

Put a little PEP in your Life!

April 2025 Newsletter

A Letter from the Director...

Dear Park's Edge Preschool Families,

I cannot believe that it is already April. Hopefully the snow has gone away until next winter, and we can start to see signs of spring.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Culver's Night. It was so wonderful to see so many families participate. I don't know if my favorite part was seeing parents connect, children hugging their friends or watching the lines form for the children to see their teachers. Thank you to everyone for making that night a success!

Speaking of success, our 'Sock Hop' was a night to remember. It was so fun watching all the little bunnies dance the night away. Pictures with the Easter Bunny were so much fun. We cannot wait to do it again next year! Thank you to DJ Jim Kennedy for making the night one to remember!

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to see the new shelving/room dividers in our lower-level classrooms. It was a

much-needed quality improvement to the classrooms. Within the last six months the room was also painted, and new rugs and curtains were purchased. The shelving was the final piece to complete the project.

We have lots of upcoming events for April. April 6-11 is the Week of the Young Child. It is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The early childhood years, from birth till age eight, lay the foundation for a child's later success in their academic and social life. Therefore, the thoughtful investment in a child's education during these years can go a really long way. It takes a village to raise a child. We have a special celebration for parents, board members, and staff throughout the week. Please look at the attachment for more information. Thursday, April 10 we will have a parade at 10am outside (weather permitting).

PEP's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Friday, April 18th. The school-age group will help the Easter Bunny by hiding fun-filled plastic eggs

for all ages on their designated playground. The children will look for 'their' eggs during their classrooms regularly scheduled time outdoors. Mr. Bunny is making a surprise visit for group photos too!

Our month will conclude with Conference Night on Thursday, April 24 from 5-6:30pm. Sign-up sheets will be in your child's classroom. Childcare will be provided that night.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter.

Sincerely,
Kristin Burr

Happy Birthday!

Charlotte A.	04/04/2018
Benjamin D.	04/04/2022
Hazel J.	04/10/2023
Owen M.	04/11/2019
Michael P.	03/13/2023
04/13/2022	
Evan B.	04/16/2020
Max K.	04/18/2017
Gracie J.	04/19/2018
Carolyn R.	04/20/2014
Layla C.	04/21/2019
Madison K.	04/21/2021
Zosia P.	04/27/2021
Calum D.	04/30/2022



Important Dates:

Monday, April 7th through Friday, April 11th–

Week of the Young Child

Thursday, April 17th–

Classroom Reading with Pastor Josh

Friday, April 18th–

Egg Hunt - 10am

Monday, April 21st–

No School Whitnall

Sign up for care in downstairs classroom.

Thursday, April 24th–

Conference Night - 5-6:30pm.

Sign up in classroom.

Friday, May 9th–

Mother's Day Breakfast - 7-8am

Thursday, May 22nd–

Preschool Graduation

For those entering 5K in fall

Love Bugs

Why did the baby chick cross the road?

To meet up with her peeps

March was another creative month for our Lovebugs. We painted a 4-leaf clover with our feet, painted in a bag and finger painted with green for St. Patrick's Day! We loved showing off our green outfits in the parade. Thank you to everyone who came out and watched us. We also loved seeing so many of our little friends make an appearance at our Spring Fling. How great was that DJ? Once again thank you all for coming and dancing the night away with us.

Our children are growing leaps and bounds. We blink and these babies are doing something new and exciting. Lets see what our little ones have been up to.

Cole can sit on his own! He can scoot backwards and is getting up on all 4's to crawl! We know he will be zooming all over the room very soon.

Levi, who is our child of the month found his voice by screeching to get our attention. He makes us laugh by blowing raspberries while looking in the mirror.

Maverick has been liking floor time with his friends and holding onto teether toys. He has been smiling from ear to ear.

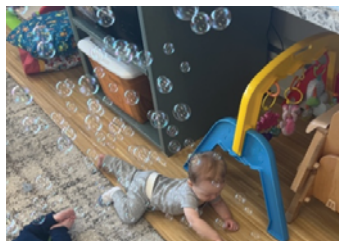
Duncan has been talking all day, watching and smiling at his friends, and pulling toys on the toy bar. He is rolling to his side.

Avery has also been cooing a lot and pulling toys on the toy bar. She also enjoys smiling and chatting with friends. She can roll to her stomach.

We can't wait to welcome Eli and Harper to our room this month. The more the merrier in the Lovebugs.

Happy Spring!

