

THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | January 2017

Mark your Calendars:

- ✦ Jan 3- School resumes
- ✦ Jan 11- Parents' Council meeting
- ✦ Jan 16- No school due to MLK Holiday
- ✦ Jan 23 & 24- Parent Conferences- No school for children
- ✦ Jan 25- Registration for current students/siblings
- ✦ Jan 27- Registration for church members and alumni
- ✦ Feb 1- Parents' Council meeting
- ✦ Feb 2- Public Lottery at 10am



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Dear Parents,

We are excited to have your children back at school after our holiday break! The staff appreciates all the kind gestures made by parents and children during the holidays. The Holiday Luncheon sponsored by the Parents' Council was especially festive. DMWS parents are excellent cooks and the table decorations were beautiful! We are also grateful for the beautiful singing by our music students at the December 11 worship service. Mrs. Combs and the teachers did a great job to prepare the children to sing.

January will be busy as teachers get ready to share information about your children at Parent-Teacher Conferences on January 23 and 24. Look for more information from teachers on conference times as conference days approach. Applications for next year will be available for current students at the conferences. Please drop by the office to pick up applications for siblings. Be sure to read the article on registration to get more detailed information on procedures and tuition rates. Remind your friends that our Public Lottery will be held on Thursday, February 2 at 10am in the Whitford Hall. Remember that a limited number of scholarships are available. Please see me if you have questions or would like an application. Scholarship applications are due by May 1, 2017 and are handled confidentially by the DMWS Board of Directors.

Happy New Year,
Julie



Important Registration Information for 2017-2018

The DMWS Board of Directors has decided to make a few changes to this year's registration process. The changes should help the school offer classes that best align with demand. In order to hold a spot for next year at the time of registration, you will pay a registration fee of \$75 for returning students (\$85 for new students). All registration fees are non-refundable.

During Parent Conferences on January 23 and 24, you will receive an application for each of your currently enrolled children. Applications for siblings will be available in the office.

Our registration dates are:

Wednesday, January 25th - Registration for current students and siblings

Friday, January 27th - Registration for church members and alumni

Thursday, February 2nd - General Public Registration at 10am in Whitford Hall

Monday, February 13th - Notification of Class Assignment

Monday, February 20th - Facilities fee of \$50 plus one month's tuition due (tuition credited to May 2018) After this payment, your spot is secured for next year. This payment is also non-refundable.

Tuition rates for 2017-2018 have been approved by the DMWS Board of Directors. *A 10% discount is given to younger siblings.*

2 day 2	\$212 per month or	\$1908 per year
3 day 2	\$237 per month or	\$2133 per year
3 day 3	\$258 per month or	\$2322 per year
4 day 3	\$281 per month or	\$2529 per year
4 day pre-k	\$281 per month or	\$2529 per year
5 day 3	\$315 per month or	\$2835 per year
5 day pre-k	\$315 per month or	\$2835 per year
Kindergarten	\$382 per month or	\$3438 per year



SPRING CARNIVAL

April 22nd, 2017

The 2017 Carnival plans are getting under way ... the excitement is in full swing! The Carnival committee will be meeting in January to strategize and "party plan." They would love your ideas, help, and support! If you are interested, please contact Quinn Yi at QuinnONealYi@gmail.com.

Remind Texting Service - Sign up now!

Remind is a free messaging tool to help educators communicate with parents. Parents can opt in to receive texts from the school in the event of an emergency (fire, etc). It will also be used in the event of school cancellation/delay in addition to email notification.

To receive text messages, parents should **text @dukemem to 81010 or (828)394-2095**. Parents can unsubscribe at any time.



DMWS Inclement Weather Policy



When the Durham Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Duke Memorial Weekday School will be closed. If Durham Public Schools are delayed, the Director will determine if Duke Memorial Weekday School should be open, closed, or operate on a delay.

Factors considered when assessing whether to close, open on time or on a delay include, but are not limited to: teacher availability to fulfill Safe Sanctuaries requirements, the condition of Memorial Drive/sidewalks along Memorial Drive, and timing of the inclement weather event. Parents should check for cancellation/delay information on WTVD and WRAL. Attempts will be made to notify all families by email. The decision as to whether or not Duke Memorial Weekday School opens on a delay will be made with the utmost consideration of safety for all of our families and staff members. Duke Memorial Weekday School will build up to 4 makeup days into the school calendar. Use of these makeup days is at the discretion of the Director.

