

THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | May 2017

Mark your Calendars:

- ◆ May 1-5 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- ◆ May 3 - Parents' Council Meeting
- ◆ May 3-4 - Eye Screening
- ◆ May 3-5 - Usborne Book Fair
- ◆ May 5 - Visit by Book Mobile
- ◆ May 17 - Kindergarten Play
- ◆ May 19 - Last Day of Lunch Bunch
- ◆ May 23 - Play Date at Duke Park (after school - bring your own lunch)
- ◆ May 24 - Last Day of School

Looking Ahead:

- ◆ June 19-23- DMWS Summer Camp Week 1
- ◆ July 17-21 - DMWS Summer Camp Week 2
- ◆ September 5 - Parent Orientation
- ◆ September 6 - First Day of School



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

Dear Parents,

The staff of DMWS has certainly enjoyed watching your children grow and learn throughout the year. The month of May will be filled with butterfly releases, fun art projects and special snacks. Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Kindergarten Play. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 at 11am. To give parents a taste of what happens at DMWS, each class is planning an event to invite parents in for a special surprise. Please check your child's monthly calendar for details.

Many thanks to the parents who have worked so hard this year as part of our Parents' Council. The Fall Gathering/Book Fair, Spring Carnival/Silent Auction, and Dining Out nights were so much fun. Note: there will be another Playdate in the Park at Duke Park on Tuesday, May 23 after school. If you are interested in joining the Parents' Council, please contact incoming president Kelly Travis at kvtravis@gmail.com.

In addition to coordinating end of the year activities, our staff is busy preparing for summer camp and the 2017-2018 school year. A few spaces remain for both summer camp weeks (June 19-23 and July 17-21). Please contact the office if you are interested in one of the remaining spots. We also have limited availability in our program for next year. If you know anyone interested in a space in kindergarten, pre-k, or 2 day 2's, please have them contact the office for a tour and application. Information on class placement will be emailed to families in July.

Have a safe and restful summer!
Julie



Free Eye Screenings

DMWS is fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in free vision screening offered by the Durham Lions Club. Lions Club International has made a commitment to make sure every child has access to vision screening during their preschool years since this is when vision defects can be detected and brain development is flexible enough to allow correction. Our local Lions Club has purchased a SPOT PediaVision Scanner which can screen children for conditions such as strabismus, astigmatism, myopia, farsightedness, and anisometropia. The screenings will be done in our library. Permission slips have been distributed to parents and children who have consent will be screened on May 3 and 4. Parents will be notified of results.



Message from incoming '17-'18 Parents' Council President Kelly Travis....

Hello DMWS Families! I look forward to heading up the Parents' Council for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Our family has enjoyed the strong community at Duke Memorial and I look forward to continuing this tradition next year. The Parents' Council greatly enriches our preschool community by providing preschool-wide events, in-school activities, tuition assistance through our fundraisers and support for our teachers! I hope that returning parents will consider joining the Parents' Council in the upcoming school year. For me, this has been a fun way to be in the school and to get to know other parents. Even if your time is limited, many of the Parents' Council roles have a minimal time commitment but still offer a significant value to our school! Listed below are our "officer" positions for next year, and I hope some of you will consider stepping into these open spots, but even if you cannot take on that level of role, there is still need for you at the Parents' Council. I would love to hear from you if you are curious about any of these positions, or about other ways to be involved, so please email me at kvtravis@gmail.com.

President: Kelly Travis

VP: OPEN

Treasurer: OPEN

Secretary: OPEN

Events Committee Chair*: Megan Klenk

Fundraising Committee Chair*: Mercer Griffin

Book Fair Coordinator: OPEN

* consider joining one of these committees, headed by these awesome parents!

Last Parents' Council Meeting!

Our last Parents' Council meeting of the year will be held on May 3rd at 9:20am. We would like to invite all parents to join us for breakfast in the Parlor. Just a little thank you for all you have done for the school and your child's classroom this year. This is also a wonderful way for you to see what the Parents' 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 3rd as we wrap up the school year.



Usborne Book Fair

Save the date for our annual Usborne Book Fair!!

May 3rd - 5th

On the sidewalk under the awning
Come and find some wonderful
books for Summer reading!

From the Hospitality Committee

Teacher Appreciation Week - Want to show the teachers at DMWS how much you love them? Sign up on the Sign-Up genius to contribute to the breakfasts and lunches that are provided for teachers May 1 - 5!



