

THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | April 2016

Mark your Calendars:

- ✦ April 1- Last day of Spring Break
- ✦ April 13- Parents Council Meeting (note date change)
- ✦ April 17- Music students sing at 10:55 worship service
- ✦ April 18-22- DMWS Spirit Week
- ✦ April 23- Carnival and Silent Auction
- ✦ April 26- Dining Out at Alivia's 5pm-close
- ✦ April 25-29- Teacher Appreciation Week

Looking Ahead:

- ✦ May 11- Kindergarten Play



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Dear DMWS Families,

April will be a busy month at DMWS! All classes will receive caterpillars so they can watch them turn into painted lady butterflies. Our music students will sing in worship on Sunday, April 17 and our annual Spring Carnival and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 23. All this is in addition to our regularly scheduled visits from Officer Solomon and the storyteller.

We have a limited number of spaces still available in our summer camp during the week of July 18-22. The camp runs from 9am-12:30pm and includes daily music and fitness activities. Camp is open to rising three year olds through rising first graders. Please let me know if you need an application.

Our school is fortunate to have a Tuition Assistance Program. This program offers both year-long and short-term (emergency) tuition assistance. Applications for year-long assistance are due by May 1, 2016. Please see me if you'd like an application.

Enjoy Spring!
Julie



IT'S HERE!!

Spring Carnival 2016:

Saturday, April 23rd



With a nice Spring breeze in the air this past week ... Let's think about Spring!! Why not? AND even better let's think about DMWS Spring Carnival!! The date has been set for Saturday, April 23rd and the plans for FUN are in motion!! Think race tracks, bubble dance parties, tattoos, pirates, princesses, inflatables, games, obstacle courses, Locopops, food trucks and so much more!!

Take all of this fun, top it off with an incredible Silent Auction and what do you have? You have the biggest fundraiser of the year for Duke Memorial Weekday School! One wristband gets your kid unlimited carnival fun and kids under 2 are free this year too! So, please put it on your 2016 calendar and plan for a fun morning with friends! Pre-purchase wrist bands by April 13th for \$15 or buy at the door.

To make these games possible, we need YOU to volunteer your time! Carnival game shifts are 70 minutes long and will be lots of fun! Go to the link below to find a spot for you!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0D4CACAE2CA1F49-dmws

The Auction Team Still Needs Your Help!

- +**DONATE** an item or service to the auction.
- +**SUGGEST** individuals or businesses who may be able to offer an item or service and **CONNECT** us.
- +**SET UP** the auction with our team on Friday, April 22.
- +**WORK** the auction itself on Saturday, April 23.

We can use all the help we can get!

Please email Kelly Andrew (kellyandrew77@gmail.com), Emma Willis (eschaufele@gmail.com) and Jamie Spatola (jamiеспat@gmail.com) if you'd like to join our team or with any questions or suggestions.

A message from Blake Ellis, Parents' Council President:

♦ **Diaper Drive:** Thank you all for your generous donations to the Diaper Bank of North Carolina. Thanks to you, 650 diapers were collected. So many babies and young children will benefit because of DMWS. Thank you again!

♦ **Parent's Council positions for 2016-2017 School year:**

President- Quinn Yi

Vice-President- **OPEN**

Secretary- **OPEN**

Treasurer- Kelly Travis

If you are interested in being on the Executive Committee of Parent's Council please let Blake Ellis or Quinn Yi know. It's a wonderful chance to get involved in your child's school.

We also need someone to take over Parents' Press Publication. If you are interested please let Stephanie Crowe or Blake Ellis know before school is over. Stephanie will be happy to go over the process with you, it's not as hard as it sounds!!

♦ **Spirit Week:** The week of April 18th will be Spirit Week. We want all the kids to get excited about the carnival, which will be that Saturday, April 23rd.

Monday- *PJ day*

Tuesday- *Silly Sock Day*

Wednesday- *Wacky Tacky Day*

Thursday- *Favorite Team Day*

Friday- *DMWS gear*

♦ **Teacher Appreciation Week** will be the week after the Carnival, April 25-29. Please look for an email from your class rep on what we will be doing for our wonderful teachers that week. Mercer Griffin will also be sending out a sign up genius for you to volunteer to help with breakfasts and lunches that will be served that week. We hope you can all participate in making our teachers feel loved, since they do an amazing job of loving our children every day.

