



# The Parents Press

Duke Memorial Weekday School

March 2013



## Mark Your Calendar!

- Carnival & Silent Auction: Mar 2
- Teacher Workdays (no school!): Mar 11 & Mar 12
- Dining Out: Mar 26 @ California Pizza Kitchen (Southpoint Mall) — proceeds from lunch and dinner, must have flyer
- Spring Break: Mar 29 through Apr 5
- Class Pictures: Apr 22 & Apr 23
- Spring Book Fair: Apr 30 through May 2
- Parent Council Meetings (Whitford Hall — 9:20)  
March 6  
April 3  
May 1



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From the Desk of...

*Susan Grubbs*

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to another fun-filled day at our annual Carnival and Silent Auction on Saturday, Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>! Lots of new games are being planned for the children, and auction items are starting to fill the office! A HUGE thank you to everyone for all of their hard work in helping to make our biggest fundraiser of the year a success!

It's not too early to make plans for summer! Summer Camp applications will be going home soon. Please remember that camp is filled on a first come basis. It usually fills up quickly. We offer camp to our rising 3's through rising first graders.

Please remember that our carpool line is a cell phone free zone! We ask that everyone who uses our carpool line complies with this rule for the safety of our students and teachers!

Happy Spring!

Susan

## Sick Policy



Please remember that our Sick Policy states that if your child has had a fever, diarrhea or vomiting they MUST stay home until they are symptom free for 24 hours. This is done for the benefit of all of our students!



## ***DMWS in New Orleans? Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs. Wheeler's 5 day 4's***

By Beth Angle and Katie Hanczaryk



We arrived at school and must have driven further than we realized. When we stepped into the classroom we were informed it was Fat Tuesday. The kids were dressed in beads and fun handmade Mardi Gras masks. Soon shouts of "Let the Good Times Roll" were heard. At free time the kids' imaginations came to life. Boys will be boys as Ryan, John Paul, Pete, Henry, Jonah, Nolan, Conner and Nathan all played with superheroes, race cars and action figures. Molly, Madeline, Avery and Katie all sat at the art table and made tickets for the upcoming

show. Cailin, Laura and Nadia built a castle while their knight Wesley stayed close by in case the castle fell.

Ms. Bartlett and Ms. Wheeler soon called the kids over to the circle to start their day. Each child sat perfectly in their assigned chair and listened intently as "Child of the Day" Nolan told them the weather, the month, the date and the season. The kids all sang their morning song followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. No Mardi Gras party would be complete without a King cake so Ms. Bartlett showed the kids how to make the traditional cake and two at a time the kids came up to help decorate it for snack. They each took special care to ensure there were plenty of purple, green, and gold sprinkles adorning the cake. It was quite the masterpiece when they were finished! Before long the smell of cake was wafting throughout the halls of DMWS. Yum!

Once the king cake was ready it was time for snack. The kids each had to recite their phone number before they could leave the circle. They washed their hands, poured their own cup of water, and took their seat at the snack table. The excitement was palpable as they anxiously awaited their turn to pick out a piece of king cake, hoping their piece had the baby inside. After much anticipation Nolan discovered it in his piece. With masks on, beads around their necks, and full tummies there was only one thing left to do – have a Mardi Gras dance party!

The kids accomplished so much in the short time we visited their classroom. Who knew four year olds could be such well behaved little ladies and gentleman and recite so much. It is amazing to see how independent and smart this group of four year olds can be. Kudos to Ms. Bartlett and Ms. Wheeler for all their hard work this year and for knowing how to throw such a fun Mardi Gras party!

## ***Loving School! Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Powell's 2 day 2's***

By Jamie Spatola



Almost every morning when Frankie wakes up, she asks, "Is it Tuesday? Is it Thursday?" just hoping that it's one of the two days of the week when she gathers with her fellow Fox/Powell Two-Day Twos. John David leaps out of the car and into the arms of whichever teacher awaits him in car-pool line, screaming "Bye, Mom!" As he explains to me, "You walk down de haw-way, turn weft and go to de cwassroom wit de wed door." Fergus cannot get to the classroom quickly enough, skipping down the hall and shouting out questions about whether his friends are at school yet before even arriving at the red door. When Oceana's mom would tell her big sister that it was time for school, Oceana would ask plaintively, "And me?" Since joining class in January, it's rare that Oceana does not have a smile on her face. Penelope comes through the door with

a similar display of happiness and energy. She loves to greet her friends and teachers with hugs. And that is just the arrivals. Once they walk through the red door, there is more fun to be had.

The little students are learning about the five senses by smelling Kool-Aid paint and feeling rice. They are learning about responsibility as they take on classroom jobs like line leader, snack helper and weather watcher. They have celebrated each other's birthdays and holidays. They are learning to be kind, to take turns, to express themselves and to become independent in many ways. According to JE, "We sit together with all my best buddies and hear special stories." Not to mention the fact that he is a "...big boy so we have our own hooks and cubbies." "One, two, three, eyes on me!" Sally says to her little sister while playing school with her, one of the many things she brings to her home-schooling efforts from her days at DMWS. Similarly, whenever it's time for Victoria to put on her jacket to go outside her house, she insists, "Put it on the floor like Mrs. Powell!" and swings it up quickly to her back. Davis loves to bring his own blessing that he learned at school to his family dinner table and to sing the "Tops and Bottoms" song when he washes his hands. Robert brings home his marshmallow snowman and his penguin dancing on cotton-ball snow and asks that they be put on proud display. When Emily brought her rice Valentine home to her family, she shouted, "Guess what, Mommy? We made clementines with rice at school!" And, while Adam can occasionally find his father's questions "fradiculas," he enjoys telling him stories about his day at school, like the time he had to "put Robert in jail."

We pick up bits and pieces about their days, not always able to put it all together. We have "Aha!" moments when Mrs. Fox's updates appear in our inboxes and fill in the gaps between what our toddlers are able to communicate and what we'd really like to know. Mostly, we smile to see our children smile, feeling proud that they are falling in love with learning. Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Collins are to thank for providing them with an environment in which love grows every day.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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We are very excited to announce that this spring we will be hosting an Usborne Book Fair! The book fair will be held April 30th through May 2nd in the Bradshaw Room. More information will be coming home soon!



## Art By Me!

We are excited about participating in a wonderful fundraising program called Art By Me again this year! This month, a postcard of your child's adorable artwork will be coming home in his/her tote bag.

It will be accompanied by an order form so that you will have the opportunity to order a large variety of keepsakes! If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Kruse at [laurenkruse@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenkruse@hotmail.com).



In February we visited Alivia's Durham Bistro for Dining Out. What a fun and delicious night! Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the DMWS community!

**We have openings for next year at DMWS. Please contact the office for more information about having a child attend DMWS.**

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## Get Published!

The Parents Press is published throughout the school year by DMWS Parents' Council. Please send submissions to Allison Shultz at [ajmckenney@gmail.com](mailto:ajmckenney@gmail.com). The submission deadline for the April newsletter is March 18.

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.