



# The Parents Press

Duke Memorial Weekday School

May 2013



## Mark Your Calendar!

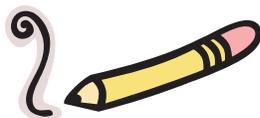
- Spring Book Fair: Apr 30 through May 2
- Last Day of Lunch Bunch: May 10
- Kindergarten Play: May 15 @ 11am
- Last Day of Lunch for Ks: May 17
- Bulls Outing: May 19
- Last Day of School: May 22
- Parent Council Meetings (Whitford Hall — 9:20) May 1
- 13/14 School Year Parent Orientation: Sept 3 @ Noon
- 13/14 School Year 1st Day of School: Sept 4



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Durham, NC 27707

919-688-5130

[www.dmws.org](http://www.dmws.org)



From the Desk of...

*Susan Grubbs*

Dear Parents,

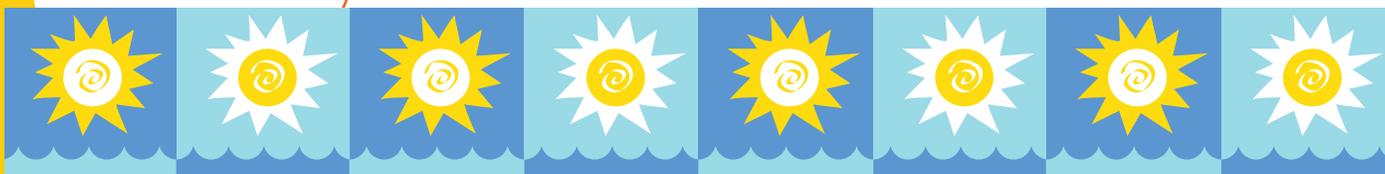
It's hard to believe that summer is fast approaching and will be here before we know it! I want to thank all of you for sharing your children with us this year. It has been an exciting year and we still have lots of fun things planned for the end of the year. Our annual butterfly release will take place on the playground in just a few weeks. The Kindergarten Play will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. If you have not seen the play before, please join us. You are in for a treat!

A HUGE thank you for all of the breakfast treats during Teacher Appreciation Week! The special notes and flowers that the children brought in were all very thoughtful. All of you are so kind to us throughout the year that we hardly need a Teacher Appreciation Week!

If your family is moving on from Duke Memorial Weekday School we wish you all the best! For those of you returning for next year we look forward to having your child with us again. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Happy Summer!

Susan



# *Mrs. Speight and Mrs. Allman's Froggy Friends are Hopping into Spring!*

By Shelley Piner-Rhudy



The Froggy Friends in Mrs. Speight and Mrs. Allman's class have hopped into spring with so many fun activities! Spring began with a fun-filled Easter egg hunt as each student searched for eggs with their own "Easter Ribbit" basket. Thanks again to Kathryn Brant, Kathy Zhang and Naketa Jones for helping with the delightful Easter party that followed!

After break, the Froggy Friends have been extremely busy preparing for The Big Show on May 9<sup>th</sup>! If you happen to hear a mix-

ture of howling, ribbits, barnyard animals, singing or the beat of a fun tune as you walk the halls of the school, you're probably getting close to Mrs. Speight and Mrs. Allman's class. The students are in the midst of practicing four different stories to be acted out with music, dance and song! Costumes are being created with paints galore! Not only are they hard at work practicing their lines, they are also cutting, painting and creatively designing the props and scenery for The Big Show! Make sure to ask a student from the class about the upcoming production for family and friends.

As the class enjoys these lively activities, they are also exploring the weather with spring in full bloom. You may want to put up your umbrella and throw on your rain coat, with the sounds coming from their room. Rain sticks are being made, which if we're lucky, may help us wash the pollen away for good! Keep your fingers crossed!



Now that spring has finally sprung, the children are eagerly awaiting the magical caterpillar metamorphosis and butterfly release. As we anticipate this exciting annual event, it also means the school year is wrapping up and it has been a great one! Many thanks to our wonderful teachers, Mrs. Speight and Mrs. Allman for all of their hard work in making this year such a fantastic one, full of Froggy Fun!

## *Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Powell's 3 day 3's*

By Lynette Mittendorf and Rebecca Roper



Welcome to Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Powell's 3 day 3's class, where Spring is in definitely in the air. The class is currently studying all things Spring, wrapping up their insect and butterfly projects last week, and moving on to gardening this week. And what perfect weather they've had for all these topics! Just walk into their classroom, and you can see what a fun, creative group of children (and teachers!) we have. Colorful kites they've created are hanging from the ceiling, and excited voices come prancing into the room to begin their day.

Last week the kids studied the life cycle of a butterfly and brought home beautiful butterfly artwork. I've gotta say... it's pretty awesome having your four year old come home and explain what exactly a chrysalis is. And in the coming weeks, the children will be peeking in on their classroom caterpillars to see all they've learned happen right before their eyes.

