

# The ExCEptional Times

February 2017

Dear CEP Parents,

We are almost done with February and into March! How did this happen? Can't believe we did not experience a big snow storm this year...maybe March snow? We are not moving into our busiest time of the year with picture day, special visit from a dentist, conferences, Fun Fair and a dinner theater next month!

Class and individual pictures will be taken next week (Feb 27, 28 and March 1). Monday, the 17+-Monkeys, the 3s-Frogs, and 3/4s-Comets will have their pictures taken. Tuesday, the 19mo-Bears, the 2s-Caterpillars and the 3s-Elephants classes will go. Then Wednesday, the 2s-Owls and 4s- Shining Stars will get theirs done. If you would like to have their pictures done with an enrolled sibling in addition to their class and individual just let Elees or Julie know so that we can take them up to the photographer for that.

Fun Fair is THIS WEEKEND – on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. The Great Outdoors is the theme and the parents have organized some awesome fun activities for the kids! There will be games, a cake walk, arts and crafts and a Moon Bounce. The green fun fair shirts have been passed out – make sure to wear them Saturday! If you missed the chance to sign up for a shirt we will have a way to order one at the fair.

Registration will open to the public this weekend and is ongoing now.... we still have some slots available! Please spread the word to your friends as word of mouth is always the best way to promote the school.

Our own Debbie Allred has written a Musical entitled, Adelaide and Bambi's Road Trip which will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> for a dinner theater showing and March 12<sup>th</sup> for a dessert show. The proceeds from this go to CEP! More info on this to follow.

With this newsletter we have included the March Calendar. Please take note of the upcoming conferences and sign up on the sheet outside of your child's classroom for a time slot on the Monday dates listed.

On a side note—the teachers would really appreciate it if your children would please come to school in tennis shoes only. Crocs, flip flops, and boots (depending on the strange weather we are having) can be hazardous for them especially done in Big Room and on the playground. Also – remember to cut grapes lengthwise and try to minimize the candy. We would prefer that would be an after school snack instead of having it at lunch. Thanks!

As always if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact us.

*Elees and Julie*

# MARCH 2017


Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

		<b>1</b> <b>CLASS PICTURES</b>  Miss Val's 2/3 BDAY	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Conferences Begin:</b> MissTheresa/Louise Mrs. Barker Miss Katie	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Chapel</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Chapel</i>  Saturday the 11 <sup>th</sup> Dinner Theater by MUMC  Sunday the 12 <sup>th</sup> Dessert Theater by MUMC
<b>13</b> <b>Conferences:</b> Miss Cristina Mrs. Barker Miss Katie	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Rainbow Days	<b>17</b>  Rainbow Days  
<b>20</b> <b>Conferences:</b> Miss Cristina Miss Tasha Miss Angela	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  CEP Closed
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Miss Cristina's 2/3 BDAY	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



## NEWS FROM THE SHINING STARS Four-Year-Olds

It sure feels like spring even though it is still February. The children are enjoying the warm days on the playground.

During "M" week, we read about mittens and found mitten matches. We also did marble art on M's, acted out monkeys jumping on the bed, and learned about magnets.

We learned about the five senses and how they help us to learn about the world around us. We did lots of activities that used our senses, such as guessing the flavors of jelly beans, identifying sounds while hiding their eyes, and talking about good and bad smells.

We celebrated Valentine's Day by sorting and graphing valentine candy heart colors and having our valentine exchange.

We talked about books and the library in class. We all brought in our favorite books and introduced our books to the class by telling them why it was our favorite book. We learned about the library on our field trip, got our own library card, and learned how to check out books. Thanks again to all of our chaperones/drivers.

During "N" week, we talked about nets, noses, napping, nighttime, numbers, and names. We made nighttime N's, played number bingo, and decorated our names with noodles.

Next week we will talk about a special author and illustrator, Dr. Seuss. Because he loved to rhyme, we will be doing several rhyming activities and reading books that rhyme.

When reading books with your child, talk about the author and illustrator. Play word games and name rhyming words. Talk about words that begin with the letter of the week. As always, read, read, read. Don't forget to talk about the illustrations.

Reminders: Conferences begin on Monday, March 6. Talk to your child about what they like and dislike about school and share with us during the conference. Child care is supplied during the conferences.

