



The Parents Press

Duke Memorial Weekday School

May 2015



Mark Your Calendar!

- May 1: Scholarship Applications Due
- May 3: Music students sing at Worship
- May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5 & 6: Spring Book Fair
- May 6: Parents' Council Meeting
- May 11: Parent Listening Session, 7pm Whitford Hall
- May 13: Kindergarten Play at 11am
- May 21: Snow make-up day/ Last Day of School (*Noon release for all students*)
- June 22-26: DMUMC Music & Arts Camp
- July 20-24: DMWS Summer Camp



From the Desk of...

Julie Allen

Dear Parents,

Wow, we are nearing the end of another school year! Your children have grown so much since September. We appreciate that you have chosen to share them with us. The next few weeks will be packed with wonderful events such as our annual butterfly release and our music students singing at worship on May 3. Be sure to check out the newly planted "Kinder-Garden" near the school entrance. Many thanks to our kindergarten class and their parents for beautifying our school! To give parents a taste of what happens at DMWS, each class is planning an event to invite parents in for a special surprise. Check your child's monthly calendar carefully for days and times.

In addition to coordinating end of the year events, our staff is busy preparing for next year as well as for summer camp. A few spaces remain for our camp (July 20-24). Please contact the office if you are interested in one of the available spots. We also have limited spots available in the following classes for 2015-2016: 2 day 2's, 5 day 3's, 5 day pre-k, and kindergarten. Information regarding class placement for 2015-2016 will be emailed to families in mid-July.

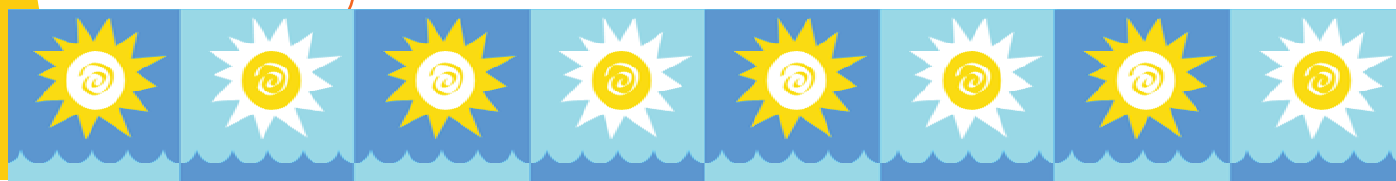
Have a safe and restful summer!

Julie



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Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey's 2 day 2's!

The last door on the right is where you find an elusive group of children. Adorable as they struggle to get out of their cars with their oversized canvas totes, climb a mountain of stairs, and walk down the long hallway to the last room on the right. As they progress down the corridor, dragging their bags behind them, they are passed by bigger kids and welcomed by friendly faces. Sometimes they may respond to greetings with a smile, wave, or blank stare, while other times they are unresponsive and seem deeply focused on the day ahead. Welcome to the Two Day Twos.



It's Spring in the Two Day Two classroom. The atmosphere is busy and bustling. Each child is greeted by Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey, who are always thrilled to see them. It's already been a long journey for these youngsters, but their teachers make the effort worthwhile. Free play is the best way to begin. Friends come together in housekeeping or on the carpet with toys and books. The children begin to loosen up and feel comfortable; fun is being had by all.

After free play it's time for a story. The first story of the day is The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Most of the children have heard this one a time or two and try to "read" along. Mrs. Hardin has brought a special stuffed caterpillar to add to the fun, and it gobbles up more and more food as the story progresses. At the end of the story, the children are given the opportunity to check on their own classroom caterpillars. The children really enjoy observing the caterpillars and watching them grow.

Fitness is next and it's always a lot of fun! After a quick warm up, the children hula hoop, play basketball, and try their hand at a two/three year old version of corn hole. The time passes quickly and soon it's time to go....OUTSIDE! "The playground is dry and the sand is open!" This is music to a two/three year old's ears! Several run over to the sand and start digging with unabashed gusto. When a two/three year old is so tired that he or she cannot dig another grain of sand, it's time for him or her to start running and running and running.

All of that physical activity induces a craving for some snack and water. After snack it's time to look at books with friends, sing, and listen to their final story, Waiting for Wings. When the story is finished, the children paint their own butterflies, which are currently on display on the classroom bulletin board. There is time for one final round of free play before everyone is dismissed to home or lunch bunch.



Whew! I thought I got a lot done in a day, but these Two Day Twos operate on another level. Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bailey pack plenty of fun in each day. It's no wonder the kids have their game faces on as they march down the hallway on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "Bring on the fun!"

Signing off for the Two Day Twos,
Jodie Dixon

Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkin's 2day 2's!

