

# Southminster

## Early Learning Academy News



April Showers Bring May Flowers



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Volume 20, Issue 6

April/May 2019

### *From Michele*

In May and June, we will celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the enormity of the task parenting brings to all of us. There is no greater joy in life than that of parenthood. At the same time, there is no harder job either. We never stop loving or hurting for our children, even as they grow older and grow away from us towards lives of their own.

How we parent is constantly changing based on the age and needs of our children. Just in this school year alone it is amazing to see how much your children have changed and grown since September. Each one of them is ready to move on to new things and to take on new challenges. Of course, as they are ready to take on more challenges we too should be ready for what their changes may be and how it will impact our lives. We watch our children go through many different stages and phases throughout their lives. Just as we successfully navigate through one phase, we are already being put through another change. Change often is a difficult time in our lives and in the lives of our children. Change can cause a lot of stress in our lives. Change can be big, like a move or the birth of a baby, while other changes can be small and occur almost daily. One thing we know for sure is that change is a process that is the ending of one thing and the beginning of something different. How we manage these changes is what will determine how successful the outcomes will be.

When dealing with our children and their ever changing needs and personalities, we need to realize that the way we did things before or even last week may not work the same way; we may need to step out of our comfort zone and explore different solutions. We as parents need to grow and change right along with our children.

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### APAT NEWS

Happy Spring!

Thank you to everyone who came to Carnival Night. The kids had a great time running around playing games and making crafts.

While there are no APAT events planned for April, the End of Year Picnic is May 9th at Mt Lebanon Park. Look for emails with more information towards the end of the month. Also keep an eye out for information regarding Teacher Appreciation Week, which is the first week of May.

We hope you all have a great spring break and Easter!

Amy, Jessica, and Shannon  
APAT Co-Chairs



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What I am trying to say here is that when raising children we are constantly going through change, sometimes more quickly than others. As our children grow they need us for many things, but they also begin doing things for themselves. Just when we figure out how to cope with our preschooler we find ourselves with a grade school student, who requires a little less help and a little less supervision as they become more independent and begin to move out into the bigger world without us. What we need to remember is that ultimately what we want for our children is for them to grow into independent, decision making adults. In order for this to happen we need to step back and allow our children to make choices throughout their lives. Sometimes we need to allow them to make mistakes and learn from these mistakes. If we always try to control our children so they won't feel disappointment, we are not showing them that we trust them to make good choices. Allowing our children to make choices lets them know that we trust them and believe in them. Not that this is easy, but as your children get older and begin to leave home you realize that their ability to make big decisions began long ago with the little decisions and choices you allowed them the opportunity to make. It is in our nature as parents to want to look out for our children and to protect them. Except the problem with that way of thinking is that someday the time will come when you have to let them go off on their own, without you, and you have to trust that you have done your job and prepared them for their journey. You have to know that you raised them to be independent so that when this day comes, they will be ready for it.

If I have any regrets while raising my children, it has been the times when I have been overprotective and have not allowed them to make decisions that they were capable of making. Of course when children are young we need to make many decisions for them because they are not capable of making them for themselves. Making decisions in their best interest, teaching them through our example, impressing upon them our values, then eventually taking a step back and allowing them the freedom to fly on their own. With our support and the confidence in knowing that through baby steps we have arrived with them at a point in their lives when they are ready to tackle this big, wonderful world on their own.

If the ultimate goal of raising children is to raise independent, self-sufficient adults then we have to remember that raising them is a process ultimately leading to this goal. Supporting them throughout their lives, advising them when we can and stepping away when we need to is an important, and at times, very difficult process. There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to raising our children. Children need to be loved, respected and nurtured. Savor this time with your children. The time goes by so fast.

Thank you for a wonderful year. We have enjoyed your children so much and thank you all for sharing them with us.

Have a wonderful summer,

*-- Michele*

### **NEW PHONE NUMBER!!!**

Southminster Early Learning Academy has a new phone number. You will no longer need to go through the church office to reach us. Please update your contacts and begin using this number!