Debbie and Val



## *COMETS NEWSLETTER*

### *February*

We had a busy month! The weather has been cooperative, so we have been able to be outside most days. Thank you for continuing to send in hats, gloves, and coats.

We celebrated Valentine's Day with some games with our Frog Friends (the 3-year-old class). We also made a red volcano, and "dancing" conversation hearts. The kids love when we do experiments! We also made caterpillar heart names. We continue to work with name recognition and are working on having the kids putting their names on their papers.

We learned about the letters N, O, and P. We enjoyed books such as "Are you My Mother" by P.D. Eastman (related to the "N" in nest), "Olive the Octopus's Day of Juggling" by Liza Charlesworth. We counted the legs of an octopus with stickers. We also read "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" by Laura Numeroff. We worked on penguin patterns. Please continue working with your children on identifying letters and numbers. While you are out and about, see if they can point some out to you!

We had a great trip to Pohick Library! Thank you to our drivers. The children got a tour of the library, and the highlight was when they got to see where the books are returned. They learned about taking care of books and got to take out three to bring home. You should have received these books, along with their library card, in their red bags. We hope you will continue to use the library!

We are looking forward to our March activities. We will be learning about Dr. Seuss and rhyming, St. Patrick's Day, and ocean animals! We will also do the letters Q, R, S, and T.

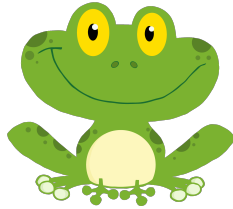
Upcoming Events:

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Fun Fair 4-6pm

March 20<sup>th</sup> Parent Conferences (in person). If you are not able to make it on that date, let me know and we can make other arrangements.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Angela and Mrs. Kawamoto





## **Fabulous February**

We started this month not only showing the love of our hearts with Valentines, but making cards and delivering the mail in a writing center, and by working at the candy shop. The "factory workers" put on gloves to create candies from chocolate scented play dough into the heart boxes. We shared our Valentines celebrating with the Comet class. Each child went on a heart hunt. We taped all of the found hearts to a giant heart collage. We played musical chairs and a game to figure out which secret valentine classmate was hiding. The kids liked playing musical chairs but enjoyed being the one that didn't get a chair more than actually getting chair. The frog kids are also learning to play duck duck goose. Next, the loft was turned into a fire station. The firefighters had a great time, changing into uniform and working together to put out the fires all around the room. Next we will focus on another community helper and create a dentist Office. The dentist and hygienists are practicing brushing off the "dirt" from teeth (egg carton), and flossing candy (playdough) from between teeth (lego groves). Everyone is busy!

The artists have been working on their fine motor with chalk on black paper on the table, free painting at the easel and with stencils, cutting playdough as well as paper, stamping, lacing beads on a necklace, and rolling stamps on their Valentine bags.

Thanks again for sharing your kids. They are a wonderful class and are making great friends. -Ms. Cristina and Ms. Wendi

## THE ELEPHANTS



Tuesday/Thursday 3's - Miss Katie and Miss Debbie

You Gotta' Have Heart...and that is exactly what one of our February themes was in the Elephant's Room....Valentine's Day! We read about it, created heart master pieces at the Art Table, sang and danced about it with Mrs. Cooper in Music Class, and even got to decorate and eat Heart Shaped Cookies ....Yum!

Our other February Theme was Community Helpers. Our room became a Construction Site, Post Office (on Valentine's Day, as we delivered our Valentines to our friend's Valentine Bag) Fire Station, Doctor's Office, and Dentist Office. We have the best "pretenders" in the Elephant Class...and we do believe we have some builders, fire fighters, doctors, and dentists in their futures ☺ On Fire Station Day, we even had a little extra dose of reality when we had a Fire Drill...though, it is always a bit chaotic and really loud, our Elephants do a really good job of staying in line and moving quickly out of the building. We are very proud of them.

At Chapel, Miss Katie told the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 with just 2 fishes and 5 loaves of bread. What a loving and generous God we have!!

