

# A. Mac's "Kool Kids' News"

News from Alexander Macomb Early Learning Center

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## A Few things to share with your child over Spring Break

1. Let your child tell you a story today.
2. Change chairs at mealtime. Pretend to be the person who usually sits in that chair.
3. Tell your child about using "inside" and "outside" voices. Inside voices are quiet. Outside voices are louder.
4. Use a sock to make a hand puppet with your child. Draw a face on the closed end.
5. Make a mini kitchen for your child with empty food boxes and utensils.
6. Show your child a pattern by alternating apple and banana slices. Can your child tell what will come next?
7. When you don't know the answer to one of your child's questions, find it at the library together.
8. Read to your child from a book of poems. Author Shel Silverstien has written entertaining poems for children.
9. Read your child's favorite book as many times as she wants.
10. Plan a "no-TV evening."
11. Read a children's book about nutrition. Plan a new healthy meal for your family to eat.
12. Ask your child to draw a picture of what he liked best today.
13. Show your child the meaning of short and long by looking at your shadows.
14. Practice naming the days of the week with your child.
15. Go for a walk together. Skip, jump, hop and run.
16. Look at a picture of your child when she was a year younger. Talk about what she has learned since then.
17. Ask your child to choose between two vegetables for dinner.
18. Look at a comic strip together. Cut the pictures apart. Ask your child to put them back in the correct order.
19. Teach your child about food groups.
20. Talk about how recycling helps the environment.
21. Take a tour of your neighborhood with your child.
22. Draw a map of your neighborhood. Let your child color it.
23. Read a fairy tale with your child. Talk about your favorite parts of the story.
24. Let your child decorate a hat. Attach feathers, buttons and other fun items with tape.
25. Have a pretend telephone conversation with your child.
26. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you.
27. Look through the newspaper with your child. Have her find familiar letters and numbers in headlines.
28. Ask your child to paint a picture of his favorite holiday.
29. Work a puzzle with your child.
30. Teach your child a fun new word such as *enormous*. Use it in sentences together today.

The Parent Institute, Helping Children Learn 1-800-756-5525

**Yvonne McQueen**

## From the Desk of Ms. Brenda Moore

Dear Parents at Alexander Maccomb,

As I think of the word **Family**, one thought in particular comes to mind; how each and everyone of you is so special to us. Without our wonderful families and the cooperation that you share, Alexander Maccomb would not have that special ingredient – “you”.

I have previously stated to many of you how “Families are our basic building block to society”. I often think about the strength, and the nurturing that comes from a family, and I know the number one goal that each of us and yourselves are aiming toward and that is the development of your child – our student.

Thank you for being a part of the Alexander Maccomb family



### **Ways to strengthen your family**

- Spend time with each other; doing things together.
- Plan ahead with your family so things *will* happen and not **just** happen.
- Establish a reasonable balance between outside activities, work schedules and your family.
- Talk with each other and listen carefully to understand each other’s viewpoint.
- Show each family member consideration and appreciation, especially in everyday ways.
- Develop pride in your family.
- Help each other and be willing to let others help you.
- Contact and build ties with other families.
- Take part in community services.
- Develop spiritual focus within your family.

Adapted from 2010 PAM Organizers’ Packet, Prevention Network 1-800-968-4968

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CORNER

We will be conducting I.E.P.C.’s for most children in the E.C.S.E. program in May and June. Watch for your invitation. It will be sent home in your child’s backpack. As always, please call if you are unable to attend the meeting and we can work together to find a more convenient time.

Usually, spring provides many opportunities to build language and vocabulary skills in our children. Remember to always talk to them about what they see and hear; new buds on the trees, beautiful flowers starting to bloom, red robins they see and hear in the tree. Also, try to expand or add to their utterances. This helps provide them with good models, and expands their vocabulary and sentence length. Most importantly, it shows that you’re listening to your child and you believe that what they say is important.

We will begin testing for next school years E.C.S.E. program in May. If you have children who you would like evaluated please call for an appointment.

**Dawn Wright – 461-3716**

**Vera Bartold – 461-3711**



*While we try to teach our children  
all about life, our children teach us  
what life is all about.*  
*Angela Schwindt*

## CLASSROOM NEWS

**Mrs. Delargey, Mrs. Bommarito & Mrs. Smith's** classroom:

Since March 2 was "Read across America" day the story of *The Cat in the Hat* was read. This was the original story but using all the props that were out because of the movie.

For St. Patrick's Day we made lovely green hats to wear on our parade. Our class and Mrs. Schultz's class marched around the school wearing our hats and playing our instruments. What fun!!!

During March we read many books about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Then we acted it out. We painted a bear and decorated it. We also read many stories about The Three Billy Goats Gruff and acted it out.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at parent/teacher conferences.



**Mrs. Dumala and Ms. Finner's** classroom:

We have had a fun month of learning. We finished our "Splash and Dig" unit this month and had a lot of fun with water. We used a straw to blow bubbles in a container of soapy water and combined bubbles with partners to watch them grow. We explored different objects in water to see if they would float or sink. We learned about oceans, beaches, lakes, shores, rivers and wetlands through books, pictures and activities. We completed letters Ll, Oo, Rr, Zz this month.

