

Put a little PEP in your Life!

February 2025 Newsletter

A Letter from the Director...

Dear Park's Edge Preschool Families,

Love is in the air at Park's Edge Preschool. The children have been very busy making Valentine's Day cards for Emanuel Church Members, the Hales Corners Care Center and for our Veterans at the Zablocki VA.

Friendly Reminder: Our 2025 tuition rates go into effect on Monday, February 3. We will have a table setup for vacation vouchers the week of February 3. If you have not turned in your paperwork yet, please drop it off at the front desk prior to receiving your vouchers.

On Thursday, January 9, PEP staff were trained in CPR, and the use of our AED machine by Brian Schulenburg from Pulses First Aid Training. The Wisconsin Licensing Department requires all staff to be CPR certified. The training also covered first aid, blood borne pathogens and the Heimlich maneuver.

Emanuel Church is hosting another fun Lego Master Night on Friday,

February 7th at 6pm. This month's theme is 'Build your favorite Bible story.' All are welcome! Last time the church hosted this event, PEP had several families who attended and had a great time.

Friday, February 14th we will have our annual Valentine's Day Parade in Emanuel Church at 10am. Please dress your child in pink, red, purple, white and/or hearts. Parents and grandparents are welcome too. Please read the attachment for more information about our Valentine's Day celebration.

If there is a change to your child's schedule (ex: sick, leaving early, bus change) please message us in ProCare. This updates both the office staff and teachers.

Please mark your calendars, PEP has a Professional Half Day on Friday, March 7th. We will close at 12pm, lunch will be provided. All pm transportation will not be provided that day.

I am excited to announce that we will be getting new classroom dividers for the lower-level classrooms. We will be replacing

the white shelving with new custom-built shelves. I will have more details as the installation date gets closer.

Although the weather is still cold outside, we are excited to start planning for our Summer Program. Ms. Nicole, Ms. Melinda and Mr. Cody are gearing up for another fun-filled summer at PEP. We will have the summer packets ready to hand out the night of our Spring Fling, Thursday, March 20.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,
Kristin Burr
Director

Happy Birthday!

George S.	02/01/2024
Levi S.	02/05/2024
Jane L.	02/06/2022
Finley W.	02/07/2020
Shae R.	02/10/2021
Iniko W.	02/12/2020
Mila B.	02/14/2021
Bellamy N.	02/18/2020
Vincent S.	02/20/2020
Hayden C.	02/23/2022
Bennett W.	02/26/2022
Colette A.	02/26/2024
Adalynn L.	02/27/2024



Important Dates:

Monday, February 3rd-

Tuition Rate Increase will go into effect for 2025.

Thursday, February 13th-

No 4K Whitnall School District.

Friday, February 14th-

No School Whitnall School District.

Sign up for care in downstairs classroom.

Friday, February 14th-

All Center Valentines Day Parade 10am.

All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.

Monday, February 17th-

No School Whitnall School District.

Sign up for care in downstairs classroom.

Friday, March 7th-

PEP Professional Half Day. Center closes at 12pm.

Lunch will be served. No PM busing.

Love Bugs

Where do polar bears keep their money?

In a snowbank

January was freezing. Our babies were chilling in the Lovebugs room. Last month we let our creative side show. We finger painted with white and red paint as well as used toy animals to make some wildly creative artwork. This month we will be exploring different sounds using sensory tubes and sensory bottles. We will also be painting with our tiny, adorable feet.

Our child of the month is Owen. Owen always has the biggest smile on his face and loves to entertain his friends! He's working hard at sitting up and even trying to pull himself up on some shorter shelves. I'm sure he will be crawling around the room in no time.

All our babies have been working hard at hitting all their milestones. Sweet little Cole has been working on sitting up on his own, he has also been eating food like a champ. Malakai makes the funniest faces and imitates sounds; he is also part of the Lovebug clean plate club. Way to go babies!

Welcome to our class Maverick, Levi, Duncan and their families. We can't wait to watch you grow and succeed.

Ms. Terri



Beautiful Butterflies

February is the month of Love. Thank you for sharing your babies with us, we love them as our own.

Happy birthday to George and Colette! Colette will be our baby of the month. She loves looking at books, flexing her creative skills during art time, dancing during music time, and taking walks outside.

Our babies are on the go! Last month the babies explored the classroom. All the babies moved very quickly whether it be crawling or walking, they were chugging along. As always, we are working on our communication with words and sign language. Current favorite words are "please" and "thank you". We also really flexed our creative muscles last month by sponge painting and ball painting in a box.

We look forward to our Valentine's Day parade on Friday, February 14th at 10am. We hope to see some of you there!

Our Parent engagement activity this month will be to decorate a precut heart shape that we can hang in the room.

