

A. Mac's "Kool Kids' News"

News from Alexander Macomb Early Learning Center
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How to go beyond teaching the alphabet to your child

Recognizing letters is an important step toward learning to read. But it's just as important to learn how letters sound. This concept-phonemic awareness-is simple to introduce.

To make it fun, help your child:

- **Trace the first letter of your child's name** in sand or shaving cream. Or form the letter with clay or play dough. As you do, discuss the letter's sound. If your child is interested in this activity, try a few more letters.
- **Cut out large letters from construction paper.** Help your child match them with common household objects. For example, tape "B" on a ball and "T" on a toy truck. See how many connections your child can make.
- **Change the sounds of words in silly ways,** and encourage your child to "catch you." Example: "It's almost time for lunch! Let's have some macaroni and *fleas!*" If your child doesn't notice, say, "Did I say *fleas?* I meant *cheese!*"

Yvonne McQueen



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Plan ahead for your child's Kindergarten success. Next year your child may attend the "Big School". As a parent, we know this is a major decision. To assist you, our District will be having "**Kindergarten Round-up**" beginning at **6:00 p.m.** at the following locations within our community (Students are assigned to the schools based on their home addresses.):

SCHOOL	DATE
Seminole Academy 1500 Mulberry 461-3900	Tuesday, March 2
George Washington Academy 196 North Rose 461-3800	Wednesday, March 3
M.L. King, Jr. Academy 400 Clinton River Drive 461-3100	Thursday, March 4

All of our Kindergarten programs include;

- Low class sizes
- Free full-day program
- Research based with new aligned curriculum.
- Fully accredited programs with highly qualified teachers
- Early intervention support
- Breakfast/lunch programs...and more.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Brenda Moore

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CORNER

Make learning language fun! Focus on language during everyday activities and remember to keep them fun and short. Language areas you can focus on may include the following:

Vocabulary – the number of words a child uses and understands (names of items, actions, how things feel or look, location)

Categorization – identify items with similar features (toys, vehicles, food, clothing, etc.)

Following directions – complete a turn by following a given task (use words such as under/over, top/bottom, big/small, on/off)

Turn-taking – waiting for your turn to speak or do something.

Practice these language skills during everyday activities. Here are some suggestions:

Cooking: Let your child participate in easy to make foods such as Jello, sandwiches, cake mixes, etc. Name the kitchen items needed for the activity. Try to keep it out of their reach so they need to request the needed item.

Remember, do it in a fun way – don't frustrate them. When they are doing an action describe it for them (example, Wow!) You are mixing. Give them the correct words to use. Let them get their hands dirty. Describe the feeling for them-cold, wet, sticky. Children learn best with hands on activities and experiences.

Dress-up – Provide your child with a box of old clothes (no need to buy them). This activity is for boys too! Talk together about the color and feel of the items. Be silly and put a shoe on your head. Ask them if that is right? See if they can correct you. Encourage them to use the names of their body parts and not just say "right there" or "here".

Take your child's lead. Do activities that they are interested in. Some other activities include pretend shopping, real shopping, playing with the telephone, play dough, pretend to be an object or action, cars, dolls.

Vera Bartold & Dawn Wright

CLASSROOM NEWS

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

February was a short month. We continued talking about the winter season. Another mitten story was about a man who also lost his mitten but found it with the help of his dog. Guess what was inside the mittens? Animals! Many different animals came to the mittens in the different stories. Some had the same animals in all the stories.

Then we had a visit by the dental hygienist. We learned about what foods are good for our teeth and what foods are not good for our teeth. We even got a new toothbrush!

Finally we talked about the presidents. Did you know that George Washington is our 1st President and is on a quarter and the 1 dollar bill? Abraham Lincoln is on the 5 dollar bill and the penny. Thomas Jefferson is on the 2 dollar bill and the nickel. John Kennedy is on the half dollar. The coins are different colors and different sizes. Where is our warm weather?????? Hurry Spring!!! We can't wait to see you. We are tired of snow!!!!



Mrs. Dumala and Ms. Finner's classroom:

February has come and gone in a flash!!! Even though it was a short month we were still able to accomplish a lot of fun and exciting learning experiences. We finished our unit "Finny, Feathery, Furry Friends". This unit was broken into sections consisting of pets, farm animals, wild animals and creepy crawlies (insects, spiders and worms). Our dramatic play area was a veterinarian office where the children enjoyed participating in the important roles such as, doctors, assistants, receptionists and animal owners. They were able to experience taking care of different pets including a large tiger and baby.



The letters learned this month were Ee, Cc, Hh, and Yy. Your child should be able to identify and write both the capital and lowercase letter as well as tell you the sound each letter makes. PLEASE continue to practice all letters taught at home.

The next unit we will be beginning is "Splash and Dig". In this unit we will explore fun with water, Oceans and Beaches, Lakes and Shores, and Rivers and Wetlands. The letters that will be covered this unit are, Ll, Oo, Rr, and Zz. This month also consisted of Dental Health where a Dental Hygienist came in to share the importance of proper dental care. Black History month was also continued from Martin Luther King last month. We discussed the importance of Bill Cosby, Rosa Parks, George Washington Carver and continue with Martin Luther King Jr. The children were really interested in learning why these individuals are so important.

Even though school was called off due to snow we were able to have our Valentine's Day party on February 17th. The Valentine's Day boxes you created at home with your child were very creative and the children really enjoyed participating in a school project at home with their family. Thank you for all the goodies!!!

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

February has been a busy and enjoyable month. We studied winter weather, snow, mittens and penguins. We also put snow in our water table and wore gloves to play in it. We talked about snow melting (solid to a liquid) and freezing by putting water in the freezer (liquid to solid). What a fun way to study science concepts.

