



The Parents Press

Duke Memorial Weekday School

February 2014



Mark Your Calendar!

- President's Day (no school!): Feb 17
- Dining Out: Feb 25 @ Mattie B's (all day!)
- Carnival & Silent Auction: Mar 1
- Teacher Workdays (no school!): Mar 10-Mar 11
- Spring Break (no school!): Apr 14-Apr 21
- Scholarship Applications Due: May 1
- Parent Council Meetings (Whitford Hall — 9:20)
 - February 5
 - March 5
 - April 2
 - May 7



From the Desk of...

Susan Grubbs

Carpool Reminders!

Please remember that our carpool line is a cell phone free zone! Also, please pull up as far as possible on Memorial Drive when buckling your child. It helps keep the line moving.

Summer Camp 2014

Mark your calendars for a week of summer camp at DMWS! Camp will be Monday-Friday, July 21st-25th, from 9:00am-12:30pm. Spaces are limited and will fill quickly for each age group. The application will come home in March. The cost of the camp will be \$155.00.

Vacation Bible School 2014

VBS at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church will be July 7th-11th from 9:00am-12:00pm. VBS is open to children 3 and up. More information will be coming from Chamberlyn Marks, Minister of Children at DUMC, in the coming weeks.

Inclement Weather Policy

When Durham Public Schools are closed or delayed, DMWS will be closed.



504 W. Chapel Hill St.
Durham, NC 27707

919-688-5130
www.dmws.org



DMWS 21st Annual Carnival & Silent Auction

PLEASE JOIN US ON Saturday, March 1st, 2014 – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

It will soon be time for our annual Carnival and Silent Auction. The Carnival and Auction will be full of fun for all ages. Our Carnival is indoors with children traveling from classroom to classroom to play games. The games are all age appropriate and everyone always wins! A ticket order form can be found on the last page of the Parents Press. In addition, an order form will come home in your child's folder.



Game Booths from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Silent Auction from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch available from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

(Food trucks will be available on site and tables will be set-up in Whitford Hall. Please bring cash for food trucks or for extra game tickets.)

Please consider volunteering to help! We need every family to participate in order to make our Carnival and Silent Auction a big success! If you would like to help with the Carnival, please contact the Carnival Chairs: Andy Ritchey (aritchey7@hotmail.com) or Sarah Maxwell (skbrandt@gmail.com). In addition, your class Carnival Representative will be contacting you about volunteering to work a shift in your child's classroom game booth.

Silent Auction Classroom Representatives are busy working with the class to put together fun baskets that reflect the interests and talents of each class. Kavita Rajagopal (kavita.rajagopal@gmail.com) is chairing this sub-committee of the Auction, so please direct all questions to her. We have many wonderful donors for the auction so far, but we are still accepting items to be auctioned! Please contact Jamie Spatola (jamiespat@gmail.com) if you have items, ideas, or would like to help!

The Carnival and Silent Auction are the PC's largest fundraisers, and its success hinges on your support and donations. 100% of money raised goes directly to Parent's Council – which means more resources for your child's classroom! Start spreading the word to family and friends about our great family fundraising event – all are welcome to share in the fun at the Carnival and Silent Auction. See you on March 1st!

Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hensen's 5 day 3's

By Angie Hong and Jena Vickery

Brrrrr! Winter time might mean short days, cold weather and gray skies. But in Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hensen's five-day threes class, there are enough sunny smiles, warm hugs and bright preschoolers to thaw even the chilliest January day.

"The Explorers" have been busy learning about cold-climate animals, playing cold-weather games, and even making snow. These basic science experiments—though messy—have been a lot of fun. Using a polymer powder, the children enjoyed mixing up a batch of their own instant "snow" in class. They made puffy paint snow for their penguins using shaving cream and glue. And in late January, they experimented with how ice melts into water.

The winter wonderland going on behind the purple door has included plenty of games, too. The children enjoyed playing a matching game with both penguins and mittens, a round of snowflake bingo, and a version of mitten hide-and-seek. A paper mitten is hidden under one of the students and the "guesser" has to pick who has it, based on facial expressions. After many rounds, they started to learn how not to give away who was sitting on the mitten!

Cold weather has been a big theme in other learning activities. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hensen have set up number recognition games using snowmen with a number on their bellies. The children have been great at placing the correct amount of buttons on each snowman. Meanwhile, there is packing peanut "snow" in the sensory bin, which has been used for a snowball fight that included much giggling and many happy squeals. Even better, the children cleaned up the mess without asking!

The class has also been learning about Arctic and Antarctic animals. There was much to discover about how these animals adapt to extreme temperatures, such as having fur that changes color from white in the winter to brown in the summer. The children learned that it is the male penguins—the dads—who care for the eggs. But most interesting of all was that the penguins live in the southern hemisphere: They do *not* live at the North Pole with Santa!

When they're not sitting in circle time learning about their polar animal friends, the Explorers are using their imaginations to play with the many friends they've made in class. Upon arrival, everyone keeps checking to see if their friends have made it to school yet. Once they do, the fun begins, which might mean blasting off in imaginary airplanes, drawing treasure maps or grabbing their "hose" to put out a fire in the room. One of their favorite times each week is show and tell on Fridays. They do a great job listening to their friends tell stories about what they've brought to share!