Please continue to provide extra weather appropriate clothes labeled with child's name. Also please continue to inform us of food that's been introduced to your child so we can be sure to let your child enjoy them at mealtimes.

Happy Valentines Day

Ms. Julie and Ms. Holli



Darling Dragonflies

“There is only one happiness in life: to love and be loved.” -George Sand

In January we rang in 2025 with teaching our Dragonflies about New Year celebrations and how fun and joyful an experience they can be! We learned how some animals hibernate or live in the jungle. Traveled the world through different types of transportation vehicles as well as observed lights and shadows.

In February our themes will be exploring weather, love, kindness and diversity as well as dental hygiene.

By learning to understand the weather this helps us better grasp the environment, prepare for outdoor activities and appreciation and curiosity for nature. During the week of Jesus Loves Me we will be teaching our class about being loving and how learning how to be loving is essential for developing emotional intelligence, nurturing relationships, and fosters empathy. The following week we will be instilling kindness and diversity to the class showing how being kind promotes empathy and compassion despite our differences. Our last theme for February will be about Dentists, which helps us to learn how to take care of ourselves and our health.

In February, the Dragonflies aim to enhance fine motor skills and expand their vocabulary, focusing on topics like animals, colors, and shapes. Fine motor skills, which include small movements of the hands and fingers like grasping and pinching, are essential for daily activities. Activities this month will include using utensils at mealtime, handling paintbrushes, molding play-dough, and popping bubbles. Throughout these activities, we will engage in discussions about our observations and actions.

We encourage parents to participate in fine motor tasks at home as well. Some enjoyable activities to try include coloring, creating necklaces with Cheerios or fruit loops, finger painting, doing puzzles, flipping through books, inserting coins into a piggy bank and even brushing your teeth together!

Ms. Jacque, Ms. Tori and Ms. Brooke



Busy Bees

January certainly brought chilly weather! With the temperature being too cold to be outdoors we have been keeping busy with dance parties, crawling in tunnels, balancing, sensory play, and dress up bins. We used every opportunity we could to move around and get our wiggles out. Please keep hats and gloves here for outdoor play if the weather ever decides to change!

Last month we focused on our social skills. We have been working on taking turns with toys and have been encouraging the children to explain what they need from teachers and friends instead of not communicating and getting upset. Better communication in the classroom helps the children bond with each other and helps the classroom routine flow smoothly throughout the day.

This month we are excited to learn about the weather and do some fun experiments regarding that topic. We will learn about kindness and diversity, and how to show kindness to all. During dental week we will brush pretend teeth and talk about the importance of dental health. Our final week we will learn about how much Jesus loves us.

To celebrate Valentines Day, we will be having a valentine's exchange, so please bring decorated boxes and cards the week of the 10th if you would like to participate. Our parade will take place on Friday, February 14, Valentine's Day so please have your child wear red, pink, purple or hearts!

We hope everyone has a great February!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Haley J. and Ms. Shanda



Sunshine Room

What did the mitten say to the hand?
I got you covered!

January flew past us in a blink of an eye and with it our first official cold and snow days of the year! We did a lot of large motor activities such as an amazing obstacle course, song hunts (our current favorite is the Grinch Hunt), and Red light Green light. Also, with it getting colder we've been working on dressing ourselves to stay extra warm while we play outside.

This month we focused on our numbers and letters. Each day during group time we count up to the day of the month that we are currently on. Adding on to counting during calendar time we also sing our "Days of the week" song. The children love to clap or stomp as we sing loud and proud :) This is our second favorite time of the day; outside will always be first! We began learning how to zip up our jackets. It's a little tricky at first but we are getting there, we love being able to do things on our own!

As the new month approaches, just a friendly reminder to bring in a blanket for your child on Mondays and to please take it home on Fridays or your child's last day of the week. With the colder weather please make sure to bring in labeled snow gear such as snow pants, boots, hats, warm gloves, and appropriate coats. We suggest bringing in thick waterproof gloves to keep the children's hands warm and dry with the snow. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Alexis or Ms. Nay-nay. You can always talk to us in person at drop off/ pickup, on the app, or by calling us during nap time between 1pm-3pm.

Thank you! The sunshine Crew
Ms. Nay-nay and Ms. Alexis



Fantastic Frogs

Happy February! With January ending on a cold note, here's hoping we can warm up a little in the season of St. Valentine's Day. Some chocolate and the reminder of Jesus's love for us all should be just the thing!