When we return from our spring break we only have 4 full weeks of school left so we will be combining the last two units "Watch it Grow" and "Weather Watchers". Along with these units I plan to teach more than 1 letter a week



in order to teach/introduce them all. The letters we have left are, li, Tt, Bb, Jj, Qq, Ww, Uu, Gg, Kk, and Xx. We will need your help at home and over summer break to continue to practice writing these letters as well as reinforcing their sounds.

The children enjoyed making the Leprechaun traps at home and trying to catch him in our classroom. That Leprechaun played lots of tricks on us. He knocked down furniture, cut down our Leprechaun balloons, left green glitter everywhere and even green footprint all over our floor, chairs, desks and the water in our toilet was GREEN!!! He left us notes daily with lots of candy. Guess we will have to try harder next St. Patrick's Day!

We will enjoy talking to all of you and reviewing all the progress your child has made during Parent/Teacher conferences. You should all be proud of everything your child has accomplished this year so far. It would not be possible without your guidance at home. Have a wonderful spring break with your family.



**Mrs. Labadie's and Ms. Meaders'** classroom:

We had a grand time for St. Patrick's Day. The leprechaun played some tricks on us ... but we got some of his Pot 'O Gold. We tried to catch him, but he ran out the back door.

We are reading many Easter time books and working on spring/Easter art projects. One spring story we particularly like is Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Peter Rabbit was actually modeled after a pet rabbit and was first published in 1902.

After Spring break, we will be starting a Medical/Doctors unit. We will be reading stories about visiting the doctor. We will learn about some major organs, see x-rays and turn our kitchen into a Doctor's office.

Later in April, we will be learning about farm animals. The Upland Hills Farm will be visiting us on April 27. It will be a great day and lots of fun.

Since the weather is hopefully getting warmer, occasionally we will be going outside on the playground. So please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outside play.



**Mrs. Langworthy & Ms. Houston's** classroom:

March was a busy month. We started out celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading a variety of his books. Our favorite was Green Eggs and Ham, which we also enjoyed eating!

Most of the students had expressed an interest in dinosaurs, so that was our next unit. On the first day of the unit, it was so much fun to watch their excitement as they entered the class and saw all of the dinosaur pictures, books and toys. This might have been the students' favorite unit so far this year.

After dinosaurs, came the color unit and color mixing. The students learned that blue and yellow make green, blue and red make purple and red and yellow make orange. They also experimented with mixing white with red to get pink, white with black to get gray and mixing all of the colors to get an ugly brown color.

Our final unit this month was transportation. The students practiced concepts such as first, last, next, on, under, next to, etc. They created shape trains and built roads to drive their cars on.

**Mrs. Miyamoto and Mrs. King's** classroom:

We have been very busy in the Red Room. During the month of March, we celebrated two fun events. First, the leprechauns visited our room on St. Patrick's Day. They played a few tricks on us by messing up the room. However, they left us some special magic dust for our applesauce. When we sprinkled it in, it turned green. For all of you that don't know, the secret dust is green jello. The leprechauns also left us a wonderful surprise: Gold Coins that we could eat!!!! Another Special Day was Crazy Clothes and Hair day. The children (and staff) enjoyed coming to school looking silly. However, a few were a little confused. They thought it was a Crazy Day all together!!!!

We have finished the Splash and Dig Unit. The children learned a lot about water and different bodies of water. We talked about Oceans, Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, Marshes, and Streams. Our favorite song that we sang during this unit was "At the Pond." Ask your child to sing or act out the song for you. We have a lot of different Ocean Art Projects hanging up in our room. We cannot wait for you to see this during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The next unit we will be introducing is Weather. We are looking forward to this unit and know the children will learn a lot while having fun!!!!

The end of the year is drawing near and that means Kindergarten is getting closer. Please continue to work on the following things: writing first and last name, knowing address, knowing phone number, counting and recognizing numbers. Also, recognizing letters and the sounds they make.



**Mrs. Noon and Mrs. Jackson's** classroom:

March came in like a lion and has gone out like a lamb. The weather has seemed to settle down and we can smell spring in the air. The saying for April is that April showers bring May flowers. I know that the showers will rejuvenate our grass, shrubs, and flowers and then a colorful May will be here before we know it.

We spent time in March reading Dr. Seuss books, focusing on one last unit of arctic animals, and took time to research water, its uses, and the ocean. We will be just as busy in April as we were in March with our studies, particularly because we have many extracurricular and specialized events added to our agenda like Spring Pictures, the Science Fair, and a visit from the Farm!

We only have a short while before spring passes and summer is here, so everyone keep up the good work and let's finish the year strong!



**Ms. Pittiglio and Ms. Chervenak's** classroom:

Our newest theme in the Investigator Club is called "Splash and Dig." We are learning about streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. The students are having fun working in the water table and cutting out fish in our classroom pool.

