



SPECIAL NEWS AND NOTES

7/4—CENTER CLOSED

7/10—EVENING STAFF MEETING 5:30 PM

7/11 & 8/8—BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS 4 PM

7/17—ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC AT MCKINNEY PARK 5:30-7 PM

7/24 & 8/21—FUND DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS 12N (THE 8/21 IS A RESCHEDULE)

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Hello Families!

Dirt, mud, sand, gooey stuff, and puddles. What do these things have in common? Besides being glorious, fun, disgusting things, studies have shown that playing with dirt actually helps build a child's immune system. Like muscles, the immune system needs to be trained to work effectively. Training the immune system requires the introduction of germs.

In our society, everything is sterilized, pasteurized, purified, and germified (ok, I made up that last word). We use antibacterial soaps and hand sanitizers. We wipe down grocery carts. We buy items that are guaranteed not to house bacteria. We do these things so that we do not get sick, and many of these are a great idea. But we are missing the opportunities to let our children explore the natural elements and get dirty.

International Mud Day was June 29th. This day, which started in Nepal, is a celebration of all that is childhood. The day encourages exploration and sensory experiences in the natural world. We chose not to participate on that day due to our Crossing the Bridge Ceremony. We didn't think it was a good idea to let our preschool children get filthy before all the photos are taken! Instead, classrooms participated in the days previous to the 29th. See our Facebook page for some fun photos!

Regardless of whether or not we participate in International Mud Day, we know how important it is that children explore nature. We give them opportunities to touch, smell, and eat vegetables that are growing in our playground. We let them feel the dirt and sand, squish the mud between their fingers, and enjoy the outdoors. And yes, sometimes they may actually eat the dirt. Of course we won't encourage that, but we know that in allowing them to explore and get dirty, we are stimulating and training their immune systems so that things do not go awry when they are adults.

Enjoy your summer and don't forget to get dirty!

Colleen Coro, Executive Director

Celebrating
each child's
journey.

Honeybees

Ashley, Deb, Wendy, Barb, and Acacia

This summer the Honeybees are all about fun! Curriculum themes for the young toddlers will be **Animals** and **Summer**. We will be doing several art projects as well as flannel board stories involving all types of animals. Look out for the Honeybees artwork displays around the room—they work hard on their creative art pieces!

The children will be using all sorts of toy animals to paint with, as well as sponges, frozen paint and marble painting. They will also be doing outside artwork and sun catchers to decorate our windows. These will show how creative the Honeybees are!

The Honeybee library will also consist of books about animals and summer. The library is one of the Honeybees favorite places to hang out. It is very important that the room have books that the babies enjoy looking at to keep their interest in them. Some of the books that will be in the library are Old MacDonald Had a Farm by Nosy Crow, **Animal Noises** by Usborne Farmyard Tales, Baby Animals by Macmillan Childrens Books, and Wild Animals by Claire Page.

Parents, please bring in swimsuits and summer clothing. It is very warm outside so we will be spending a lot of time

outdoors. We will even bring out the water table for the Honeybees to play in. This is a perfect opportunity for babies to bathe their babies!.

The Honeybees would like to say a sad goodbye to Cayson and Hazel, and their families, as they both move up to the Caterpillar room. Cayson will be moving up in July and Hazel will be moving up in August. We will miss both of them very much.

Lastly, we would like to wish Addy a happy 1st birthday. She will celebrate on July 28th. Happy Birthday Addy!!

Ladybugs

Lisa, Becca, & Ashlee

Our curriculum themes for July and August will be **Summer** and **Creative Art**.

The Ladybugs will participate in a lot of water and sensory play. Most of our creative art projects, such as painting, coloring with markers and stickers, will be done outside so the children can explore their creativity in a different environment. We will also be taking trips to the fountain at Centennial Park, and to

the Little Gather Program at the Corning Museum of Glass on Wednesdays.

The Ladybugs would like to wish a Happy 2nd Birthday to Serenity on July 10th, Lucas Sullivan on July 22nd, and James on July 25th!

Reminders: Please bring in swimsuits, water shoes, and towels for your child. We will be participating in many water activities throughout the sum-

mer.

Dates to Remember: July 4th– the center is closed.



Caterpillars

Summer is finally here! Welcome to July and August Caterpillar Families! For the next two months we will be combining our curriculum to give the children ample time to explore our theme of **Summer Fun** and **The Great Outdoors**.

During the next two months, the children will be discovering and exploring the various aspects of summer through a variety of indoor and outdoor activities and projects. We are going to be making the most of this beautiful and warm weather by spending majority of our time outside! We will be taking trips to the "Little Gather" program at CMOG, as well as the foun-

tain! Please look out for special notes on precious status, as well as in the classroom so that you can stay up to date on when these special trips will be taking place. Parents and family members are more than welcome to attend these fun activities with the children!

We will also be making a variety of summer treats as a class to share during snack time. These include "campfire snacks," fruit salad, and trail mix. We will be exploring messy art such as table painting, outside painting, and painting with materials found from nature. The

Ally, Alyssa, & Cierra

children will have the opportunity to explore sensory materials such as water, sand, dirt, mud, slime, and playdoh!