We were able to ring in the New Year with lots of music and dancing in the classroom, followed by cozy stories about animals winding down for hibernation. Between lessons about hibernating animals and arctic animals, the Frogs class spent the beginning of January going on lots of nature walks, picking up pieces of nature for a collage and keeping our eyes peeled for snowy owls on our owl hunts. The children loved working together on these group activities! Transportation has been a great topic as we've been cooped up from the cold, passing the time with block ramps for our cars, and putting different shapes together to make our own car art, which is on display in our classroom!

February will have lots of exciting lessons, whether we are inside or outside. For Shadows and Light week, the children will be able to crawl through tunnels in the classroom to build their large motor, practice making shadows with flashlights, and learn about Groundhog Day. During this week, we will be looking at the book "Shadows and Reflections", which has photos of people being reflected in a puddle, the shadow of a fence being cast onto a car, and other interesting representations of light and shadows in the world. It will help the children think about how light behaves all around them.

Next it will be Weather week, with games like the snowball toss and the freeze dance, and weather permitting, we will build and fly kites! The Valentine's Day Parade will be part of Jesus Loves Me week, at 10am on February 14th. Kindness and Diversity week will have collaborative tower building and self-portraits, and Healthy Teeth week will include fun activities like the food in teeth collage and play with minty fresh play dough!

We are looking forward to a month of love and kindness in the Frogs classroom. Thanks to all of you, we have a room full of awesome and unique kids, and it is an honor to help them learn and grow here at Park's Edge.

Ms. Sandra, Mr. Ben, and Ms. Nola



Shining Stars

Hello and happy February! We're excited to see what's in store, hopefully an early spring! However, a lot of our friends voted for a longer winter. Take a look at our class chart to see what your kiddo thinks! Let's rewind a bit to the beginning of January and see what we've all learned so far in 2025.

To start off 2025, we learned all about the holiday of New Years. We created some beautiful glittery fireworks! Following that, we crawled into hibernation week where we discovered what animals hibernate besides bears. Did you know that buzzy bees are hibernators? After that, we switched up jungle week and explored the arctic, where we discussed all the different arctic animals and discovered which ones are our favorites! Our favorite large motor activity was during this week where we did the 'penguin ball waddle'. We placed a ball between our knees and raced each other like waddling penguins! After all our waddling, we then drove into transportation week where we got to expand our knowledge on all different forms of transportation, including walking, biking, and hot air balloons! This is where we discovered our favorite art, which was painting with balloons on large butcher paper. We loved seeing how the colors mixed together, almost like tie-dye! We then wrapped up January with shadows and lights, which is where we decided to highlight Groundhog Day. We love getting to explore all the different ways to make shadows.

Coming up for February, we are going to shower ourselves with knowledge about the weather! We then will fall in love with Jesus Loves Me week where we will learn about Valentines Day. After that, we are going to learn more about kindness and celebrate diversity. And to wrap up February, we will take a bite into healthy teeth week where we will learn the importance of good hygiene and brushing our teeth!

We have been focusing on 4K preparation! We have been shining a light specifically on pencil grasp, letter recognition and letter sounds, and writing. We love doing flashcard quizzing with whiteboards. You can try at home by holding up a letter flashcard and asking your kiddo what letter it is. Make the letter sound and see if they are able to guess correctly and then help them in writing it on a whiteboard or paper with pencil.

We are so excited to see what February has to bring, and we'll see you in March!

Ms. Mariah, Ms. Hannah, & The Shining Stars Crew



Purple Moons

January has come to an end, but not without some unexpected adventures! We rang in the new year by coloring amazing fireworks on paper and learning how some people celebrate the new year. Did you know that penguins enjoy seeing the Northern Lights, and polar bears have black skin? Those were some of the things we learned during Arctic Animals week. We were stuck inside for a bit due to the cold weather, but we made the best of it by creating an obstacle course, playing the floor is lava, freeze dancing and exercising with the Danny Go videos. We created many beautiful pieces of art such as chalk hedgehogs, shape penguins, and our hibernating animal mural. If you have not had a chance to see all the great artwork in the classroom, please take some time to stop in.

Winter is here! Please have weather appropriate clothes for your child. Please have an extra sweatshirt to keep for the week in their lockers. A jacket, snowpants, gloves, hat, and snow boots are needed to play outside. The children LOVE playing in the snow! Let's make sure they are fully prepared for outside activities. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Maria or Ms. Melinda. You can always talk to me in person, on the app, or call during nap time between 1-3.

