

Southminster

Early Learning Academy News



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January 2019

From Michele

As we all know, our children are always watching us. They know when we are upset, stressed, or even just tired. They are very perceptive. We can run, but we cannot hide from these very human emotions. After all, we are only human. But, there are ways we can help our children get through the holidays without feeling stressed about all the busy things we need to do.

The main problem for children is the interruption in their routine. They are out of school, going to bed late, traveling to visit friends and relatives. When children feel stressed and/or tired we see an increase in irritability. We need to be realistic of our expectations of our children over the holidays. We can prevent a lot of problems if we do a few simple things in advance. One, prepare children for the change in their routine. Tell them ahead of time of your plan to travel, who's house you will be going to and what the differences are between the rules at your house and those at someone else's house. Make them part of the plan. Children are better able to cope with change when they are prepared in advance. Second, let them help. Children love being involved. Things matter more to them when they can claim ownership of something. Let them help decorate, bake and even participate in your charitable donations. Third, be willing to change or modify some of your holiday traditions if it means making something more fun for the young people in your life. Be open to change and establishing new traditions. Fourth, be sure not to overbook your children, pair busy days with days where you just stay home. If you travel a lot over the holidays be sure the days you are home are not days filled with running errands. Slow down and give your children a chance to catch up. Remember to make festivities fun for kids because they are not little adults. Fifth, explain to them the meaning of your holiday celebrations. Children love to learn about everything. Look at every moment as a teachable moment. Because when children are young every moment is a teachable moment. Last and most importantly, remember to laugh and have fun.

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APAT News

Welcome Back! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break. Thank you to everyone for your support in attending the Fall Party Fundraiser and the Cookies with Santa. We appreciate all of you who took the time to donate cookies for the holiday party. The second half of the year should be just as fun. Look for more details in the February newsletter about APAT PJ Night on Thursday, March 7th.

Amy, Jessica, and Shannon

I wish you a happy, fun filled holiday with all your family and friends.

We'll see you again in 2019!!

Sincerely,

-- Michele

Important Dates in January

Tuesday, January 1	No School – Happy New Year
Wednesday, January 2	Welcome Back!
Monday – Tuesday, January 14-15	Science – Hibernation
Monday, January 21	No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 22	No School – Teacher In-Service
Wednesday – Friday, January 23 -25	No School – Parent Teacher Conferences (Kindergarten Enrichment in Session)
Friday, January 25	Class for Parent-Tot, they do not conference
Tuesday-Friday January 22-25	In-house Registration In-house families may register siblings even if their current child will be attending kindergarten next fall. Do not wait until open registration if you have a child registered here with us this year. You may register as in-house.
Thursday January 31	Open Registration-meaning registration is now open to people who are not currently enrolled at Southminster ELA

More information regarding Parent/Teacher conferences will be coming home early in January. All families are encouraged to sign up for this very informative conference.

Two Day Three's/Three Day Three's

We had a great month of December. We began the month by mixing the colors yellow and blue to make green paint. We used various mitts with different textures to hand paint a huge piece of paper the color green. Then, we painted glitter glue to complete the beautiful evergreen tree on our bulletin boards outside our room. We learned about small, medium and large triangles and made a beautiful day or night evergreen. During our study of tree this month we explored the parts of trees, watched a science experiment that explained how trees get their water, and we learned about their seeds. A big tub of snow provided so much fun! We dug and packed the snow with actual parts of trees – the branches!

We had lots of fun in music singing and acting out Holiday songs for our Holiday Sing. Also, in Science we learned about the Native Americans, their houses, their food and their clothing.

We can't wait to learn about the shape the rectangle and the colors black and white. Our focus will be hibernation. Check out our daily white board outside our room. We're sure your child will provide very interesting information about their day.



We hope you have a wonderful January!

Mrs. Tischuk, Mrs. Zappone and Mrs. Findle



Parent/Tot

As the New Year begins our "little" group will continue to explore our world through sizes and shapes. We will continue to develop our "circle" of friendship, while we play and enjoy our time together. Cheers to you as we ring in the New Year.

Mrs. Nave

Three Day Three's

November seemed to fly by! Our class was very busy learning everything we could about trees. We learned the parts of trees, how they grow, what animals make their homes in trees and more.

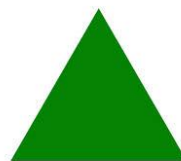
We also spent time focusing on the color brown. We did lots of art with brown paint and brown paper. Our shape was a square. We used many different objects around the room to make square pictures.

Our class also continued to work on letters and writing our names. And we had a lot of fun celebrating "kindness day".

In December we have been learning all about pine trees, the triangle and the color green! We have used pine needles to paint and examined pine cones and branches. We even got sap on our hands! On our green day we used green pom poms, stickers, glitter, paper and more for our green art.

We want to wish everyone a very happy holiday!