♦ **Spring Play Date**-Parent's Council will be hosting one more play date in the park on the last day of school. Please join us on May 18 right after school at Duke Park. Bring your lunches, a blanket and sunscreen and help us finish off a terrific year. We hope to see you there!

♦ **Last PC mtg**- The final Parent's Council Meeting will be held May 4th. We would like to invite all parents who have volunteered this year, which is everyone, to join us for breakfast in the Parlor. We would like to thank you for all that you have done for the school and your child's classroom this year. This is also a wonderful way for you to see what Parent's Council is all about and to voice any concerns or issues you might have with the way things are run. We can't make any changes if we don't know there's a problem. We want to hear from you and we want to get as many people involved as we can. So please consider joining us on May 4th as we wrap up the school year.

Classroom Spotlight: Mrs. Dixon's and Mrs. Miller's 2 day 2's

March has been a busy month for Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Miller's Buggy Bugs. Spring has finally arrived, and just this month, the students in this classroom have celebrated Dr. Seuss, gone on a bear hunt (I am told there are no actual bears in the classroom), taken class pictures, learned about leprechauns and St. Patrick's Day, and prepared for Easter with egg decorating, The Great Egg Experiment, and other fun egg activities. As my visit neared, I was excited to experience in person the fun things that are happening in my child's classroom.

I immediately felt at home as I walked into the Buggy Bugs classroom. I was surrounded by three year olds, the last Buggy Bug having turned three in January. Around me was the familiar chatter of toddlers, the sound of spilling beans, the rustling of paper. I sat down on the rug to settle in and watch the morning happening around me, but in a classroom full of little ones, there is no real time for observation. So instead I read, and I read, and I read. Each friend had a different book they wanted to read, so we took turns reading about bunnies and eggs and such. Some of the books were familiar and some were new. Despite the anticipation of the Easter egg hunt later that morning, the classroom was quiet and peaceful.



After playground time was the egg hunt. The students stood at the bottom of the stairs on the front lawn of the church with the baskets they had decorated earlier in the week. When it was time to go, they all ran to gather eggs. Despite the incredible number of eggs hidden, I could barely get a picture before they were all found and nestled safely in the baskets! As the class lined up to go back inside, I was so impressed by how well they followed directions and by the self-control demonstrated once back in the classroom as they placed their full baskets into their cubbies for safekeeping until it was time to go home.



Next was circle time followed by an Easter feast. During circle time, I listened to everyone sing their days of the week and count to find the day's date. Mrs. Dixon has a magic mailbox that opens with the tap of a wand and pops out the number to be added to the calendar. At the end of circle, each child is dismissed by identifying and spelling his or her name. Watching the process of how our children are learning to recognize numbers and letters, though simple, is in itself magical. The patience with which Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Miller teach the Buggy Bugs is inspiring. Though the months and days are packed with fun activities and lessons, sometimes it is the small things that make the biggest difference. And, if I'm being honest, the sausage balls, cupcakes, and strawberries that were served for snack were also pretty wonderful!

- Loralee Bible

Around DMWS



Classroom Spotlight: Mrs. Lowder's and Mrs. Alkin's 3 day 2's

It was quite a fun surprise to see what I saw as I walked into Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkin's 3 day 2's class the other day. Before I even stepped into the room I heard banging echoing down the hallway and it was coming from this exciting class of 2 and 3 year olds. The kids were studying dinosaurs, and this loud pounding noise was the sound of a few of the kids sitting at tables with wooden hammers in their hands hitting blocks of ice as hard as they could to try and free the frozen plastic dinosaurs that were inside!

I always knew my son had fun at school but this just took it to another level. And these patient wonderful teachers didn't even flinch as these little paleontologists of ours were hard at work, ice chunks flying across the table. While some were patiently waiting their turn at the dinosaur table others were hiding in the fort, a group of kids threw on firefighter hats and were pretending to put out fires, some were looking at dinosaur books that were covering the bookcase, and a few were intensely playing with dolls. So much excitement was happening and this was just the first hour of school!

