

THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | April 2017

Mark your Calendars:

- ✦ April 5 - Parents' Council Meeting
- ✦ April 6 - DOPA Parent Workshop
- ✦ April 7 - Book Mobile visit
- ✦ April 10 -14 - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- ✦ April 17 - Snow Make-Up Day
- ✦ April 17-21 Spirit Week
- ✦ April 22 - Spring Carnival & Silent Auction
- ✦ April 23 - DMWS Sings at Worship

Looking Ahead:

- ✦ May 3 - Parents' Council Meeting
- ✦ May 19- Last Day of Lunch Bunch
- ✦ May 24 - Last Day of School



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

Dear Parents,

April has arrived and DMWS will be a very busy place! Not only will we have our annual Spring Carnival and Silent Auction on April 22, we will also enjoy a visit from the storyteller and watch caterpillars turn into painted lady butterflies. On Sunday April 23, our music students will sing two songs in worship.

Spring Break will be April 10-14. When we return on April 17, we will observe Spirit Week leading up to our Carnival and Silent Auction. The children always enjoy the different themes chosen for each day-PJ Day and Wacky Day are certainly favorites! Check the April calendar sent by your child's teacher to find out more about each day's theme.

This year, DMWS will operate summer camp for two weeks, one in June and one in July. Limited spaces are available each week. Please contact the office if you need an application. Remember, the camps are open to rising three year olds through rising first graders. The camps run from 9am-12:30pm and children bring their own lunches.

Enjoy Spring!
Julie





IT'S HERE!

Spring Carnival 2017: Saturday, April 22nd

Come and join the Duke Memorial Weekday School Spring Carnival! The date has been set for Saturday, April 22nd, and the plans for FUN are in motion! This is our biggest fundraising event of the year. The Carnival will run from 10-12, but the auction and the playground won't close till 1pm.

Race tracks - Dance Parties - Tattoos - Face Paint - Pirates - Princesses - Inflatables - Carnival Games - Obstacle Courses - Good Food - Locopops - Prizes - and so much more!!

One wristband gets your kid unlimited carnival fun (kids under 2 & parents are FREE). Save the date and plan for a fun morning with friends! Wristband order forms will go home in your child's folder soon!

To make these games possible, we need YOU to volunteer your time! Carnival game shifts are 70 minutes long and will be lots of fun! Go to the link below to find a spot!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044AAFAB29A6FA7-dmws



The Auction Team Still Needs Your Help! (Please)

It is not to late to....

- + **DONATE** an item or service to the auction.
- + **SUGGEST** individuals or businesses who may be able to offer an item or service and **CONNECT** us.
- + **SET UP** the auction with our team on Friday, April 21.
- + **WORK** the auction itself on Saturday, April 22.

We can use all the help we can get! Please email Emma Willis (eschaufele@gmail.com) if you'd like to join our team or with any questions or suggestions.



A message from Mrs. Dixon

our new Kindergarten teacher...



When I was five years old, I started Kindergarten at an elementary school in Kingsport, Tennessee. My mom had taught there as a Kindergarten teacher for several years, and her very best friend taught Kindergarten next door. She was my teacher, Mrs. McMurray. I loved my mom and still do, but Mrs. McMurray was...magical. In my eyes, she was a fairy godmother. She had golden hair that she always wore in a French twist or bun. Every afternoon, during "nap time", she would braid all the girls' hair. She was kind and loving to everyone, and she made me believe there was no better job on earth than that of a Kindergarten teacher.

I remember so much about that year of school. It was a wondrous adventure every day. There are so many experiences I can recall: making stone soup, bringing my Michael Jackson Thriller album for show and tell, our end of year play, and best of all, standing on a classroom table in a dress my grandmother made me while my class sang "Happy Birthday". I have so many, many more of these treasured memories from that year.

Unfortunately, no other year hit that same mark. Talk about peaking early! However painful the rest of my school experiences were, I had seen what could be. I decided that if given the opportunity to teach young children I would pay Mrs. McMurray's gift forward.

I am so excited to begin teaching Kindergarten at DMWS. It's a position that I take with pride and a little fear, which I think is a healthy approach. My goal is to create experiences in my class that excite and engage my students. I want them to have fun learning, and value their creativity and thinking. I want to encourage their kindness and celebrate their achievements. I hope to create a year for each student that they will remember fondly.

I also want to take this opportunity to say to Mrs. Eva and Mrs. Perkins as well as the rest of the staff at DMWS, that I truly value your experience and support. Mrs. Eva was my son's Kindergarten teacher, and I thought she and Mrs. Perkins did an amazing job. He loved his Kindergarten experiences and his teachers. The dedication and loyalty that both of these women have given to DMWS has been invaluable. I fully understand that I have some big shoes to fill, and I promise to do my very best to continue their legacy.

-Mrs. Dixon



Diaper Drive

Thank you all for your generous donations to the Diaper Bank of North Carolina.

Thanks to you, 724 diapers and 216 wipes were collected. So many babies and young children will benefit because of DMWS. Thank you again!



THANK YOU!

DMWS has recently purchased and installed new blinds in our classrooms. Blinds were purchased using money given to the school by our Parents' Council.



Many thanks to **Evan Travis, his parents,** and **Brad Johnson** for removing the old blinds and installing the new ones for us.

Tuition Reminder

Please remember that tuition is due on the first of each month and past due if not paid by the tenth. Payment may be made on-line by credit card through our website or by check/cash.



Also remember that May 2017 payments were part of your registration deposit.

