New school year to begin on August 21

Our 2019–2020 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 21st. Our graduates will be off to new kindergarten adventures, but not before we have a great end of summer celebration (see below)! Families and children continuing in our program can expect to meet new faces, see some environmental changes in classrooms, and have plenty of opportunities to introduce new friends to the fun of school! Our teachers will be in professional development trainings on August 19 & 20, then they will be ready to welcome new classroom communities together beginning on Wednesday. View this year’s Family Handbook.

SPECIAL EVENT: End of Summer Celebration!

Chef Mark will be in Town Square for a family sing-a-long to celebrate the end of summer on Thursday, August 15th at 3:30. Pick up your children and join us for music and singing fun!

yoga study

Our partners at the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy recently completed a study in our preschool classrooms to determine if yoga improves emotion knowledge and executive function. They found that while all children improved in emotion recognition and executive function, the kids actively receiving yoga did not show greater improvements. It is possible this may be because our children are already using deep breathing as a tool for self-regulation, therefore there was increase because of the strategies already in place within their classroom. Click here to see the image in more detail.

Are we asking our kids too many simple questions?

Executive Director Dr. Laura Justice co-authored a study examining the questions that preschool teachers ask children while reading together. They found that, overall, teachers asked too many simple questions. The study suggests that teachers and parents alike should ask more sophisticated “why” and “how-procedural” questions, and give children the time to think and stretch their language skills. Read more here.
LITERACY TIPS

Prediction is an important early literacy skill that helps children improve their reading comprehension. Students use their knowledge from books they have previously read to predict what will happen based on the title of the books, the illustrations on the cover, and the beginning of the story. Use the tips below to help your child make predictions as you are reading.

- **After you read the title of the book, talk with your child about the illustrations on the cover.** Ask your child questions such as, “I see that the title of this book is *Chalk* and there is a picture of a dinosaur on the cover. What do you think is going to happen in this story?”

- **As you read, take time to pause and talk with your child about the things that have happened in the story and then ask your child what they think will happen next.** You could say something like, “When the children drew with the yellow and orange chalk, their pictures came to life. What do you think is going to happen when the boy draws with the green chalk? What do you think the dinosaur is going to do?”

- **After you read the story, reflect with your child on the events that have happened.** Talk about what happened first in the story, then talk about what happened next and then talk about the ending of the story. Have your child make a prediction about what they think might happen after the story ends. You could say something like, “The children left the chalk in the dinosaur’s mouth at the end. What do you think might happen next?” You can prompt your child by asking questions such as, “Do you think someone else might find the chalk?” or “Do you think the chalk will make things come to life for other people?”

- **For younger children and those who do not yet feel comfortable in making predictions, you can help them along by making your own predictions and talking through them with your child.** Talk about how you use the words and illustrations in the story to come up with your predictions.

The best way to help your child as they build their prediction skills is to ask open-ended questions and give them a few minutes to think about their response. Remember that when you have fun with reading, your child will enjoy the activity as well.

KASS FAMILY BOOK CLUB GIVEAWAY

Don’t forget to get this month’s Kass Family Book Club selection from your child’s mailbox in Town Square!

INFANT & TODDLER FAMILIES
Look for *From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle. Explore different ways to move like an animal as you read this silly story with your child.

PRESCHOOL FAMILIES
Look for *Dear Dragon* by Josh Funk. Being a pen pal is so exciting, but what would you do if your pen pal turned out to be a dragon?

EVENTS

**END OF SUMMER FAMILY SING-A-LONG**
Thursday, August 15 at 3:30 in Town Square
Join us as Chef Mark leads us in music fun!

**SCHOOL CLOSED**
Monday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 20
Professional development

**WEINLAND PARK COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**
Saturday, August 17 from 12:00–3:00pm
Don’t forget! Join us, along with other local community organizations, in the park behind the school for live music, free food, kids’ bounce houses, face painting, basketball, and cornhole tournaments! *For more details, see the next page.*

**COFFEE TALK**
Tuesdays from 7:30am – 9:00am
Drop off your child and enjoy coffee and a snack with staff and other families in the library.

**FAMILY STORYTIME IN THE LIBRARY**
Wednesdays from 4:45pm – 5:20pm
Join us on Wednesday afternoons for Family Storytime! Starting at 4:45 in the library, we have stories, songs, and yummy snacks! During the month of August, we will be reading stories about Bears, Dragons, and Sharks! Check the board on Miss Kari’s desk to see what we will be reading each week!
WEINLAND PARK FESTIVAL

sponsored by the Weinland Park Community Civic Association

Saturday
August 17
Noon—3pm

Live Reggae Music by Seefari & His Band
Free food
Kids bounce house
Hamster balls

Children’s games
Face-painting & raffles
CPO basketball tourney
Information tables
Corn hole tourney

Sign up to volunteer at signup.com/go/xqEoFfp

Feel the Island Vibe with a free lei!

Tropical drinks for sale!

Wear your Hawaiian or tropical shirt!

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