Ms. Terri and Ms. Brooke



Beautiful Butterflies

April showers bring May Flowers!

March was a busy month for our butterflies! We enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Parade; thank you to all who came out to watch us. Culver's night was a success. It was incredible seeing the whole dining room of Culvers taken over by our amazing families. Our favorite event of the month was the Spring Fling. It was so wonderful seeing the children dancing with their friends, the visit from the Easter bunny made it even more special.

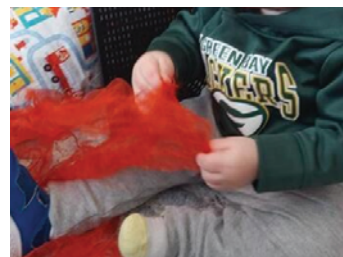
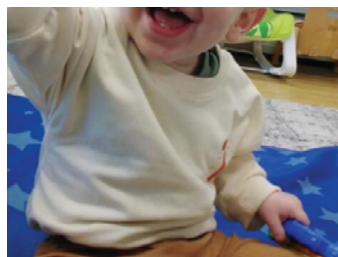
In addition to all our fun center activities we had some great classroom activities the babies loved. The activities the babies really enjoyed were dancing with scarves, toothbrush painting, and finally being able to go outside due to warmer weather.

The children have been expanding their vocabulary and using words like "uh oh", "wow", and "all done". They are also doing very well using utensils to eat, and it takes a lot of fine motor skills to use utensils, so we are very proud of our babies. They also focused on doing things all by themselves. It is wonderful to see their growing independence. As they are learning to walk confidently, we encourage them to have shoes here.

Please decorate a precut Easter Egg for our parent engagement activity!

Happy Easter!

Ms. Julie, Ms. Holli and Ms. Paige



Darling Dragonflies

“Play is the key to the Universe.” -C.S. Lewis

In March, we got silly and imaginative during Dr. Seuss week, learned the science of creativity of learning how to build with snow, learned about the meaning of shamrocks, and science of rainbows, and how to love and take care of pets. We enjoyed dressing in green for the St. Patrick's Day parade.

In April our Dragonflies will dive into themes like heroes where we will honor heroes, both real and fictional, reflecting on the qualities that make someone a hero. We would love to have our class dress up as their favorite heroes during this week! We're excited about the upcoming Week of the Young Child, where we'll express our love and gratitude for the wonderful people in our community who make school a great place to be. We look forward to Easter which offers a wonderful opportunity to teach children about its importance, while also enjoying fun activities. This holiday marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ, representing love, hope and new beginnings. Caring for our Earth week will emphasize importance of educating our toddlers about taking care of our planet, including the benefits of recycling and living in an eco-friendly way. During teacher appreciation week we will be helping the kids to recognize feelings of empathy, respect and gratitude towards their teachers and parents alike. By emphasizing on this theme, we will be creating a more positive classroom environment where everyone feels valued and included!

In April our goals for the Dragonflies will focus on enhancing their vocabulary skills. We are also focusing on topics like animals, colors, shapes, simple counting and simple songs. We are encouraging parents to read and teach their little ones about shapes, colors, and fun songs is a fantastic way to boost early learning. When parents actively participate in their child's education, it creates a supportive environment that fosters curiosity and engagement. Our parents are our toddlers first teachers! Reading together not only enhances vocabulary but also strengthens the bond between parent and child. Introducing shapes and colors through playful activities can make learning feel like a game, encouraging kids to explore their surroundings. Singing fun songs adds an element of joy and rhythm, making it easier for children to remember concepts. Let's help make our Dragonflies lifetime learners!

Happy Spring!

Ms. Haley J., Ms. Jacque



Busy Bees

March was a weather roller coaster! We had fun days filled with sun and a picnic in 70-degree weather and also days playing in the snow! Wisconsin really likes to keep us on our toes!

March had some great center events that we all got to participate in. We loved marching in the St. Patrick's parade and had so much fun dancing our hearts out at the spring fling. Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed those events as well. In the classroom last month, we worked on our fine motor skills by lacing our lacing cards with shoe strings. We also brought the snow inside and had a blast with it in our sensory table.

We are looking forward to all the fun we will have in April. We will celebrate our heroes; real and pretend, and our favorite week WOYC. During week of the young child, we will have fun events planned each day of the week so stay tuned!

Conferences are also this month; we encourage you to sign up. We will be going through your child's portfolio of what they have been working on this year, and what developmental milestones they have reached. It's a great time to connect with us to let us know any goals you would like to work on or accomplish for your child.