Spirit Week

April 17-21st is Spirit Week! We want all the kids to get excited about the Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 22nd, so let's kick off the week with a little bit of fun!

Monday- *PJ day*

Tuesday- *Silly Sock Day*

Wednesday- *Wacky Tacky Day*

Thursday- *Favorite Team Day*

Friday- *DMWS gear*



Classroom Spotlight: Ms. Miller and Ms. Johnson's 2 day 3s

I had the great pleasure of spending time with our favorite "Friendly Fishes" led by our wonderful and witty Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Johnson. After swimming upstream in the colorful hallway after being dropped off by their amazing parents, they swim straight, then veer left past the elevator. They hear the voices of their teachers: "keep swimming, keep swimming, you are almost there!" The Friendly Fishes finally arrive at the classroom with a quick squirt of sanitizer and they are off to the races. Looking for the hook that has their names above it, they hang their bags and coat -- caught for a few hours of fun and learning!

The fishes find their friends playing at the block section, the Little People town, dress up, or looking at books. There's a little something for everyone. The fishes laugh, play and learn to work together. Then Mrs. Miller says, "What colors do you find in a rainbow?" The little fishes respond with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple and "I don't know." All of them are excited about learning their colors.

The fishes continued with their busyness, playing with playdoh, easel painting, and coloring alphabet blocks. Unfortunately, the cold and windy weather kept our littles fishes inside today. However, they were so busy and having so much fun no one noticed. It was St. Patrick's Eve: "Hurry fishes! Sit down and listen to our book about this special holiday." We were hoping to catch the leprechaun this year, but we were one day too early. He was very kind, though, and left us a secret scavenger map.



We must all go on this journey to find the pot of gold! The friendly fishes excitedly swam down the hallway, looking for the colors of the rainbow and discovering shamrocks that the leprechaun left us. The fishes were so excited as they found shamrocks and every color represented in the rainbow. The fishes swam down the hall, to the left and to right, up the stairs. Along the way, they collected their treasure. Finally, we arrived at the location and there was a pot of gold! Everyone was so surprised...and generously divided their spoils from the hunt once they got back to the classroom.



After the scavenger hunt, all of the fishes were hungry. It was time to make our special snack: rainbow fruit salad! We put all of our fruit in a bowl and stirred with our fins. The best part of the fruit salad was eating it -- "yummy, yummy in our tummies!" With new energy from our food, we had one more craft of putting small color squares on our very sticky rainbow. We finished the craft just as the bell rang.

"Okay, fish, please grab your coats, bags and line up for carline!"

Wow -- it was a busy, fun, exciting and exhausting day for everyone. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Johnson do an incredible job and make learning so much fun!

-Joana Krzmarzick



Around DMWS





DID YOU KNOW?

- During our March teacher workdays, teachers enjoyed workshops on Foundations for Literacy (pre-k/k) and Teaching Young Children with Speech and Language Challenges (2/3).
- Many of our students made wonderful Leprechaun traps this year. We ALMOST caught him!
- The DOPA parent workshop on March 20 was well attended by parents from Durham County preschools.
- In April, each class will receive a cup containing 5 painted lady butterfly caterpillars. Watching the transformation to butterfly is a highlight of the year!



Classroom Spotlight: Ms. Lowder and Ms. Alkin's 3 day 2's

Spring has sprung and the students in Mrs. Lowder and Mrs. Alkins 3 day 2's class have been busy as bees learning all about this exciting season! During my visit, the kids were learning about the colors of the rainbow through song, while making a rainbow paperchain. It was exciting to hear all the playful voices as they sang the song "O' Rainbow" (to the tune of "O' Christmas Tree") out loud naming each of the colors, "...purple, red, and orange too...yellow, green, and blue so true!" The fun did not stop there. Next, the kids learned about color mixing and admittedly, this is when I became fearful of a room full of 2 and 3 year olds with paint. I



quickly envisioned the room speckled with paint and the kids experimenting with their favorite color truly testing the effectiveness their parent's stain fighting laundry detergent. However, it was quite the opposite. These patient and wonderful teachers did not even flinch and showed the kids how they can make their own colors with just three colors. The kids were attentive and eager to see what color they could create by mixing red and yellow or blue and yellow or even more fun, all the colors together! Of course, many of the kids enjoyed creating the color brown, since they were able to mix all the colors together! I now know why my son is always smiling and humming on the way to and from school! I left the room with a huge smile on my face and throughout the day I found myself humming, "oh rainbow oh rainbow"! It was such a fun and energetic morning watching these little children enjoy their school routine and having such a fun time learning and playing together.

-Tracey Hawkins



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.



Preschool Calendar

Durham and Orange County Preschools operate on a September through May schedule with few exceptions. Tuition is calculated for the year and billed differently according to policies at individual schools. Some preschools require payment by the year or by the semester.

At DMWS, we have opted to split the yearly tuition into 9 equal payments to make it easy for families to budget. Although your child does not attend school the exact same number of days each month, payments remain the same.

Area preschools tend to start classes after Labor Day each fall. For fall 2017, DMWS will be starting school for students on **Wednesday, September 6th** with Parent Orientation held on **Tuesday, September 5th**. Families will receive class assignments and information about the beginning of school in mid-July via email.



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.

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.



Get Published!



The Parents' Press is published throughout the school year by DMWS Parents' Council. Please send submissions to dmwsparentspress@gmail.com. The submission deadline for the May newsletter is April 24th.

In addition to information about DMWS, the Parents' Press offers space to advertise your small business. The fee to advertise is \$5.