This week, our children are very excited about their ongoing gardening experiments. The first is the boys' vegetable box, where they will watch their own radish plants grow. In fact, there are already a couple sprouting! In a separate flower box, the girls have planted snapdragons and zinnias and can't wait to see them come to life.

The morning started out with free play, with the kids bustling around, excited to start their day. Several of the students went straight for this week's sensory box, full of dry beans, digging tools and colorful flowers. Meanwhile, others were busy playing with cars, building blocks, and cooking up some delicious dishes in the kitchen. They all have such fun imaginations. When it was time to move on to the next activity, Maya was in charge of rounding up her classmates for circle time. To do this, she was in charge of ringing the class bell, one of the most sought after classroom "jobs." Word is, the boys especially like this job and can ring the bell loud enough to get anyone's attention!

Once every one helped clean up and sat down for circle time, they checked in on their radish plants, zinnias and snapdragons. Next, they started on their newest experiment, and you should've seen their eyes light up when Mrs. Fox explained. Six vases, all holding water dyed with vibrant colors were lined up along the table. Each student was given a white carnation and got to choose their favorite color and place their flower inside. They each were happy to choose their favorites... Josh, Sasha, and Tabitha chose green. Henry, Blair, and Maya chose purple. Levi and Alyssa chose orange. Parker's favorite was Red, Ada's was yellow, and Oliver's was blue. Over the next few days, the kids will get to see what happens as the white flowers soak up those colors. We have a feeling they're going to love seeing the results!

With their newest experiment underway, it was time for Josh to lead the class upstairs to music class. Mrs. Erwin had all the children captivated with fun songs about Spring today. First, a song about the sun, then another about the month of April, a new one about robins, then on to today's favorite... "Ten Little Speckled Frogs." They giggled as they sang along and repeated all the motions for the lyrics. They were especially happy to hold their noses for the funny "Glub Glub" part at the end. There isn't much cuter than a group of little children, sitting in big chairs, their feet dangling, smiling and singing along for such playful songs.

With more beautiful Spring weather today, it was the perfect time to head outside to play on the playground. Parker, Ada, Josh, Oliver and Henry all headed for the basketball goal. They may seem tiny now, but I'm sure they'll be shooting those baskets with ease before we know it. With a few high-fives and lots of giggling, they were having a great time. Alyssa and Blair had some impressive moves on the monkey bars, while Sasha and Tabitha were taking turns on the tube slide. Their classmates were off enjoying the sandbox, the swings, and the sunny morning weather. The class wrapped up their day with more fun inside, where they got to see and touch real worms. I'm told they were "slimy, silly, and tickly"

It's quite impressive watching our little ones go from one activity to the next at school with such confidence and ease. They've gotten into a nice routine and have made great friends this year. They've learned so much since they started in the Fall, and we will greatly miss Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Powell next year. They have taught our children much more than just the weekly topics and love our children like they're their own. It's no wonder our kids are so happy to hop out of the car for school each morning!



## Spring Book Fair

The Usborne book fair will be held at Duke Memorial from April 30 –May 2 in the Bradshaw Room. The book fair will be open during drop off and pick up times from 9am - 10am and 11:30am - 1pm. There will also be an online book fair during the first week of May. These are fantastic, high quality books for kids of all ages and you can get a sneak peek at them by going to [whatkidslovetoread.com](http://whatkidslovetoread.com). Please share the link with family, friends, and neighbors and encourage everyone to go online to purchase books – books make great gifts! If you have any questions please contact Lauren Kruse at [laurenkruse@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenkruse@hotmail.com)

## FIVE GUYS<sup>®</sup> BURGERS and FRIES

In April, we visited Five Guys for Dining Out. What an awesome way to round out the year! Tasty burgers, delicious fries and lots of laughs with friends! Thank you, Five Guys, for your generosity and commitment to the DMWS community.



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### Parent Council Final Thought of the Year

Parents' Council would like to thank all of the DMWS families and teachers for an amazing 2012 -2013 year! We raised a record amount of money and all benefited from a great sense of community. We are looking forward to another great year with our 2013-2014 officers:



President: Puttachart Kelly  
([puttachart.c.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:puttachart.c.kelly@gmail.com))  
Vice President: Beth Angle  
Secretary: Asha Patel  
Treasurer: Stephanie Wilson

### Reminder:



The Annual Durham Bulls outing will be on Sunday, May 19th. If you signed up to attend, tickets will come home in your child's tote. See you at the game!



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## Get Published!

The Parents Press is published throughout the school year by the DMWS Parents' Council. The first issue for the 2013-2014 school year will be published in September. If you'd like to submit information for the fall, please contact Allison Shultz by mid-August ([ajmckenney@gmail.com](mailto:ajmckenney@gmail.com)).