Please keep boots and snow pants here if the weather decides to change again. By law we are required to go out if the temperature is above 20 degrees!

I hope everyone has an amazing April. We are looking forward to all the fun!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Shanda



Sunshine Room

Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover?
Because you wouldn't want to press your luck!

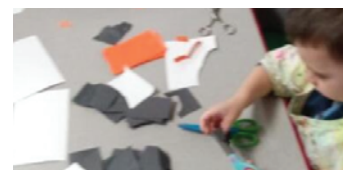
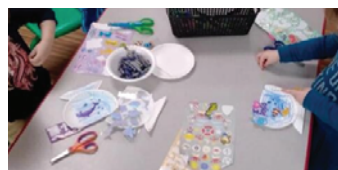
Happy Spring!! We had so much fun in the snow but are way more excited to play in the sand! We have been loving the warm weather lately; mainly being able to take our jackets off :) There were so many fun activities this month! Our top favorite was the huge dance party at The Spring Fling. We absolutely loved the DJ along with seeing all of our friends after school time.

To start off March we got brand new shelves!! We as a class decided that we should redo the classroom. The new setup is wonderful, and the kids really do love where everything is placed. We also had our first spirit week of the year; our favorite day was thing 1 & thing 2 day. We got to make green eggs and ham; everyone tried it and absolutely loved it; they all asked for seconds. Continuing on, we were patiently waiting to see if we could catch the leprechaun. We built a trap and crossed our fingers that we would be able to catch him. Spoiler alert, we did not catch him! Hopefully we have better luck next year.

Just a friendly reminder as the days get warmer, we are still bringing in appropriate clothing for both indoor and outdoor activities. We go outside twice a day for at least 30 minutes, so proper clothing is essential. Please bring in your child's blanket on Mondays and take them home for the wash on Fridays, this also goes for water bottles. 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 calling us during nap time between 1pm-3pm.

Thank you! The Sunshine Crew

Ms. Nay-nay and Ms. Alexis :)



Fantastic Frogs

Spring at last! We are so grateful for the warm weather ushering us from March into April, and all the time we have been able to enjoy the outdoors as a class.

March was full of whimsy and magic. During Dr. Seuss week, it was so much fun to share silly stories with the children! Many of the Frogs recognized stories from home, like "Fox in Socks," "There's a Wocket in My Pocket!," and of course, "Green Eggs and Ham". Ms. Sandra got everyone involved in cooking up some green eggs and ham for a snack, with students taking turns stirring up the eggs and watching them turn green! Even though "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" week was one of our warmest weeks yet this year, the Frogs class still had a lot of fun with Frozen-themed centers. One of our favorites was a two part activity: on Tuesday, everyone was able to paint collaboratively on a banner, covering it in blizzard colors; then on Wednesday, we set out the ice blocks and some printed Frozen characters on the banner for the children to use as a winter wonderland. Since we have so many fans of Anna and Elsa in our class, it was a great opportunity for some guided creative play.

The Frogs class also had a great time at the PEP Sock Hop! Thank you to everyone who could make it out. Dancing along to music is a great way for the children to gain confidence in their large motor abilities, and besides that, it's just fun!

April will be a great time to remember that "Jesus loves the little children of the world". We will start with Jesus is My Hero week, featuring many of the stories from Jesus' life, such as His calming of the storm with his disciples; the children will make their own boats as a reminder of how Jesus can always bring us peace. This will be followed by the Week of the Young Child, which is a great time of year to bring out some of the children's favorite centers. Magnet tiles, stacking shapes, crawling tunnels and many more will be making an appearance! Palm Sunday and Easter week will be all about celebrating the resurrection of Jesus with activities like the "Jesus is Alive" praise dance. Finally, during Caring for Our Earth week, we'll reduce, reuse, and recycle with our toilet roll windsocks and coffee filter Earth paintings. If you have extra toilet paper or paper towel rolls around your house, ask your child to help collect them and bring them in to use for our crafts.

As the weather is warming up, we welcome you to start packing up the Frogs' winter gear. Be sure to also have a change of clothes for your child; with April showers come May flowers, but also muddy clothes.

Blessings!

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



Shining Stars

We are all a-spring for April to be here! We are more than ready for some warm weather and blooming flowers. Let's 'march' on back to see what we did last month.