Our weather in March has been so beautiful! We have been enjoying spending some time outside on the playground again. Please make sure to continue to dress your child for the weather.

For at home activities continue to work with your child on rhyming. Believe it or not rhyming and playing with words and word sounds help our young children to become

good readers. Children actually learn to read by using their ears. They have to be able to hear different sounds in order to begin to read. So for about 10 minutes a day practice rhyming words and sounds. This can be done, in the car, at bedtime and/or while cooking dinner. Keep it short but make it fun.

In closing make sure your child is able to tell you his/her full name, age, birth date and address. We have been working on these things through-out the year and your child should know this information. If he/she is having trouble with any of these please continue practicing at home.

**Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Brewington and Mrs. Nelson's** classroom:

This month has been fun preparing for the Annual POHI Dance. Children had the opportunity to dress up like "pirates" and create a large banner decoration for their parents that will be displayed at the dance on March 27th.

Our themes this month have been Dinosaurs, Colors and Weather. We are all so glad Spring is here.

**Ms. VanEenoo and Mrs. Dullea's** classroom:

March sure had a lot of green in it. We had our green day and drank green kool aide and celebrated Mrs. Dullea's birthday. On the 17th we believe a leprechaun destroyed our room by turning over chairs, and leaving little shamrocks all over! He did leave us each a piece of gold which made us all happy. We made some interesting art projects including a leprechaun painted with lime kool aide. We also have had great time learning about different uses and types of water there are. We discussed the difference between fresh and salt water and even made boats out of recycled materials.



April will hopefully bring more spring weather; please make sure the kids have a jacket with them. It will be another short month due to our Easter break. Our new theme will be to discuss weather and April is sure a good month to show a lot of changes. We have been talking about how they are getting so much bigger now.

It is time for them to start learning how to tie their shoes. I know as a parent this was hard for me and my girls. If we keep practicing they will catch on. Also have them write their name for you. Have a great April!



### **Li'l Sprouts – Mrs. Calhoun & Mrs. Rice**

We marched into March by reading Dr. Seuss books, oh boy did we enjoy! In celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, which was March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we made green eggs and ham.

For green day/St. Patrick's Day, we had a green taste fest which included pickles, kiwi and limeade. The winner of the taste fest was... Limeade.

We learned about staying healthy in our healthy you unit. We turned out dramatic play area into Li'l Sprouts Clinic. This area helped us to understand the importance of staying healthy by visiting the Doctor and the Dentist for regular check-ups, and eating healthy foods. A special thank you to all of our families who donated items to help us make our clinic.

We did a lot of fun letter writing, identifying sound activities for each of the letters in this theme. Our letters for the month of March were N, D, A and V. In math we are leaping

into double digits, and learning new math vocabulary; more, many fewer and less.

March was full of marvelous things for Li'l Sprouts; stay tuned to see how awesome April will be.

Li'l Sprouts is now registering for fall. Be sure to secure your spot. For more information call (586) 461-3718.



### **PARENT CORNER**

The Media Center is up and running. Most classes are checking books out. The lending period is one week. Each student that has filled out the permission slip has a library card which the media center keeps and they have a special bag that has the student's name and the teacher's name on it. Please remember to return both the book and the bag in at the same time. The bag is to help protect the book for being misplaced. This is a great way to teach your child to be responsible. Please enjoy the use of these books.

### **Things to do on Spring Break**

- ✓ Macomb Mall has inexpensive movies
- ✓ Select McDonald's have \$1.99 Happy Meals on Tuesday nights from 4:00- 8:00 p.m.
- ✓ Go to the local library and check out books or pick up free passes for select museums
- ✓ Visit a local park
- ✓ Play board games
- ✓ Take a bike ride or a walk.

Don't forget to vote May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Kelli Boyd**  
**Parent Volunteer**

## Fundraiser Info

Many thanks to our families for assisting with our cookie dough fundraiser.

Special thanks to our parent volunteers:  
Kelli Boyd and Kelly Gibson.

### Top sellers

Holly Boyd – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Salina Parker – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Joey Doyle – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Alaina Geigle – 4<sup>th</sup>

Top class – Mrs. Miyamoto's class will receive ice cream treats.



## AMELC

### Remainder of the Year Calendar

#### April

1<sup>ST</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – No School Spring Break

12<sup>th</sup> – Classes Resume

14<sup>th</sup> – Spring Picture Day

19<sup>th</sup> – Hearing and Vision Testing  
week

20<sup>th</sup> – Science Night

27<sup>th</sup> – Farm Visits

29<sup>th</sup>- Sports Team/Hat Day

#### May

4<sup>th</sup> – Bowling for E.C.S.E. & BeF.O.U.R.

6<sup>th</sup> – Popcorn/Movie Day

11<sup>th</sup> – Last day for BeF.O.U.R.

11<sup>th</sup> – Bridging Ceremony

26-28- POHI Camp

31<sup>st</sup> – NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

#### June

4<sup>th</sup> – Last day for E.C.S.E./P.O.H.I.