Circle time was next where the kids happily joined in and sung the Good Morning song and welcomed all of their friends. Rhythm sticks were passed around to each child and they followed Mrs. Lowder's lead and tapped their blue sticks as they said each child's name. The excitement grew as the circle time was coming to an end and it was almost playground time, but not until each child tapped their rhythm sticks and stomped their feet to the famous Laurie Berkner song "We are the Dinosaurs".

It was such a fun morning watching these little children in their school routine and having such a fun time learning and playing together. I sure wish I could be 2 again!

- Sloane Wootten



DID YOU KNOW?

- Three motorcycle officers paid an unexpected visit to Mrs. Speight’s class one day when they were on the front lawn! The children learned about how much the motorcycles weigh and other interesting facts.
- Many of our students made wonderful Leprechaun traps this year. We ALMOST caught him!
- 915 lbs of food were taken to Urban Ministries of Durham through our partnership with PMO and DMUMC.
- Four baby chicks and Rocky the Rooster visited our school in March and met many of the children!

Tuition Reminder

Please remember that tuition is due on the first of each month and past due if not paid by the tenth. Payment may be made on-line by credit card through our website or by check/cash.

Also remember that May 2016 payments were part of your registration deposit.

Recognize this kitchen?

Below is the old DMWS kitchen now repurposed at Stone Bros and Byrd!



Diaper Drive

Thank you to all who donated to the DMWS diaper drive in March!

Over 650 diapers (the ones on the table) were donated to the Diaper Bank of North Carolina!



April Dining Out



A BIG THANKS to Freddy's for sponsoring our March Dining Out! A good time was had by all!

The April Dining Out will be on Tuesday the 26th at Alivia's from 5 to close. Alivia's will donate 10% of sales to us, so make sure to tell your server you are with DMWS. We hope to see you there!

The last Dining out will be on May 7th at Jason's Deli at New Hope Crossing. RSVP for this event at <http://www.groupraise.com/events/11657>.

ART BY ME UPDATE: Thanks so much for all of your Art By Me orders. It is a wonderful fundraiser that often takes a lot of thought, preparation & care to complete. Thanks to all of our teachers for all you do to make it happen. The completed orders will arrive this month, so be on the lookout for your keepsakes!



DMWS Openings for 2016-2017

After our registration in January and February, many of our classes are full for the fall and have waiting lists. There are a few spaces available in the following classes:

2 day 2's

5 day Pre-kindergarten

Kindergarten

Please let your friends and neighbors know these spots are available. Remember there is no fee to be on the waiting list for classes that are currently full.

Preschool Calendar

Durham and Orange County Preschools operate on a September through May schedule with few exceptions. Tuition is calculated for the year and billed differently according to policies at individual schools. Some preschools require payment by the year or by the semester. At DMWS, we have opted to split the yearly tuition into 9 equal payments to make it easy for families to budget. Although your child does not attend school the exact same number of days each month, payments remain the same.

Area preschools tend to start classes after Labor Day each fall. This year, DMWS will be starting school for students on Wednesday, September 7 with Parent Orientation held on Tuesday, September 6.

DMWS Summer Camp 2016

Mark your calendars for DMWS Summer Camp! This summer, DMWS will offer camp during the week of July 18-22 from 9am-12:30pm. Campers will enjoy a variety of activities including daily music opportunities. Tuition for camp is \$170. Camp is open to rising 3's through rising first graders.



Get Published!

The Parents' Press is published throughout the school year by DMWS Parents' Council. Please send submissions to Stephanie Crowe at dmwsparentspress@gmail.com. The submission deadline for the May newsletter is April 25th.

In addition to information about DMWS, the Parents' Press offers space to advertise your small business. The fee to advertise is \$5.

Looking to serve your school, but cannot make it into DMWS to volunteer? Contact dmwsparentspress@gmail.com about joining the Parents' Press committee; a committee chair is needed for 2016-2017.