March started off with the one and only Dr. Seuss Week! We had too much fun dressing up for spirit week. What was your favorite day? After that, we had such a magical time learning all about Disney, where we made some magically sparkly name sensory bags to work on our name recognition in a fun and squishy way! Following Disney week was a very fun filled St. Patty's week, where we marched in a green filled parade, hopped our bottoms off at our sock hop, and discovered all the mischief Leprechaun Joe caused in our classroom. That silly little guy! We then dove right into pets week where we learned all about our friend's family pets, we all have so many fun furry friends!

We will then fly right into April where we will learn all about superheroes! Who is your favorite, and why? Following that we have our one and only Week of the Young Child! We can't wait to see what fun ways we can show our appreciation. We will then get right into Easter week, who's ready to meet the Easter Bunny? After that we are excited to learn all about our beautiful Earth and what we can do to take care of it. We will then get right in Teacher Appreciation week where we will learn all about the hard work our teachers do for us.

This month we have been focusing on math. We are working on number recognition, specifically numbers greater than 10. We want to be able to not only recognize these numbers, but we want to write them too! An activity we love to do is 'number quiz'. We do this activity in small groups with 4 kids and 1 adult. An adult holds up a number flashcard (we have numbers 1-30), and each child says what number it is out loud and then writes it on their whiteboard, chalkboard, paper, etc. This is a super simple activity that is a class favorite, it keeps each child engaged and they all love the challenge against not only their peers, but themselves! We are also introducing single digit addition as a challenge activity for our friends who are ready for that next step towards 4 and 5k.

Happy hopping and see you in May!

Ms. Mariah and the Stars Crew



Purple Moons

March was so much fun, and we learned a lot too! We had a mischievous leprechaun visit our room and left it a mess, along with some green footprints, and great treats for us to find. We loved being in the St. Patrick's Day parade, learning about rainbows, all things Disney, Dr. Seuss, and Pets.

The children are enjoying doing simple addition and subtraction with sorters and worksheets. I am amazed at how quickly they learned how to solve the problems. We are focusing on how to write our numbers as well. We have also created some amazing art! If you have not had a chance to see all the great artwork in the classroom, please take some time to stop in.

Spring is near! The weather is unpredictable. Please make sure your child has appropriate outerwear, as the children love going outside. Please have a sweatshirt your child can keep in their locker. The room can get cold at times. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Maria or Ms. Melinda. You can always talk to us in person, on the app, or call during nap time between 1-3.

Thank You,

Ms. Maria and Ms. Melinda



Slithering Snakes

Why don't eggs play April Fool's jokes?
They might crack each other up.

April at last, and not a moment too soon! March has gone, and hopefully taken its cold with it, leaving us with our first tentative steps towards summer. Warm weather means more time outside, which means more smiling faces and more chances for class games. Please bear with us as we navigate this fickle season, as days of intense cold and snow lead to muck and mud when the sun returns. If you would prefer your child wear boots during this time, please make sure to have them available, or just let us know when they need a pair to borrow!

Looking ahead to our events and themes for April, we have a multitude of things to get excited for. First and foremost is the Week of The Young Child, an opportunity to celebrate the reason we are all here, your children. This week is filled with activities that allow your kids to express themselves, and define what things they enjoy about being a child as well as any activities they love at Park's Edge. We will also be showing some love to our parents, when we fill our paper bags with treats and snacks for you all as a testament to how much we appreciate all that you do. Also in April will be our Easter egg hunt, with everyone's most polarizing mascot, the Easter Bunny! Eggs will be scattered all about the grounds and each child will have the chance to search every nook and cranny for their Easter treats. The Bunny will be present during the hunt for any and all pictures, tears or no tears.

We would like to take this latter section of our newsletter to mention our summer program! You should have all received our summer packet over spring break (if you need one, please let us know and we will happily grab you one) and have had time to go over our field trips and activities. We are particularly excited to go on some new field trips this year, such as Boerner Botanical Gardens, the Milwaukee County Zoo, as well as returning to Chuck E. Cheese. In regard to our in-house field trips, we will be trying out some new inflatables, as well as having KidoKinetics come and set up a ninja obstacle course! We are delighted to offer a summer filled with exciting experiences and sincerely hope that your children are as excited as we are. With summer on the horizon, we are hoping for a warm and relaxed April, and a spring with sunny skies and beautiful blossoms.

Thanks for reading!

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicole and Mr. Cody



Themes with Christian Sub Themes

04/07-04/12: The Week of the Young Child

Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me'".

04/14-04/18: Palm Sunday

John 12:13 "So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, 'Hosanna!'".

04/21-04/25: Caring for our Earth

Psalm 65:9 "You take care of the earth and water it"

04/28-05/02: Teachers are a gift!