## **412-770-8095**

## APRIL/MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15-22	No school Happy Spring Break
April 29	Open House 6-7:30 details to follow
April 29 or 30	Science-bugs
May 2	4's and Pre-K only field trip to the children's museum-details to follow
May 9	APAT end of year picnic
May 14	Science 4's and Pre-K only -ART
May 17	Last day of school

### Two Day Two's

We cannot believe we are coming to the end of our school year so soon! It seems impossible, until we look at photos of the kids from earlier in the school year, and realize how much they've grown. They continue to amaze us with how much they are all saying now and how much more interactively they play with each other!

In April and May, we will focus on growth and change by studying butterflies, bugs, and plants. We'll read lots of books about plants and how they grow, and do fun projects like planting seeds for our hands-on approach. We'll also use everybody's favorite book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to jumpstart a unit on butterflies. Our sensory table will be packed with bugs (friendly ones!) so we can go on a bug hunt every day.

We'll also spend as much time as we can on the playground, and just enjoying our friendships.

Thank you as always for sharing your precious children with us. We have so much fun together!

Mrs. Guenther and Mrs. Gilberg



### Two Day Three's / Three Day Three's

Hello Families!

Moving on to April and full throttle into spring! Thank you for attending the Spirit of Music program with your child. What a joy to see the children moving and grooving with parents, grandparents, and caregivers; we are so proud of their accomplishments this year!

The new shape is the oval and the color of purple will adorn the crazy caterpillar. Please take a moment to search for this shape in your home and be sure to bring in a purple item for your child to glue onto the caterpillar. Our caterpillar will change into a chrysalis this month.

This month and in May we will talk about signs of spring: changes in the weather, growing plants, and the lifecycle of a butterfly. We will play in the mud and plant seeds. We are happy the warmer weather allows outdoor playtime again!

Kindest Regards,

Mrs. Tischuk, Mrs. Zappone and Mrs. Findle



## Parent/Tot

Our little class looks forward to enjoying our Spring Days sharing and learning new skills. The past months of school have brought amazing progress to the growing students. We have made friends and had fun together. This little group has become very special to this “old” teacher and I can’t wait to witness all the great things they master.

Mrs. Nave

## Three Day Three’s

We had a great time in March learning all about clothing! We practiced doing buttons and zippers, learned about the different types of clothes we wear to do different things and lots more!

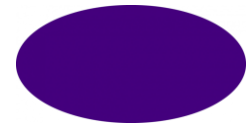
We also concentrated on the color blue and the diamond shape. We did many painting projects including putting sponges, yarn, pipe cleaners, felt, pom poms and more on the end of clothes pins and using them to paint!

The All School Party was great fun as Mrs. Brado read us “Splatter” and “Snippets” and we did an art project related to the books and even had cookies shaped like splatters and snippets! :-)

In April we will learn all about birds, the oval shape and the color purple. Check the calendar for our spring break dates!

And, it’s hard to believe but after April we will be wrapping up our school year! In May we will focus on the ocean, the star shape and the color yellow.

Mrs. Cozzens and Mrs. Hannan



## Three Day Four’s

Jellyfish, clownfish, sharks oh my! The 3 day 4’s put on our scuba gear and explored the ocean. In our travels we discovered starfish, sea turtles, dolphins, clownfish, jellyfish, and sharks to name a few. In our group discussions we learned these sea creatures enjoy living in salt water. As we swam through each ocean, we learned some groups of fish travel in large groups called, “schools.” One student made an observation the school of fish like to travel just like our class through the hallways of SELA. If you swim passed our bulletin board, you will see the sea creatures the class created in our maker space using all recycled items.

The 3 day 4’s is excited to share more creations from our free art center and maker space for April’s Open House. In May our class will travel to the Children’s Museum for our Spring Field Trip. Our class will continue to use their imaginations and part take in their makerspace.

