



Augustana Preschool

MARCH

Effective Teachers

Dear Families,

The sun is shining, the snow is melting and spring must be just around the corner. It is hard to believe how quickly time flies by.

Last week I was reading an editorial in the *Pioneer Press* written by Melinda French Gates, wife of Bill Gates. She and her husband have invested money and time into education over the past ten years. Teachers are at the center of their strategy at the Gates Foundation. Melinda Gates believes the most important ingredient of a great education is effective teachers. I must agree

with her. Her goal: "an effective teacher for every child, every year."

Teacher effectiveness can be hard to measure. But Gates believes investing in teacher effectiveness will provide the greatest return. For teachers are the ones who work directly with the children and serve as leaders of the classroom.

I feel blessed to work with a group of early childhood teachers who are devoted to their professions. They are caring and nurturing and continually guiding your children in their early learning. Each day, I witness numerous examples of

effective teaching in our classrooms. When tears are present, I see hugs and smiles. When questions are asked, I witness discovery and problem solving and when help is needed, I view guidance and coaching. Our teachers are continually striving to improve their skills and knowledge to better serve the children.

-Julie Leslie

Teachers Prayer

Lord, Please help me, To strengthen their voices, bodies and minds, To express their feelings and control them sometimes, To explore what's near and venture afar, But most important to love who they are.

Augustana Lutheran Church

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March Birthdays

☺ Gideon Zupfer

☺ 1/2 Birthdays

Celebrated in March

☺ Luke

Ingiald

☺ Owen

Kolesky



Week of the Young Child

We will be celebrating Week of the Young Child (WOYC) April 12-16th. WOYC is a part of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. It is a week to draw attention to the needs of our youngest children. During this week, the 4 and 5's

will have a family lunch, the 3's will have a family breakfast, there will be a Scholastic Book Fair on site, the children will be displaying their art work from Art Week and we will be having family/teacher conferences. This is a fun week for all. Details to follow.

Mark Your Calendars:

4/12 Family lunch for 4 and 5's (11:45 AM)

4/13 Family breakfast for 3's (8:15 AM)

4/12-4/16 Scholastic Book Fair

4/15,16 Family/Teacher Conferences



SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

Teachers' Corner—Mrs. Armon

Dear Preschool Families,

Is spring coming? There are signs! Soon we will be able to get your kids outside without having to go through the process of boots, gloves, and snow pants!

Our preschool has learning centers. This month, I would like to highlight our library area. At this age library is more about an appreciation of books than learning how to read. It is important for children to grasp that books are not toys to throw or draw in. Rather, they are ways to use their imagination.

Supplement your child's learning by reading books to them. Taking time to read to your child is a win-win situation. It allows you to spend some quality time with your

child, help them begin to learn comprehension, and have fun with many of the great illustrated books that are out there.

We all know that reading is a better mind exercise for children than television or video games. Reading fun books allows children to look at pictures and use them to connect what the words in the stories that are being read to them mean.

When reading, pause during the story to ask your child questions. What do they think will happen next in the story? Why do they think certain characters did what they did? These questions can draw the child in to make them feel more a part of the

stories. At the end, ask some basic and open ended questions about the story that test comprehension such as: "Who was the bad guy?" or "Who was your favorite animal in the story?" Why were they your favorite? All of these are ways to generate the appreciation for books that is the library center's goal.

Getting your children interested in reading now will help them maintain the interest. Most local elementary schools understand the value of reading and strongly encourage one half hour of reading per day. Why not get into the habit now! Area libraries often offer story time sessions. These can also be fun ways to stimulate a passion for reading. Laurie Armon

Special Kids

We learned about some very special children during the month of February; Paige Nowak, Sydney Schwartz, Emma Sumner, Rachel Pierskalla, Ryan Winkelhake, Lily Witucki, Jonny Youness, Jacob Zeis, Jonah Storlie and McKenna Twardy. Thank you for sharing your pictures and stories. You are wonderful kids!!!!

Thank You

Thanks to Ben Christopherson, Gina Olson and Mary Nordtvedt who visited us during dental week. Thank you for the tooth brushes and other dental items.

Thank you to Beki Cook for teaching the 3's how to bake and decorate valentine cookies. They were delicious!

Also thank you to the following people who read to us during our library vis-

its; Annette Youness, Colleen Mens, Dan Braun, and Erin Schwab.

Thanks to the families who continue to donate treats for snack time. We appreciate it.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop

Website

A website that your child might find fun and educational can be found at www.starfall.com. It is an interactive website with lots of learning fun involving literacy skills, including sign language.

You can find lots of good parenting information at www.naeyc.org/families. NAEYC is our accreditation organization.

Thank you to Monte Pettersen, Julie Leslie's mom for sewing doll clothes for our babies!



Bowling

On February 25th and 26th the 4 and 5's went bowling at West Side Lanes. This field trip is always a highlight. Thank you to the following chaperones who helped make this possible; Nicole Hocking, Chuck Joswiak, Sharon Zeis, Dan Witucki, Jean Youness, Annette Youness, Marilee Erickson, Rachel Verby, Trish Ball, Michael and Delia Bougie, Chris Sumner, David Heinsch, Colleen Mens, Erika Christopherson and Mike Garland.