Please remember to check your child's cubby to ensure they have enough extra clothing for when we do messy art and messy sensory play. For trips to the fountain and for outside water play we will need a swimsuit, water shoes, and a towel. If your child does not have these items in their cubby, we encourage you to bring them in. As always, thank you for being so responsive and providing your children with the extra things they need to have a great (and often messy) day!



*Celebrating
each child's
journey.*

Butterflies

It's July and the Butterflies are happy to welcome summer! We will be playing in the water outside as much as possible. Please make sure your child has a bathing suit, towel, and **water shoes** in their cubby. Just a reminder to please keep close-toed shoes in your child's cubby for outside play. Please remember **NO** flip flops of any kind. If you bring sandals in for your child, please make sure they have a strap and can **only** be worn in the classroom.

Over the next few weeks, we will be engaged in Social/Emotional curriculum. We will be focusing on **Empathy**, **Friendship**, and **Emotions**. For the rest of July and Au-

gust, the curriculum will be **Summer Fun**. This will include a focus on **picnics**, **camping**, **water**, **aquatic animals**, and various summer activities. While focusing on these topics, we will still be including the remainder of the Scott Foresman and other literacy curriculums. We will also have a special week of silliness called **Crazy Week** in August.

Throughout the summer we will be working on many fun projects and hope to take some field trips. Be on the lookout for permission slips, as we hope to go to Little Gather at CMOG beginning July 11th, and the Fountain. We also hope to take trips to

Kristen, Deb, & Lauren

Aniello's and an ice cream store to celebrate common summer activities.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to our Butterflies: Pearson on July 31st and Willow on August 22nd

We will sadly say goodbye to Willow and Pearson as they become Dragonflies! We wish Owen good luck at his new school! We will also say goodbye for now to Evan, but will see him soon in the fall! Good luck to all of you!!

The Butterflies wish all of you a safe and happy summer. Stay cool!



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Dragonflies

Mary Grace, Danielle, & Caitlin

The summer will be filled with lots of meaningful experiences and learning for the children. We will take weekly trips to Corning Museum of Glass for the Little Gather shows throughout July and August. We will also go on several trips to Centennial Park to play in the fountain on warmer days throughout the summer.

The children will have the privilege of watching the life cycle of praying mantis! We received the protective egg case (called an ootheca) which houses dozens of eggs. We will

watch the egg case in anticipation for up to 12 weeks before the nymphs, or tiny praying mantises, burst out of the egg case. They will be hungry and ready to eat so we will immediately release all of them except for 3 or 4. We will care for the remaining nymphs as they grow into adult mantises. Great learning will take place!

We will continue the NY State Common Core for ELA and Math throughout the summer. Our curriculum units for July and August will be *Habitats*. The *Habitats* unit gives the children the opportunity to review

and integrate the knowledge they acquired during the *Plants* and *Animals* units. The children will learn that habitats are places where plants and animals interact. The specific habitats we will focus on are woodlands, pond, ocean, desert, and farm. We will learn essential information about the various habitats through trade books such as *Here is the Southwestern Desert*, *In the Woods: Who's Been Here?*, and *Life in a Pond*.

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Health & Safety Notes

Sandy Nevius

According to the Centers For Disease Control, children are at a higher risk for Lyme disease because they typically spend a lot of time outdoors. While we don't want to keep our children indoors to avoid Lyme disease, we should know how to protect them. Tips offered by the CDC include:

*Using insect repellent containing 20-30% DEET

*Having your child bathe or shower as soon as possible after outdoor play

*Look for ticks on their bodies. They can hide under armpits, behind knees, in hair, and in the groin

*Put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 60 minutes to kill any remaining ticks.

Reasons to suspect that your child may have Lyme disease include:

*Your family lives in or has visited a region where Lyme disease is commonly found

*You know or suspect that your child has been exposed to ticks

*Your child is experiencing symptoms like rash, fever, chills, fatigue, joint or muscle pain, or facial paralysis
Children sometimes experience joint pain as their first, and possibly only symptom of

Lyme disease. If you suspect that your child may have Lyme disease, the CDC recommends that you seek care promptly.

*Don't forget to protect your pets as well!

You can find additional information about Lyme disease at:

1. www.cdc.gov/Lyme

2. cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/43/9/1089.full

3. www.ct.gov/caes/documents/special_features/tickhandbook.pdf

Special Notes

We need your support!!

Ready, Set, Grow will be hosting the fund development event:

Beer, Cheer and Dance

at Carey's Brew House

on September 8th!

You can help us make the event successful by helping to find sponsors, donors, and attendees.

Please talk with your employer about sponsoring this fundraising event!

(Dragonfly notes continued:)

It is important for the children to be able to detect and manipulate individual sounds in words for future success in reading and reading. Therefore, we will continue practicing letter names and letter sounds through child-friendly activities such as dictating stories, playing matching games, and learning additional sound pictures.

Happy Birthday to Nolan, Theo, and Paul T.

We wish Nolan, Jameson, Emalyn, and Braden well in kindergarten. We also wish Alejandra, Hunter, and Andy well in their endeavors in other pre-k programs. We will miss you all!

We warmly welcome Pearson and Willow to the Dragonfly family!

Ready, Set, Grow

Child Care Center



Celebrating each child's journey

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