Thank You,

Ms. Maria and Ms. Melinda



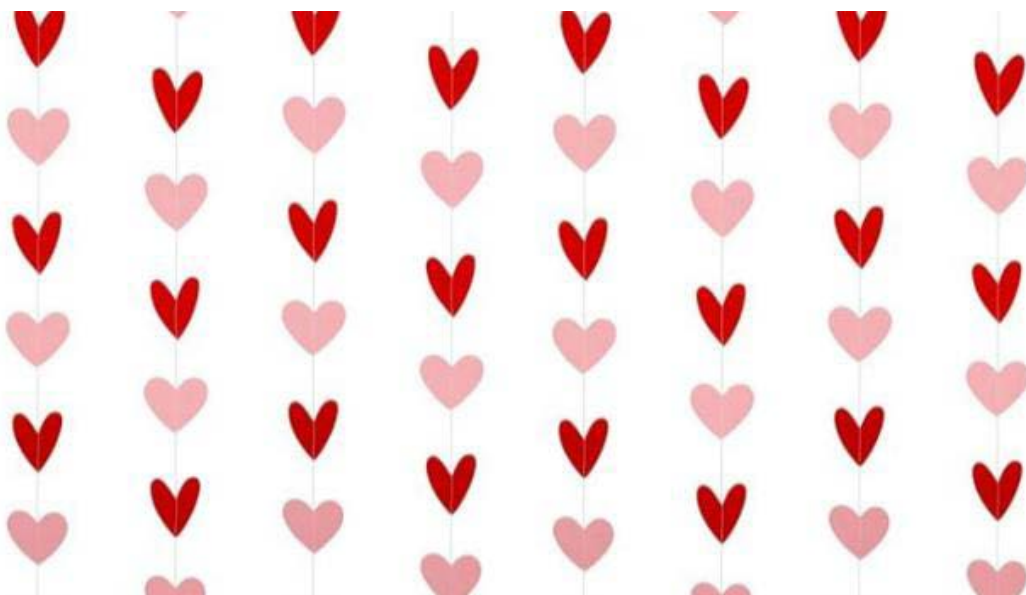
Slithering Snakes

Can February March? No, but April May.

Hello, and welcome to what is hopefully our last blustery winter month! While we didn't enjoy the intensity of the cold last month, we were glad to be able to spend some days off with the children. Since outside was not an option for a fair bit of January, we tried our best to get creative with our options inside. Dance parties, obstacle courses, games of hangman, and a bevy of art got us through the cold with only a limited amount of confined craziness. We have also been thoroughly enjoying teaching them the rules to some beloved board games, notably Clue and Battleship, and would love to hear about any other board or card games your family enjoys! January also provided us with the opportunity to teach the children about a wide variety of winter-based subjects, notably the specifics of hibernation and the relation of light to shadow, in honor of Groundhog's Day.

February marks the beginning of the end of winter, and we are eagerly awaiting warmer weather and the return of sunsets later than 4:30. While Spring is peeking around the corner and gracing us with sporadic warmth, please remember to keep snow gear on hand for when the weather inevitably shifts back to blistering cold. Also, as the afternoon remains lighter longer we will be staying outside in accordance, so Miss Nicole and I will keep you updated whenever that time changes. This month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a parade in the sanctuary, and if any of the children would like to also exchange Valentines at Park's Edge, please let one of us know, and we will be happy to facilitate that. We will also be putting out our sign-up sheet for the 14th and 17th so please let us know if your child will be here for the day off! We look forward to spending Valentine's Day at Park's Edge, and making the most of the days off. As always, thank you for taking the time to read, and we hope you have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,
Ms. Nicole and Mr. Cody



Themes with Christian Sub Themes

02/04-02/07: Weather

Job 37:6 “For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the earth’ and to the downpour and the rain”.

02/10-02/14: Jesus Loves Me

Sing the song, “Jesus Loves Me”

02/17-02/21: Kindness and Diversity

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another”.

02/24-02/28: Healthy Teeth

“My mouth is filled with your praise and your glory”.



A Pastor's Thought

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Happy Anniversary!

Happy one year anniversary to the lovely Ms. Nola. Ms. Nola started in our program as a teacher in the Sunshine room. She then moved to our Fantastic Frogs classroom as a part time teacher in the morning. She loves being able to chat with the children and loves hearing their funny stories.

Ms. Nola has a bachelor's degree in psychology from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She is currently working on her master's degree from Touro University to become a marriage and family therapist.

The words to describe Ms. Nola would be creative, patient and caring. Not a day goes by that Nola doesn't flex her creative muscles. She loves sitting down and crafting with the children and doing artwork with them. She has unlimited patience when it comes to the little ones in her care. She will sit and listen to their stories and answer any and all of their 500 random questions. Nola cares deeply for all the children. She is always looking out for their wellbeing and goes out of her way to make sure they are all seen and heard each day.

In her free time Ms. Nola loves camping, weightlifting and getting in a good game of ultimate frisbee. She also enjoys traveling and seeing the world.

We cannot thank Ms. Nola enough for her dedication to the children of Park's Edge Preschool.