We appreciate how well you have been labeling your child's outer wear. May we ask you now to check the CEP Handbook concerning the food you send in for lunch. No nut products (even those that MAY contain

nuts), please. Grapes must be cut in half, lengthwise. Hot dogs should be cut into strips. No hard candy ...in fact sending in any sweets is discouraged... the children seem to want to concentrate on the sweets first, and sometimes only. Thank you for your help with this concern.

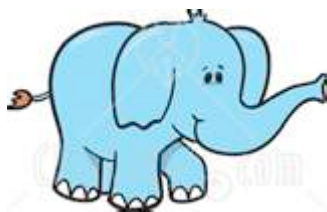
Our Picture Day will be on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>...we will try hard to keep the children's picture day clothes nice and clean before our turn for the picture taking ☺. Feel free to send in more casual clothes for them to change into after the pictures if you want.

Miss Katie will be having her Parent Conferences on two TBA Mondays in March. Look for the sign- up sheet right outside of our class room.

Finally, the CEP Fun Fair will be on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 4-6pm. We hope to see all of the Elephants and their families there, supporting our school and having lots of FUN!

We love your precious children and appreciate the trust that you put in us to teach and care for them each Tuesday and Thursday.

Miss Katie.....Miss Debbie



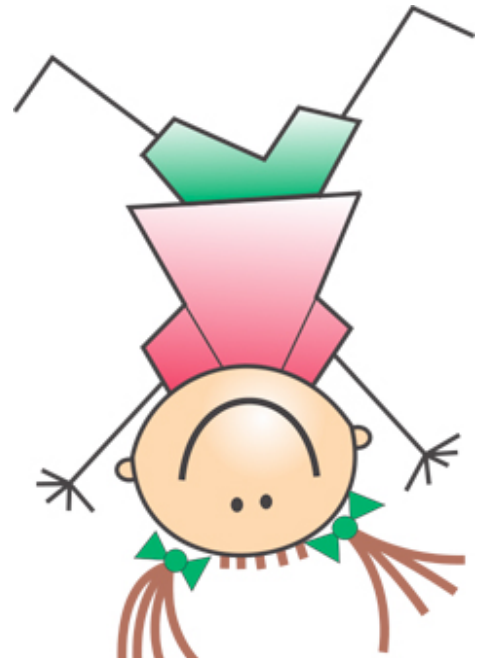




# Caterpillars' Newsletter

HELLO MARCH!

HELLO SUNSHINE!



## Friendly Reminders:

Hello Caterpillar Families,

Ms. Jodi and I hope that you all are doing well, and staying well. Please remember to wash those hands.

We have a couple of other friendly reminders. Please make sure EVERYTHING is labeled with your child's name on it. Also, please make sure there are plenty of diapers and wipes. With the weather temperature changing, please make sure that jackets, hats, and gloves are labeled, and make sure temperature appropriate clothes are in the bag in case we need to change.

For March, we will focus on the color green since St. Patrick's Day is this month.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions and or concerns.



## Calendar of Events for MARCH:

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Claire F.'s Bday

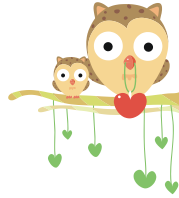
**March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Chapel

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** - Rainbow Day

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Maxwell's Bday

# Owl News

## 2-Year-Old Class W/F



During February, we have entered the wonderful world of Nursery Rhymes and Mother Goose. The kids have really enjoyed this unit. Our favorite stories are Humpty Dumpty, There was an Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe, Hey Diddle Diddle, and Baa Baa Black Sheep. We enjoyed making sheep and discussing how the poor kids living in the shoe got no bread. I encourage you to continue singing and reading nursery rhymes with them throughout the year. During February, we also got to make Valentines for our family and celebrate with our friends at school. They did great passing out their valentines and really enjoyed the Valentine's Day treats you sent in - thank you! At the Fun Fair - look for our class mural - hint, ours has a tent.

In March, we will learn about ocean animals and explore the author, Dr. Seuss. We will go "fishing" and enjoy lots of water play. So be prepared for them to come home damp and make sure they have extra clothes in their bags in case they really enjoy the water play! We will learn about fish, octopus, whales, sharks, and many other ocean creatures. We will start reading Dr. Seuss books most days for snack along with some ocean-themed books. We already enjoy Ten Apples Up on Top! from time to time, but we will introduce them to many more Dr. Seuss favorites. We will also spend a little time learning about our body parts.

