

THE PARENTS' PRESS

 Duke Memorial Weekday School | March 2017 

Mark your Calendars:

- ◆ March 1 - Parents' Council Meeting/Rags to Riches performance of Rapunzel
- ◆ March 6-7 - **NO SCHOOL** Teacher Work Days
- ◆ March 13-17 - Diaper Drive
- ◆ March 15 - Parent Coffee Hour for DMWS & PMO
- ◆ March 20 - DOPA Parent Workshop
- ◆ March 29-30 - Class Photos
- ◆ March 30 - Storyteller
- ◆ April 5 - Parents' Council Meeting
- ◆ April 6 - DOPA Parent Workshop
- ◆ April 10 -14 - **NO SCHOOL** Spring Break
- ◆ April 17 - Snow Make-Up Day
- ◆ April 22 - Spring Carnival & Silent Auction
- ◆ April 23 - DMWS Sings at Worship



504 W. Chapel Hill St.
Durham, NC 27707
919.688.5130
www.dmws.org

Dear Parents,

Spring is in the air! We are busily planning our annual Carnival/Silent Auction scheduled for Saturday, April 22. In March, we have scheduled visits from Rags to Riches Theater for Young Children as well as a storyteller. Of course a highlight of the year will be our hunt for leprechauns! Several classes will make and set "traps" to try to catch him. Maybe this will be the year! Class photos will be made on March 29 and 30.

Summer camp registration forms are now available. This year, camp will run for two weeks: June 19-23 and July 17-21 from 9:00am-12:30pm. The cost is \$170 for each week and includes a time for lunch. Music and fitness is included daily. Camp spaces usually fill quickly so please send in your registration form soon if you are interested. Our camp is open to children who are rising 3 year olds through rising first graders.

The inclement weather in January has caused a change in our calendar. **Monday, April 17 has been rescheduled as a snow make-up day.** Hopefully, there will be no more school missed due to inclement weather.

Thank you for sharing your children with us,
Julie Allen



DOPA Parent Workshop



DMWS is a member of a consortium of area preschools called DOPA (Durham Orange Preschool Association). DOPA will be offering workshops for parents this spring. Kelli Underwood, LCSW will lead the sessions. The session will be offered twice- once on March 20 at Epworth UMC in Durham and once on April 6 at Aldersgate UMC in Chapel Hill. Both sessions begin at 7pm. Information about the topics covered and sign-up opportunities will be coming soon!

Spring Carnival 2017: Saturday, April 22nd



Mark your calendars! The Spring Carnival will be here before you know it. The Carnival committee is excited to continue planning, but we could use your help!

We will need volunteer parents from each classroom to help set up, run the games, and clean up on the day of the carnival. If you can help in any way, we would love for you to join in on the planning!

Please contact Quinn Yi (QuinnONealYi@gmail.com) to volunteer!

The Silent Auction Team Needs Your Help (Please)!

As we seek, request and gather items and services for the 2017 and coordinate our internal auction efforts - we need help from fellow parent volunteers!

Here's How You Can Help:

- +**JOIN** our auction planning team (we're nice and it's really pretty fun - not to mention it is a BIG fundraiser for our school). There are several elements of the auction that will need leaders within our group to coordinate.
- +**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 21.
- +**WORK** the auction itself on Saturday, April 22.

We can use all the help we can get! Please email Emma Willis (eschaufefe@gmail.com) if you'd like to join our team or with any questions or suggestions.

Around DMWS





Classroom Spotlight: Ms. Fox and Ms. Sneed's 3 day 3s



This month I had the pleasure of spending some time with Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Sneed's 3 day 3s. This sweet class is full of kindhearted children – some outgoing and enthusiastic, some quiet and gentle. They make for a great mix! In January we celebrated both Mrs. Fox's birthday and Mrs. Sneed's half birthday. Summer birthdays must not be forgotten! I can't think of many things preschoolers love more than birthdays. The kids were enthusiastic participants in our serenade of "Happy Birthday" and our special snack. I am always so impressed by the children's budding independence and responsibility. Their teachers have created routines that empower the children to hang up coats, wash hands, find their seats, ask for seconds, and clean up after themselves, all with nary a nag or reminder. I appreciate DMWS's attention to these "life skills." I happened to visit during dinosaur week, which is my son's favorite topic in the entire world. He seemed to be in good company; many children clamored to show me the giant T-Rex footprint they'd used to compare the size of a dinosaur to human children. During free play the children had a multitude of dinosaur toys from which to choose – from dinosaur lego duplos to a dinosaur sensory bin to an imaginative play table full of dinosaur figurines and real wooden stumps. Meanwhile, several children were working intently to break open dinosaur fossils (dinosaurs frozen in ice) while others were making dinosaur fossils out of clay. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Sneed have such a knack for engaging the children in multiple modalities while still leaving plenty of room for choice and fun. I'm so thankful my son gets to spend his mornings in the Shining Stars class!