Titus 2:7-8 "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity".

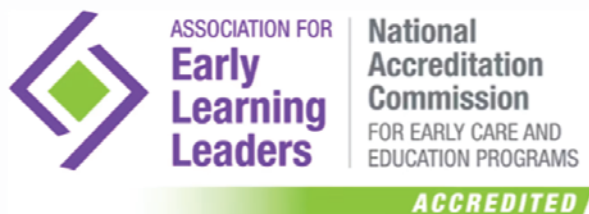
A Pastor's Thought

Dear God,

As darkness and cold recede and light and warmth spread, we are reminded that the spring rain waters the roots of trees, waking them from their winter slumber to bud new life. Wake us up from feelings of resignation and rise us to new hope, renewed purpose, and the courage to bloom justice and peace. Keep us aware, help us to search for the Good in life.

Amen.

Pastor Josh



NAC Nook

Hello Everyone,

For the NAC Nook this month we will be looking at Standard C10.

C10: I am given the opportunities to share feedback about the program through ongoing suggestions and annual written evaluations.

Did you know that we have parent surveys available at the front office all year round? We stress the surveys during conference times which are two times per year. These surveys allow you to learn about the NAC standards for our program and how we work hard to provide a healthy, safe, and fun learning environment for your children. Most importantly, the surveys allow you to give feedback on how you feel Park's Edge Preschool is doing taking care of your children and helping prepare them for the next step in their education. You can provide feedback on safety, health, curriculum, and more.

You are also welcome to email, message in ProCare, or speak with the Director in person in regard to any comments and/or questions you have regarding your child's care. We are open from 6am to 6pm and someone is usually available at the front desk at 7:30am if you need to speak with management.

Please let us know if you have questions regarding NAC standard C10.

Happy Anniversary!

Happy 3-year anniversary to the wonderful Ms. Mariah.

Ms. Mariah started in our program as a teacher in the Sunshine room. She then moved to our Purple Moons room as the 4-year-old teacher. She loved working with our older children prepping them for kindergarten. When a spot opened up in the Shining Stars, she excitedly took on the challenge of a new room, and that is where she currently is today. She is equally fantastic and loved in each room she moves to.

Mariah has her associate's degree in early childhood education from MATC. She is currently working towards her early childhood education administrator credential.

Ms. Mariah has a personality that is larger than life. We lovingly refer to her as PEP's very own Ms. Rachel. She encourages every child to be themselves and always inspires their creative side. You can find her and her kids singing and dancing around the building, they often stop at the front desk for an impromptu song and dance performance. Ms. Mariah is the children's biggest cheerleader. She knows every child in her class; their strengths and weaknesses and what they need from her to thrive in their environment. She goes out of her way to make every child feel seen and heard while they are in her care.

In her free time Mariah loves spending time with her long-time boyfriend Tony, and their cat Stanley. She also loves spending time with friends and family. One of Mariah's passions in life is singing. We all learned she has an amazing voice when she performed karaoke at our staff Christmas party. She also enjoys shopping, cooking and traveling.

We are so thankful for Ms. Mariah and the joy that she brings to the center each day



Happy 2-year anniversary to the fantastic Ms. Jacque.

Ms. Jacque started on our infant toddler's floor and remained there for her entire time here at PEP. She is currently the teacher in our Darling Dragonfly room.

Ms. Jacque is a natural born caregiver. She has been caring for children ever since she was 6 years old. She has been working in the field of early childhood education since 2008. She has three years of college experience majoring in fine arts and education.

Ms. Jacque is wildly creative. She comes up with unique and imaginative art projects, incorporating fun materials like feathers and foam. She is not afraid of making a mess and loves creating exciting sensory experiences for the children. She has a love of nature and will bring nature in the form of leaves, snow and flowers into the classroom for the kids to explore. There is never a dull moment with Ms. Jacque around.

Her coworkers would tell you how generous and kind Jacque is. She will go out of her way to make a coworker feel appreciated, whether it is with a kind note, or gift, or just a pat on the back and check in making sure everyone is ok. She is extremely thoughtful and willing to help when needed.

When Jacque isn't shaping the minds of our toddlers she loves spending time with her three children, Adalae, Atticus and Iniko. She loves spending time with coworkers trying out fun new places to eat or visit. She is an avid reader and enjoys painting gardening and journaling.

We want to thank Ms. Jacque for her commitment to Park's Edge Preschool and her commitment to the children she cares for.