By Ginny Braun

I arrived at Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkin's 2-day-2 class about nine o'clock. Mrs. Lowder was meeting the students at the door, and Mrs. Alkins was helping them put their bags away and greeting each with a cheery hug.

Today was bug day and there were plastic bugs strewn across the front table. The bugs were a big hit and the stretchy cockroach was always in demand! To celebrate bug day, Mrs. Lowder was ready with a special snack, banana bugs. She called them by twos and helped each child peel and cut their own banana with a plastic knife. The banana bugs were completed with a bit of grape and some candy eyes. It was a simple cute snack—but a big deal to these children who were getting to peel and cut like big kids!

In true toddler fashion, none of them stayed anywhere long during play, but it was fascinating to watch them move around and play together so nicely. Chase and Mickey were mostly into block and cars; while Henry and Malcolm quited enjoyed the bugs today. At one point while trying to stealthily snap pictures of Anna-Claire, MacKenzie, Milly, Maya, and Ava-Grace playing in the kitchen—I was informed they were playing house *and* doctors and I had just stepped into their doctor's office. Evelyn and Begum stuck by Mrs. Alkins or I most of the morning—reading books, hanging out and playing with the bugs. Puzzles and the plastic pool filled with building blocks were both really popular with everyone...who knew you could fit four toddlers in a building block pool?

Next it was time to get ready to go outside. The lights were flickered and Mrs. Lowder started to sing the 'clean up' song. In a mater of moments the room was tidy. The children took turns singing with Mrs. Lowder and alternately taking potty breaks with Mrs. Alkins. (I must add...I think Mrs. Lowder does the best "Where is Thumbkin" I've ever heard.) As the kids came streaming back in the room they quickly donned their jackets and got lined up on the stars.

I so enjoyed my time with the children today, it is such a treat to just sit and observe them. Every one of our kids is precious and we are lucky they get to spend their days with such loving teachers. Thank you all for letting me crash the party today!



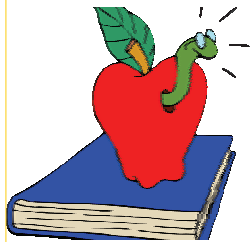
DMWS: A YEAR IN REVIEW



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DMWS Spring Book Fair

The Usborne Book Fair will be Tuesday, May 5th (11am-1pm) & Wednesday, May 6th (9am-11am).

Weather permitting, the Usborne book cart will be located outside, under the canopy, near the playground. If the weather is less than ideal, the cart will be located inside, in the downstairs hallways, near the bookcases.

There are more than 2,500 Usborne children's books available, including books for babies, sticker books, noisy books, flap books, reference books, young adult fiction and lots, lots more!

The books presented to Duke Memorial will be age specific and a portion of sales will go back to support our school.

Please stop by and flip through a few pages!

DMWS Openings for 2015-2016

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

Kindergarten

5 day Pre-K

5 day 3's

2 day 2's

Please let your friends know we have these spots available.

Remember there is no fee to be on the waiting list for classes that are currently full.

DMWS welcomes Lachlan Bruer McRae to our family! Lachlan was born on April 13, 2015 and weighed 9 lbs 8 oz. His mom, Erica McRae is on leave from her position as a 5 day pre-k teacher until we begin school in the fall. We are very grateful to retired DMWS teacher Pat Bartlett working with us during Mrs. McRae's maternity leave.



DMWS GOES PEANUT-FREE

In March, the DMWS Board of Directors voted for our school to become peanut-free beginning in September, 2015. No peanuts or peanut butter will be allowed in our classrooms. Children who bring lunches to school for Lunch Bunch or Kindergarten may use other nut butters (cashew butter, almond butter, sunflower seed butter, etc).



Thanks to Alivia's and to everyone who came out to support DMWS for the April Dining Out!

Please join us for the last Dining Out of the year on Tuesday, May 5th at Bull City Burger. Bull City Burger will donate 10% of all receipts collected during the hours of 5:00-8:30. They will have a bucket set up for anyone to put their receipt in and 10% of those sales will be donated back to DMWS. Remember to add your receipt to the bucket and encourage others to do the same!



Teacher Appreciation Week



Teacher Appreciation week is May 4-8th. Remember if you volunteered to bring breakfast on Monday or Tuesday to drop it off first thing in the morning in the teacher work room. Classroom reps have been in contact with the class parents in order to organize the best way to show appreciation for their specific classroom teachers.

Thank you to all the parents who have donated their time and talents to let the wonderful teachers of DMWS know just how grateful we are for all they do for our children throughout the year!

Get Published!

The Parents Press is published throughout the school year by the DMWS Parents' Council. The first issue for the 2015-2016 school year will be published in September. If you'd like to submit information for the Fall, please contact dmwsparentspress@gmail.com.