Mrs. Nalitz and Mrs. Frederick



## Four Day Four's

Spring has finally arrived! The 4 day 4s have enjoyed the beautiful changing weather and our playground days. During March, we have been studying oceans. We have used books, discussions, and hands-on activities to learn about various sea creatures and why the ocean is important. We also discussed ways we can protect the ocean-one of which is recycling and reusing. We used that concept and created a collaborative undersea scene using recycled materials. You can check it out at our Open House at the end of April. In April, we will be studying life cycles. We will focus on butterflies and will have the opportunity to watch some emerge from their chrysalises. This is a big hit with the kids. To wrap up the year, in May we will be studying dinosaurs. It has been a privilege playing, growing, and learning with your children this year. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Mrs. Kontos and Mrs. Moses



## Pre-K

It's hard to believe it is already spring! We have enjoyed some beautiful days on the playground with the Pre-K kids and hope you have been able to get out too. Our March study focused on oceans. We have spent time learning about various sea creatures and why oceans are important. We also talked about ways that we can protect the ocean-one of which is recycling. We then created a collaborative undersea scene from recycled materials. You will be able to check it out at our open house at the end of April. In April, we will be studying life cycles with a focus on butterflies. The kids always enjoy the live butterflies that we get to see emerge from chrysalises during this study. In May, we will wrap up the year with a study of dinosaurs. It has been a privilege learning and growing with your children this year. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Mrs. Kontos, Mrs. Moses and Mrs. Frederick



## Camp Information

**May 28-31 –Tuesday-Friday 9:00-11:30 (Jungle Adventure)**

**June 3-6 –Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:30 (At the Beach)**

**More information coming home soon. Look for forms to come home in your child's box. Children currently enrolled in our 3's, 4's and Pre-K classes are eligible to join us for camp.**

## Kindergarten Enrichment

In April, Kindergarten Enrichment will visit our final continent, Australia. We will begin by studying the Great Barrier Reef and find out why it is so important. Next, we will focus on the Aboriginal people who are the native Australians. The students will look at traditional Aboriginal art and create some of their own. We will also spend some time learning about marsupials and study the many marsupials indigenous to Australia. Our month will wrap up by looking at the unique Sydney Opera House, one of Australia's most distinctive landmarks.

May will be a month of maps. The kids will examine all kinds of maps; topographic maps, population maps, weather maps, street maps, and even traffic maps. We will create maps of our rooms, homes, houses, or schools. We will put our map skills to the test as we work to locate each of our houses on a map of Mt. Lebanon.

Our last major science project of the year will be a ladybug investigation. We will raise and observe ladybugs moving through their life cycle and record what we see in our science journals. With the weather turning warmer, the students will be able to release the grown ladybugs in the garden.

The kindergarten enrichment students have been a curious, fun, insightful group this year! We hope they enjoyed enrichment as much as we enjoyed them!

Mrs. Guenther and Mrs. Gallo



## Eat + Play = Learn

Wow! What a fun March we had in EPL! We made crowns to celebrate Mardi Gras and Leprechaun masks for St Patrick's Day. We learned about Rainbows and did a walking rainbow experiment that the kids loved!

Pete the Cat visited and we searched for his missing buttons around the classroom and "rocked out" with the guitars we made.

April will bring dinosaurs to our classroom! We will make fossils and learn fun facts about our favorite ones. We will also learn about the artist Dale Chihuly and recreate some of his iconic works of art.

In May we will spend our time together talking about the ocean, beach and all our fun plans for summer!

It has been a wonderful year! We will truly miss our friends who are graduating and heading to kindergarten!

Thanks again for sharing your little ones with us!

Mrs. Gilberg  
Mrs. McCormick  
Mrs. Zappone

## Music

I hope you all enjoyed the Spirit of Music week – I thought the children were absolutely amazing

As we end the year, we will revisit some of our favorite songs and dances and even learn a few new ones.

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Mrs. Kline

