



Happy May!

WHERE has the year gone? We always look back and wonder how the weeks could have flown by without our noticing; but then we see the longer legs, hear the children's observations and problem solving strategies and know how very much growth has occurred during the year. We hope it's been a great year for each of you!

Much is happening in the month of May so make sure you check the parent portal and sync your calendar with all of the activities:

Thanks to Unlocking the Treasure, the following events are scheduled:

Tuesday, May 7 – (Barnes Hall) 10:00 and 10:30 – Hawkquest

Tuesday, May 14 – (West Room) 10:00 Friends of Chamber, Playground Symphony

Notable dates and information:

- **Wednesday, May 15** – All book bags are due back. If anything is missing or damaged, please place the entire book bag in the basket
- **Thursday, May 16 or Friday, May 17** – Looking for 4-5 volunteers to help “stuff” summer gift buckets for the children
- **Monday, May 20-24** – Last days of preschool
- **Wednesday, May 22** – Last day for Lost and Found – Please check in your child's classroom as well as in the entry to the school
- **Watch for Year-End Parent Survey** – Please give us your feedback. One lucky family completing the survey will receive a gift card to The Bookies.
- **Watch for the Summer Helping Hands Project list** – we are looking for some parents who are able to help with several projects during the summer, such as refinishing some playground items, etc.

As you head into summer, I hope you will find many opportunities for your children to enjoy extended free time to play. According to Karen Stephens, providing free time and space to allow for creative play is critical for children to develop the following skills: decision-making, creative problem solving, abstract and symbolic thinking; language development; emotional competence and self-awareness; cooperation, patience, negotiation, conflict resolution; respect for others. Think about open-ended materials like sticks, boxes, cardboard tubes, balls, dirt, and water to stimulate creativity and delight. Take nature walks and look for patterns, shapes, letters (including intersections which naturally form letters). And of course, don't forget to read, read, read!

Our professional development day last week found the staff laughing hysterically at some of the funny things our children have said in the past year. Enjoy just a few of them!

- On seeing a cow at the stock show, one child reported, “that's what's for dinner!”
- In the classroom talking about food an early preschool child said, “Chicken gives my daddy muscles; butter gives him love handles”!
- Upon seeing the class bee being cared for (it was dead), one child said, “Thank you for providing comfort for the bee”.
- As the class was playing outside, one child threw her hands up in the air and pronounced, “It is a great day to be in my brain”!
- The teacher was measuring a child's height and said, “Wow! You are getting so tall.” The little girl responded with, “My mom says ‘Don't grow up...it's a trap’”!
- An early preschooler announced, “I don't like brown. It's not my favorite. It's not in the rainbow”.
- A teacher said to a child, “My lap is closed right now.” The child wanting to sit in her lap said, “But I love you!”

I hope your summer is as joyful as our year has been. May your days be filled with play, wonder, observation, curiosity and hilarity.

To those of you leaving Treasureland Preschool, we send our love and best wishes for happy adventures ahead. If you are returning, we look forward to seeing you all in August.

Happy summer to you all!

Sally