<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4fa5a72d6-teacher>

If you have questions, please contact Angie Heinrich at 919.451.8007 or heinrichfive@gmail.com or John Tassa at 720.427.7163 or john.tassa@icloud.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- In April, Julie Allen attended a training session for area preschool directors. The training focused on setting professional and personal goals as well as self-care techniques.
- Over the summer, DMWS will be installing a sensory garden and some planting beds for edibles on our playground. This wonderful addition to our program is thanks to the generosity of one of our families.
- DMWS is always looking for great substitute teachers. Please contact Julie Allen to find out more about the requirements.
- DMWS staff undergoes CPR/First Aid training every other fall. Our next training is for August 31, 2017.

Classroom Spotlight: Mrs. Hardin & Mrs. Bailey's 2 day 2s

As teachers of some of the youngest Duke Memorial student body, Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey deserve our utmost reverence. While they may be adorable, it is surely not always easy teaching these budding toddlers! This is the first school experience for many of the children in this class, and what better way to be introduced to school than in the loving and fun-filled environment of this two-day-tuos room.

At two and three years, the twelve friends in Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey's class are forming some of their first friendships, learning the fundamentals of social interaction, and practicing a range of everyday skills, from wiping one's nose and washing one's hands to forming a line and following directions. Not only do children at this age benefit from routine, but they also learn through and benefit from play, and Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey have achieved the perfect balance between these two preschool essentials.

As a student in Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey's two-day-tuos class, one can expect a morning punctuated by free play, fitness or movement, story time, music and singing, creative projects, snack, and playground time. Recently, students completed a study of color, in which they read, What Makes a Rainbow, painted rainbows with sponges, and ate a "rainbow of foods," including yellow corn, red apples, and green grapes. Other themes explored over the course of the last several weeks include springtime and Easter, during which the children decorated kites and painted spring flowers, butterflies, and Easter Bunnies. Displaying exemplary behavior, the class navigated a very civilized Easter egg hunt, and after reading, Jack's Garden, each student planted his or her own grass seeds in a cup. They cannot wait to watch them sprout and grow!

The children continue to practice letter recognition, and they particularly excel at the name game, the object of which is to identify one's own name. Finally, these little ones have been diligently practicing for their parent/friend visiting day, during which the lucky visitors will be treated to a brief musical performance by our twelve musical virtuosos. What fun it is to be a member of Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey's two-day-tuos class! When you watch their students walk through the doors of Duke Memorial on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, it is no wonder that they always wear such bright smiles!

-Hillary Virdin



Around DMWS



Classroom Spotlight: Mrs. Lowder & Mrs. Alkins's 2 day 2s

When I arrived at the doorway of Mrs. Lowder's and Mrs. Alkins' classroom, it was so quiet that for a brief second I wondered if I might have been in the wrong place or if the class was actually somewhere else. All of the children were seated around 2 tables and were intently working on a ladybug craft project. They were painting paper plates with red paint. Each child was holding a paint brush and Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkins moved around the room helping, as needed. It was such an adorable and incredible sight; they looked so grown up in some ways. As they finished painting, they climbed a stool in front of the sink and washed their hands. Several of the children helped clean up the tables and then they were on to free play.



Moving around the room, from play area to play area they were having such a great time. Several of them engaged me in what they were doing, offering me bites of pretend fruits and vegetables and glimpses of their baby dolls. Soon many returned to the table where they peeled stickers from sheets (developing those fine motor skills) for more quick art work. They all seemed to play so well together. I never sensed any conflicts or unwillingness to share; they are undoubtedly learning some very important life skills in this class! The clean up song began and they all knew just what to do, returning toys to their proper places. Those who help clean up are rewarded with stamps on their hands.

Next they gathered in their circle area and sang some songs. They clapped and stomped and smiled as they sang We Are Dinosaurs and had fun naming colors in Oh Rainbow. Then one by one their names are called and they retrieve their bags and line up. It is time to go home and they are heading out to the steps to be scooped up and go home. I am sure they are all looking forward to sharing stories with their families about what they did that day and to returning soon to be together again. They are on their way; there is no turning back and thanks to Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkins, they are off to a truly wonderful start!!

Susan Godkin

DMWS Summer Camp 2017 - Space Available

Mark your calendars for DMWS Summer Camp! This summer, DMWS will offer 2 weeks of camp this summer. You may 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 fitness and music opportunities. Campers bring a lunch each day. Tuition for camp is \$170. Camp is open to rising 3's through rising first graders. Contact the office if you need an application.



DMWS Openings for 2017-2018

Many of our classes are full for fall, but there are a few available spaces in the following classes:

2 day 2's *** 4 day Pre-kindergarten *** 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.



End of the Year Playdate



Come join us at Duke Park!

May 23rd - right after school

Bring your lunch and some sunscreen.

We hope to see you there.

Dining Out

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this school year's final Dining Out fundraising event **May 23** from **4-8 pm** at **Panera Bread** at Southpoint. Bring your friends and family and enjoy some delicious and healthy food. More details will be coming soon. Hope to see you there!