But while winter means learning about snow and snow-covered animals, it's also given the children the chance to discover different cultures and appreciate those who've taught us how to love each other, even when we're different. The children celebrated Chinese New Year at the end of the month with a dragon parade and learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In music, they sang some of his favorite songs; in class they read about his legacy.

It may be cold outside, but the life lessons being learned in Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Hensen's class should warm the hearts of us all.



THIS MONTH AT DMWS...



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Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkin's 3 day 2's

By Allison Shultz



Choo, Choo! Each day is an adventure on the Preschool Express. There's time for stories, songs, arts and crafts. There's time spent on the playground climbing, exploring and swinging. There's time spent in fitness doing stretches, jumps, and popcorn with Mrs. Kelly. There's time for playing with friends, exploring and learning. Most importantly, there's time for FUN!

On this day, the class has hustled off the playground and returned to their classroom. They discard jackets with the help of Mrs.

Alkins. The 3-day-2s are ready to learn! They gather for circle time, each taking a seat in their Preschool Express chair. They listen intently and focus on Mrs. Lowder.

Today, the class will work on colors. Mrs. Lowder leads them in a song as they use paper ornaments to decorate a Christmas tree. The children excitedly yell out the colors they see. "purple...yellow!" Mrs. Lowder invites them to join along in the song. Some sing along, while others dance in their chair to the beat. After song time, it is time for a story. The children excitedly hear the story of 10 little gingerbread men on an adventure. They help Mrs. Lowder as she counts backward from 10 until 1. They all obviously love to be read to.

These sweet children have blossomed and grown in their first months as Duke Memorial Weekday School students. Many of them roamed the halls as their older siblings attended DMWS, and now they get the chance to explore the sights and sounds of the school themselves. Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkins have created a warm and loving atmosphere where the kids can explore, play, and learn with pure joy.

As parents it is so enjoyable to hear about the friends our children are making, and as the year has gone by, parallel play is turning into group play and sharing. We are excited for our little ones to see what the remainder of the school year has in store!



Art By Me!

We are excited to be participating in the Art By Me program again this spring. Your child will be making an



adorable piece of artwork in class that can then be made into a wonderful keepsake or gift such as a magnet, t-shirt, mug, mouse pad, etc. A postcard preview of your child's artwork will come home in

their tote bag in March. These keepsakes make perfect Mother's Day, Father's Day & grandparent gifts!



In January, we visited California Pizza Kitchen. With their generosity, we visited not once but twice due to winter weather! Thank you, thank you, thank for your support of the DMWS community!



Let's rally around Ella and St. Baldrick's!

Ella Harker is a student in Mrs. Charles and Mrs. Sneed's class. She was diagnosed with a rare form of pediatric kidney cancer at 15 months old. She endured 3 surgeries, 25 weeks of chemotherapy, the loss of her hair, and spent countless days/nights at the hospital. Thanks to her treatment at Duke, she is now a happy and healthy little girl and almost 2 years off of chemo! This year (for the 3rd year), Ella's dad, Matthew, is shaving his head in honor of Ella and to help raise money for St. Baldrick's in the fight against childhood cancer. The money you donate comes right back to area hospitals and, to date, Duke has received over \$800,000 from St. Baldrick's. If you'd like to support Ella, Matthew, Duke Pediatric Oncology and St. Baldrick's, please visit Matthew's fundraising link: <http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/matthewharker>. From Kacy (Ella's mom), "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"



Get Published!

We've gone electronic! You will now receive a PDF version of the newsletter via e-mail from your classroom Parent Council Representative. A limited number of paper copies will also be available in the office, if this is your preference!

The Parents Press is published throughout the school year by DMWS Parents' Council. Please send submissions to Allison Shultz at ajmckenney@gmail.com. The submission deadline for the March newsletter is February 17th.

In addition to information about DMWS, the Parents Press offers space for you to advertise your small, at-home business. The fee to advertise is \$5, and we also ask that you'd be willing to donate 10% of your proceeds to DMWS when sales are made from the ad during the remainder of the school year.



DMWS 22nd Annual Carnival & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 1st, 2014

Tickets now on SALE.....

We encourage everyone to purchase tickets in advance to assist us in estimating attendance and to avoid waiting in line the day of the carnival. Another order form will be sent home in a few weeks. Additional tickets will be available at the carnival.

Please Note: tickets are non-refundable.

If you wish to purchase tickets now, **PLEASE RETURN** this form in your child's folder with cash or check made out to DMWS Parents' Council **by Friday, Feb. 21st.**

Teacher's Name _____

Child's Name _____

Parent's Name _____ PH #: _____

BOOTH TICKETS

Cost is \$0.50 per ticket (1 ticket/booth).

Advance tickets are sold in increments of \$5.00 only.

Number of Tickets Requested (Please check one):

_____ 10 tickets (\$5.00) _____ 20 tickets (\$10.00) _____ 30 tickets (\$15.00)

LUNCH

Lunch will be available from a variety of food trucks. Please join us at tables in Whitford Hall while you enjoy your lunch. Please bring cash or credit card for the food trucks