Mrs. Cozzens & Mrs. Hannan



Two Day Two's

December was full of Holiday Fun in the 2's. We created snowmen, mittens, and special surprise snowflakes. Our circle time books highlighted Hanukah and Christmas which generated lots of excitement and discussion. The children practiced taking turns as they shared stories about the traditions they celebrate at home. After the winter break, we'll be doing lots of activities with counting and using numbers. We'll also continue to practice things like taking turns, using each other's names, etc., during Free Play. Our children are really starting to interact more and play together; it's fun to watch them develop in this way.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Happy holidays,

Lori Guenther & Nicole Gilberg



Three Day Four's

The 3 day 4's continued their tree study for the month of December. The classroom focused on evergreen trees. As we get cozy in the winter months, Hibernation will be our next theme for January. The 3 day 4's have been having fun writing their numbers in the "snow."

Mrs. Nalitz and Mrs. Frederick



Reminder:

During times of bad weather, we will follow the Mt. Lebanon school District decision. If Mt. Lebanon has a 10:00 AM Start, we will also. If Mt. Lebanon cancels school, we will also be closed.

We do not have our drop off program on days when we have a 10:00 AM start.

Drop Off:

Reminder: you may not turn left into the circle from Castle Shannon Blvd. You must also turn right onto Washington Road when leaving the circle. It is important for all caregivers to understand these rules for everyone's safety. Thank you!

EPL:

Reminder: once the sign-up sheet is full, you may only add your child if someone else erases their child from the list. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pre-K

Wow! This month has flown by! We have continued our study of trees—discussing and doing activities with evergreen trees. We used evergreen parts to paint with, decorated pine cones, and read about evergreens. In addition to our evergreen study, we did a couple holiday activities. We made a top secret project for the families. We also made and decorated gingerbread cookies—a definite highlight for the students! In January, we look forward to a study of hibernation. Look for our calendar which will list our pajama day—the culminating activity of the study. This is always a big hit with the kids. Enjoy your holidays and time with your families!

Mrs. Kontos and Mrs. Moses



Music

I am so sorry to have had to cancel the Holiday Sing this year. The children worked very hard to learn a number of fun songs, I hope that they have shared them with you at home. You will have the opportunity to join us for a music class during Spirit of Music week in March – each class will have its own session, so everyone will be able to sit close and see what we do.

In January we will continue to explore instruments and drums. The bean bags, scarves and egg shakers may also make an appearance. We will start to determine which songs and dances are our favorites that we want to share with you in March!

Mrs. Kline

A chubby little snowman (make a fist)

With a carrot nose (point index finger)

Along came a bunny (make bunny ears with other hand)

And what do you suppose?

The hungry little bunny

Looking for some lunch

Ate the carrot nose ("eat" the carrot with the bunny hand)

Crunch, Crunch, Crunch! (crunch with the bunny hand)



Four Day Four's

This month sure has flown by! We have continued our study of trees by focusing on evergreens. We have read books about evergreen trees, painted with evergreen parts, and decorated pine cones. We also made a top secret holiday project for our families. The students really enjoyed putting those together. We hope you like them! In January, we look forward to a hibernation study. We will be having a pajama day to celebrate the end of the study. Check out our calendar to find out when that is. Enjoy your holidays and time with your families!

Mrs. Kontos and Mrs. Moses



Kindergarten Enrichment

Kindergarten Enrichment explored Antarctica in December. We did a hands-on experiment to better understand how blubber helps Antarctic animals survive in the cold. We also spent time learning more about penguins. Are you taller than an Emperor Penguin? Some of our kindergarten students are! The children measured and compared their height to that of an Emperor Penguin. Our study of Antarctica concluded by learning about snow crystals and how they form. The children helped to create a supersaturated solution and grew their own crystals. December was a short month but full of activity in Kindergarten Enrichment!

January will take us all the way to Africa. Our study of Africa begins in Egypt, learning about hieroglyphics and pyramids. The children will write their own document using hieroglyphs. Next, we will learn about the African Savannah and create a savannah of our own for the hallway. Finally, we will learn about some of the tribal cultures in Africa and create masks resembling those of a tribe from Ghana. We will wrap up January by talking about the states of matter and the concept of polymers in one of our most popular science projects - making slime!

Mrs. Guenther & Mrs. Gallo



Eat + Play = Learn

EPL had a very busy December! We decorated our own ugly Christmas sweaters and talked about when we had to wear clothes we thought were ugly. We made a giant gingerbread house and gingerbread puppets to go along with our story of the Gingerbread Boy and we read The Polar Express and talked about what it means to believe in things we can't see.

January will bring snow, snow and more snow.... at least in our classroom! We will talk about and do art project that revolve around snow and ice. How it's made and what we can do with it will be discussed. We also will talk about the famous artists Kandinsky and Monet and do our own version of some of their iconic paintings.

We wish everyone a magical holiday season and will see you next year!

Mrs. Gilberg, Mrs. McCormick, and Mrs. Zappone