Classroom Spotlight: Ms. Speight & Ms. Allman's 4-Day PreKs

The 4-day Pre-K class is starting to get a taste of what it's like to be a big kid at school. This is the first year at preschool that they've gotten to go on a real field trip! Their first field trip in October took them to visit Farmer Mark at Waller Farms in Durham. Farmer Mark showed the kids all of the ins and outs of running a working farm. The kids got to see honey bees, chickens, strawberry fields, cotton plants, goats, donkeys, a cow, and tractors. And, best of all, they each got to pick a pumpkin out of the patch to take home.



The latest field trip was to Duke Homestead in early December. The kids enjoyed learning about Christmas traditions that the Duke family enjoyed in the 1800s. The class gathered at the visitor center and then we all walked through the field down to the old house. The kids thought it was pretty cool that the house has been around for over 150 years! The children all gathered inside in front of a cozy fire to hear our guide talk about how Christmas traditions today compared to traditions long ago. Many kids were excited to share their own traditions. Kiptyn's family hangs stockings on the mantel, Crawford likes to watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and Yates likes the lights decorating the outside of his house.

The class got to work on a craft making their own paper stocking tied together with a ribbon, and they were eager to fill it with a candy cane. The guide explained that the Duke family probably used their own socks as stockings and they may have been filled with a fresh orange. In the 1800s, oranges were hard to come by in NC because you couldn't just run to the grocery store to buy one. The kids were impressed that the oranges were probably sent all the way from Florida! The Duke family would have used very different decorations on their tree too. Mickey exclaimed that the real candles on the tree back then could cause a fire! The kids also got to try out some old toys like a wooden train and decorated a small tree on the front porch with some ornaments from long ago like bells and cloth bows.

Some other fun things the Pre-K class have enjoyed this year include a Johnny Appleseed celebration, the Halloween parade, meeting local firefighters, a class election (congrats to President Gregory!), a Thanksgiving feast and Christmas party. It is hard to believe that Pre-K is halfway over. The kids have formed sweet friendships and seem to thoroughly enjoy coming to school. Pretty soon, they will be going to Kindergarten, and I feel lucky that Ms. Speight and Ms. Allman are preparing them so well!

Ashley Smitherman (mom to Yates)



Thank You for Giving!

Many thanks to all of the DMWS families that were able to donate gifts from our Giving Tree in support of the Christmas Market at Duke Memorial UMC this year! With your help, the church collected over 1200 gifts for families in need and raised \$3,358 in proceeds from this holiday shopping event to be distributed back to our partner agencies.

The “head elves” are very grateful to the families at DMWS for contributing to another successful Christmas Market and appreciate your participation and support. Thanks so much!

-Amber West



January Dining Out

The January dining out will be at The Original QShack on University Drive on Tuesday, January 10th from 4pm till close. DMWS will receive 10% of sales from our group so bring your appetites and don't forget to mention DMWS!

DID YOU KNOW?

- On January 12th, a storyteller will visit DMWS. Many thanks to the Parents' Council for providing funds for this special event.
- Tuition Assistance is available to qualified families on a yearly or 3 month emergency basis. The application deadline for yearlong assistance is May 1st for the following school year. Applications for emergency assistance are accepted as the need arises. See Julie Allen in the office for an application.
- On December 11th, DMWS music students sang (and played instruments) during the worship service at Duke Memorial UMC. Many thanks to Angela Combs for leading the singing and former DMWS parent Laura Tonkin for accompanying the children on the piano.
- The Parents' Council provided a lovely holiday lunch for the staff on December 12th. Our teachers were treated to a delicious meal and received lovely party favors. Many thanks to all those who helped with the event.



Hospitality Committee Reminder



The Bradshaw room (located upstairs on the 1st floor where the Book Fair was held) will be available for parents and children during teacher conferences on Monday, January 23rd and Tuesday, January 24th. Childcare will not be provided. Parents needing childcare should coordinate with other parents to trade off watching children during their scheduled conference times.

Get Published!



The Parents' Press is published throughout the school year by DMWS Parents' Council. Please send submissions to dmwsparentspress@gmail.com. The submission deadline for the February newsletter is January 25th. In addition to information about DMWS, the Parents' Press offers space to advertise your small business. The fee to advertise is \$5.