



# Kindergarten Highlights



## A Look from April to May

### Happenings

It's hard to believe that we are entering our last full month of kindergarten but we are seeing tremendous growth in all areas of the children's development! We look forward to sharing our observations concerning your individual child at our Parent-Teacher Conferences on Friday, May 27th at your scheduled time. *There will be no school for Pre-K or kindergartners that day* but the rest of the school is in session for a regular school day.

We've spent some time recently talking about plants, seeds, life cycles, and other signs of spring. As the trees bloom and flowers begin to come up, we are naturally fascinated by the changes we see around us. We discussed how plants grow (some above ground, some below, some both!), what they need in order to grow, and what they provide us with. We planted some seeds in a special container that allows us to see their roots, and we are happy to report we already have radishes, carrots, and onions growing! We also discussed a butterfly's life cycle, and read books about various types of gardens and weather. As we move into May we will continue to elaborate on these themes with nature walks, science projects, and time spent exploring our planet.

There are many important dates to remember! This newsletter will serve as your official news source regarding future events involving the kindergarten as our year is wrapping up more quickly than we would like to think! So much to do in so little time! Be sure to look for a special card and gift coming home in the near future in celebration of our moms!

### Language

During reading teams, the students are working on blending letters, reading comprehension, and learning more sight words in longer and more challenging books. As we move into the end of the year, we are encouraging students to become more independent as they work. This includes writing words by sounding them out themselves, focusing on their work and completing it without assistance, as well as doing parts of their daily routine without teacher or parent intervention.

There is so much excitement surrounding the transition to first grade, but with that excitement often comes anxiety about the changes taking place. Please begin talking to your child now about their feelings. We will visit the first grade classrooms after we sing in chapel at the end of May to lessen the children's anxieties about what it will be like next year. This has traditionally been a very popular day!

### Monthly Virtue

#### Hope

"Hope springs eternal." Truer words have never been spoken in Kindergarten. Children are refreshing in their sense of wonder and hopefulness that seems to awaken anew with them each day. As we cultivate this virtue in our children, we bring life to their ideas, dreams, and daily activities. In a culture that is frequently filled with despair or indifference, hope within our children gives light to our future!

## math

As we welcome May, your child will be bringing home their May calendar. Simply talking about upcoming events is a great way to build on math skills. Be sure to display your child's calendar at home where he/she can mark the passage of time. This is also an important concept for children to understand. You and your child may even want to create a countdown to summer vacation or some other exciting event in their life. It's really fun to create paper chain links and allow your child to remove one link per day as a form of count down to a very special day!

We have also begun to work with fractions. Using play-doh and stories, we introduced this concept so they may acquire a basic understanding of halves, thirds, quarters, and beyond! Dividing food into various fractions is particularly fun at this age and you can discuss fractions or "parts of the whole" when you get your next pizza, cut a sandwich or peel an orange and separate the sections!



## Special News!

On April 25, 2011, Mrs. Lange and her husband welcomed their first child into the world.

Maxwell Rylan Lange weighed 7lbs 5oz, and will hopefully be visiting us later in the year so we can meet the friend who's been kicking away all these months!

Congratulations to them!

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>:** Current PreK parents visit the Kindergarten from 8:30 til 9:15am.

**Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Current Kindergarten parents are encouraged to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms to get acquainted from 8:15am til 9am.

**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>:** The Kindergarten will sing for the entire student body and guests during our annual Chapel appearance first thing in the morning! The children will need to be in the classroom *no later than 8:05am* as we will proceed to the Chapel next door for the performance at 8:10am. Chapel begins 8:15 so get here early if you would like to get a seat because they are very limited. Refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall and everyone is invited to attend! Hope to see you all there!

**Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>:** **KINDERGARTEN PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES!** We are beginning to schedule our end-of-the-year conferences so please let us know if you need to request a specific time slot for that day. *There will be no school for kindergartners that day* but the rest of the school is in session. We will finalize the conference schedule by Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> so please let us know of any special requests by then.

**Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>:** **NO SCHOOL... MEMORIAL DAY**

**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** **END-OF-THE-YEAR Splash Party...** We will be sending out the details on this fun day in future announcements but plan on joining us for lunch on the play deck!

**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** **St. Edmund's PTA Carnival...6pm** on the school grounds.

**Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>:** Last day of school... Noon dismissal

**Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>:** SEA Kennywood day