Remember to keep an eye on supplies in your students' bags. Please make sure we have enough diapers, wipes, pull-ups, and back up clothing and shoes. Don't forget socks! Also, please make sure to regularly check that the extra clothes in the bag are appropriate for the season. Label jackets and hats please!!!!

Thanks,

*Ms. Theresa and Ms. Louise*





What a fun month we've had learning and playing. We enjoyed bringing our special animal friends to school and playing "hibernation" in our bear den. We learned about love and loving our family and friends. It was fun to have a special Valentine's Day treat and craft! We are ending the month with Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs.

In March, we are going to enjoy some Dr. Seuss books and learn "all about me". We will learn about our bodies and how to take care of our bodies.

As Spring arrives please make sure your little Bear has good school shoes on—shoes that they can run and play in as well as ones that you don't mind them getting dirty. Tennis shoes are the best choice! Also, please continue to work on having your child dress themselves and put their coat on as well. Great skills for our little ones to learn!

--Kristy and Jeannie



# The Monkeys

## Monday Class

Ms. Jeannie and Ms. Louise



*In February, the children really enjoyed our nursery rhymes theme. We read Baa Baa Black Sheep, Mary Had A Little Lamb, and Humpty Dumpty (just to name a few of them we read). We had fun coloring with red, making pink play dough was a big hit with all. We also learned about the heart shape and made lots of Valentine's Day crafts this month.*

*In March, we will be learning and playing with ocean animals, such as octopus, sharks, and whales! We will also go*

*fishing in our water table, so we may be getting a little wet playing with all the fish. We will also be learning about Dr. Seuss, and reading lots of his books to see which is our favorite book to read in class.*

*If you get a chance to attend the CEP Fun Fair on Saturday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, I promise you and your children will have lots of fun! Look for the caterpillars that our class made hanging on the mural with a tent on it, they are just TOO cute.*

*Thank you for continuing to label all of your children's hats, gloves, etc. We will be going outside as long as it isn't raining or below 32 degrees, or just too windy or cold.*

**-Ms. Jeannie and Ms.  
Louise**





Music Plan Late February, 2017

1. I'm gonna brush that plaque right out of my teeth  
(to I'm gonna wash that man right out of my hair)  
I'm gonna brush that plaque right out of my teeth (3x)  
And send it on its way.  
I'm gonna keep those cavities away (3x)  
I'll keep them all away!

2. Miss Polly Had a Dolly  
Miss Polly had a dolly who was sick, sick, sick.  
So she called for the doctor to come quick, quick, quick  
The doctor came with his bag and his hat  
And he knocked on the door with a rat a tat tat.  
He looked at the baby and he shook his head.  
He said Miss Polly put her straight to bed.  
He wrote on the paper for a pill, pill, pill.  
I'll be back in the morning with my bill, bill, bill.

3. Hurry, Hurry, there's the Fire bell (to Paw, Paw Patch)  
Hurry, hurry there's the fire bell,  
Hurry, hurry there's the fire bell,  
Hurry, hurry there's the fire bell  
Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.

4. The Wheels on the Bus  
The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
Round and round, round and round  
The wheels on the bus go round and round  
All around the town. (wipers, doors, babies, etc.)

5. The Billy Goats Gruff  
Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip, clop, clip, clop  
(Troll): Who's crossing my bridge, who's crossing my bridge,  
Who's crossing my bridge, clip, clip, clop?  
(Goat #1): I, said the little goat.  
(Troll): Well now, little goat, here I come and I'm going to eat you up.  
(Goat): Oh, no, said the little goat, don't do that  
No, said the little goat, don't do that  
No, said the little goat, don't do that  
Won't you wait for my brother, my brother's big and fat  
(repeat for the middle goat and big goat until the last line)  
But the big billy goat gave a billy goat Nnaaaa!  
The big billy goat gave a billy goat Nnaaaa!  
The big billy goat gave a billy goat Nnaaaa!  
And he butted the troll right off the bridge.  
And that is the story of the billy goats gruff.

Thanks, Linda Cooper