In March we will start a Doctor's Unit. We will turn our kitchen into a Doctor's office. Also, we will be reading books about Doctors and

hospital visits. The children will be learning about their bodies.

Mrs. Langworthy & Ms. Houston's classroom:

Wow! February flew by!

We started the month with our "Getting Along with Others" unit. We read the story, *Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King*, and talked about how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted us all to get along. We talked about how we can help others and we made Helping Hands headbands.

The month ended with us learning about dental hygiene. A dental hygienist came to visit us and taught us how to properly take care of our teeth. We did an experiment where we put a hard-boiled egg in soda overnight to see what happened. The egg turned brown and when we cracked it open, the inside had brown speckles that represented cavities. This experiment led to a discussion of why brushing our teeth is important.



Mrs. Miyamoto and Mrs. King's classroom:

February was Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Dental Month. For Black History Month, we talked about many different African Americans who have overcome a lot and made a difference in our lives today. Some of the people we have talked about were the following: Barack Obama, Bill Cosby, Martin Luther King Sr. and Jr., George Carver, and Rosa Parks. The children know our lives are a better place because of the impacts they have had on the way society has changed. We love all our friends and staff at Alexander Macomb Early Learning Center!!

We have finished the unit Finny, Furry, Feathery Friends. The letters we covered were E,C,H, and Y.

We did a lot of fun letter writing, identifying, and sound activities for each of the letters in this theme. Our favorite things to do were to take a letter walk around the school. The children were given special glasses and a pointer. They then walked around and found the letter of the week as many times as they could. This sort of activity really gets children to relate what they are learning to the real world. This even carried over to lunch time where they were finding the letters on the labels of their food. We learned about pets, farm animals, wild animals, and insects and bugs.

The next unit coming up is Splash and Dig. Week one is Fun with Water and the letter L. Week two is Oceans and Beaches and the letter O. Week Three is Lakes and Shores and the letter R. Finally, Week four covers Rivers and Wetlands and the letter Z.

Some other skills that we are trying to address to prepare your child for kindergarten are the following:

They should be able to say their full name, including beginning, middle, and last name.
They should write their first and last name
They should be able to count to 20
They should know their address or at least the street they live on
They should be able to identify their body parts.

These are all things that we are working on in school but would also like you to work on these concepts with your children at home.



Mrs. Noon and Mrs. Jackson's classroom:

Happy March everyone! We have many wonderful things planned for March, like Reading Month activities, Dr. Seuss's birthday, Science Night, and St. Patrick's Day. I will be sending home letters that invite the children to bring their favorite books to school and share them, so please look for the note.

We are taking our hand-washing very seriously in school and hope that the children are continuing these same practices at home.

Thank you, families, for supporting these health and safety practices.

Be sure to look for the newsletters and flyers about Kindergarten Round-Up for each of the elementary schools. If your child will be bridging to kindergarten in the fall, then this is a perfect opportunity to check out the school and meet the principal and staff. Enjoy your last bit of winter. I know we are all looking forward to a lovely spring!



Ms. Pittiglio and Ms. Chervenak's classroom:

"Finny, Feathery, Furry Friends," is our latest theme. This theme will take us into the first week in March. We are learning about pets, farm animals, wild animals and creepy crawlies. We turned our current doctor's/dentist's office into a veterinarian's office. The students are learning about living and nonliving things. They learned that all living things need food and water to live. They are pretending to take care of their sick and injured animals in this area. They are having lots of fun.

Please continue working with your child on writing and spelling his/her first name. Make sure only the beginning letter is capitalized followed by all lower case letters. We have also learned some new letters in the past couple months. These letters include Nn, Aa, Dd, Cc, Vv, Hh and Yy. Your child should be able to recognize these letters, write these letters and tell you what sound these letters make.

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

This month we learned about being a good friend, Dental health and Black History month. Our Dramatic play center was changed into an Animal Clinic. Children are demonstrating how to be a Veterinarian and care for many animals.



Ms. VanEeno and Mrs. Dullea's classroom:

February was a short however packed with fun activities. We made heart crystals out of Epsom salt and water. We sprouted bean seeds in a bag and now have planted them in our own cups. We have finished up our "Finny, Furry and Feathery Friends" theme.

I would like to introduce you to our new class pet. Our beta fish was named by each student thinking up a name and then we pulled the winner out of a hat. We are proud to give him the name Spike. It is the job of our VIP to feed Spike each day.

Our next theme is called "Splash and Dig" and covers different topics about water. March is also St. Patrick's Day and we may have a sneaky little visitor around that time. Think Spring!

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

February was a fabulous month. We finished off our construction unit. During this unit we began introducing letters. The letters we have covered so far are M, F, S, & P. We also will continue to focus on rhyming words and patterns.

February kept us very busy with Black History. We focused on a different African American person each day. (The children loved this segment of the day).

We also talked about President's day and enjoyed a yummy celebration for Valentines Day. The indoor field trip was very exciting also. The students enjoyed Ben Spritzer as he juggled and performed a very funny magic show.

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

Little Lions Playgroup

Join us for a wonderful and enriching parent & child experience. We will meet from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. on the following Fridays:

March 12th & 19th, April 23rd and May 7th.
Please call Brenda Moore to register at 586-461-3707.

Fundraiser Info

Savory Sweets

Cookie Dough and Popcorn

The orders will be delivered March 18th.



If you are interested in having your child brush their teeth at school, please send in a wrapped toothbrush.

THANK YOU

Thank you to those parents who turned in the forms for Science Night. We are no longer accepting forms.