimens. Of course, all the animals were released back into the wild after students took turns sharing their finds.

During May we will explore the topic of weather and the water cycle before recapping favorite units throughout the year. Please mark your calendars and save the date for April 27th-Science Night! I look forward to seeing everyone immerse themselves in various science units we completed throughout the year and some new bonus experiments! Thank you for sharing your little learners with me. They never cease to amaze me with the immense amount of knowledge they are capable of absorbing and retaining!

Yours in discovery,
Mrs. Smith



Music

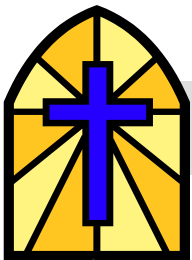


Beanbags, Lummi Sticks and Circle Games

The music room started out the month of April with an entire week of beanbags. We balanced the beanbags on our heads, fingers, feet and backs. We used bean bags as pillows and washcloths. We shook them in time to music and danced around with them in our arms as our dance partners. Who knew bean bags could be so many different things in one week?!

Next up in the month was Lummi Stick week. Lummi sticks are two sticks, one textured and one smooth, that are tapped or rubbed together to make sound. I use Lummi Sticks to teach rhythm and directional instructions such as forward, back, side and under. When handing out any instrument, the students practice using 3 and 4 step directional instructions, which is a lot for 4 and 5 year olds. They did great at remembering the steps and following them in order!

As the year comes to an end, we will have a week-long camping unit and play circle games with various instruments found in the music room. The older kids will also learn a song for the Transition ceremony.



St. Andrew's Preschool Chapel News

May 1st at 10:00 a.m., service at St Andrews will be celebrating Preschool Sunday. Whether you are a long-time parishioner or if you only come here on weekdays, please consider joining us that day as we celebrate you! We will have youth who are graduates of our preschool as our readers. Mrs. Dutton will be doing a Godly Play lesson as the sermon. There will be a bouncy house after the service for the younger children. Your Director, Tami Phillips will be singing with the choir that day! We look forward to seeing you on May 1st. Our service time is 10:00 am.



Chapel Schedule

Tuesday	Friday	Story Sequence
4/26	4/28	Jesus has Risen: Road to Emmaus
5/3	5/5	Follow Me/Jesus Calls the 12
5/10	5/12	Jesus Calms the Storm
5/17	5/19 7	Parable of the Mustard Seed

St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool



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IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

*The end of school is quickly approaching so be on the look out for lots of important dates & events coming up.

*For those students retuning for the 2022-2023 school year, **May 2023 tuition is due by June 1, 2022.**

- We are currently registering for SUMMER FUN.
- ENRICHMENT CAMP is full.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH:

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (July 18th-22nd) is our camp for kids ages 3½ to rising 4th graders. We start each morning at 9:00 a.m. and spend the day making crafts, playing, singing, eating snacks, and listening to Bible stories until pick-up at 12:00 p.m. Classes will be both inside and outside (weather depending) so dress kids appropriately. The cost is \$30/child (\$70 family max - registration cost only) and \$8/t-shirt (t-shirts are optional). Money & registration are due by June 20th.

When registering a child, please register yourself (parent/guardian) first, then add your children. Volunteers can also use the form to sign up to help. There is no registration cost and t-shirts are free for volunteers.

For questions contact Amy Dunton: amy@standrews.net

Sign up here: <http://tiny.cc/StA-VBS-22>