-Lauren Miller





Diaper Drive

Looking to clean out your closets? Mark your calendars for our upcoming diaper drive. Between March 13-17th DMWS is collecting diapers to be donated to the Diaper Bank of North Carolina, which provides diapers to families in need. So please bring in your extra and too-small diapers. Opened bags are accepted and swim diapers are also welcome.

DMWS Openings for 2017-2018

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



- 2 day 2s
- 2 day 3s
- 5 day pre-K
- 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.

Parents Coffee Hour for DMWS and PMO

Parents of our wonderful weekday school and PMO programs are invited to meet in the church Parlor on Wednesday, March 15th at 9:15am (right after drop off) for a chance for fellowship, coffee, and refreshments! The hour will be hosted by Jennifer Ingold Asbill, fellow DMWS parent and member of the DMUMC staff. Please join us for a break in your busy morning!



DMWS Summer Camp 2017



Mark your calendars for DMWS Summer Camp! This summer, DMWS will offer 2 weeks of camp. You will be able to sign up for one or two weeks. Week 1 will be June 19-23. Week 2 will be July 17-21 from 9am-12:30pm. Campers will enjoy a variety of activities including daily music and fitness opportunities. Tuition for camp is \$170. Camp is open to rising 3's through rising first graders. Look for summer camp applications in March.

Classroom Spotlight: Ms. Jernigan and Ms. Chappell's 3 day 3s

Ingredients for Thriving Children

Happy, thriving, nurtured children: they're everywhere at DMWS. A great deal of expertise, purposeful planning, and especially committed, loving teachers and administrators create this environment. During my time spent with Mrs. Jernigan and Mrs. Chappell's 3 day 3s class, I got a peek at some of the ingredients that go into nurturing their children this month.

This week's recipe for thriving children included:

Ingredients: outside free play—especially sand! Watching all the friends enjoying the sunshine showed their interactions, creativity, and cooperation. It was also an insight into the varied and splendid ways they manage to get sand in every item of clothing and crease on their little bodies! The phrase “like kids in a sandbox” evokes all the things happy kids are made of.



Ingredients: multi-level learning and engagement: Healthy eating was a focus for the week, and on this day the kids listened to a book about “eating the rainbow.” The book fused learning the alphabet, colors, and about healthy foods of all hues. For Monday, they'll actually engage in learning-in-action in the yummiest of ways: they are planning a healthy fruit salad where they'll all contribute fruit from an assigned color... and then they really will get a chance to “eat the rainbow.”



Mixing ingredients: Another piece of fun for the day was in the kids learning what happens when you mix certain ingredients. The kids got to make their own “volcanos” using baking soda, vinegar, and a touch of red food coloring. Watching Mrs. Jernigan's demonstration, everyone showed fascination and quickly gathered in close!

Mrs. Jernigan's and Mrs. Chappell's class, and all those at DMWS, are thriving because of teachers who thoughtfully plan and genuinely enjoy engaging with their children. Watching just a few of the ingredients of nurturing children in action was a pleasure!

Jessica Irven
(James's mom)



DID YOU KNOW?

- Jodie Dixon will be our kindergarten lead teacher next year!
 - Long time DMWS teachers Connie Eva and Pam Wheeler will be retiring at the end of this school year. They will be greatly missed.
 - DMWS has a tuition assistance program. Applications for yearlong assistance are due by May 1 while emergency assistance applications can be submitted any time family circumstances create the need for assistance. Please contact the office if you need an application. All application information is confidential.
 - Our kindergarten class recently completed a unit of study on musical instruments. They played many instruments in their music class with Mrs. Combs and even made their own musical instruments!
 - 211 lbs of food were taken to Urban Ministries of Durham through our partnership with DMUMC. This food will provide a food supplement for 11 families for one month.
 - The generosity of the Parents' Council funded the Rag to Riches Theater performance of Rapunzel enjoyed by the children on March 1.
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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.

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 April newsletter is March 24th. In addition to information about DMWS, the Parents' Press offers space to advertise your small business. The fee to advertise is \$5.