

Put a little PEP in your Life!

February 2026 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 Zablocki VA. My favorite part of making the cards is hearing all the love and appreciation the recipients have for the children's artwork. One said "The card made my heart smile. It probably is the only card I will get. It really means so much to me."

Friendly Reminder: Our 2026 tuition rates go into effect on Monday, February 9. We will have a table setup for vacation vouchers the week of February 9. If you have not turned in your paperwork yet, please drop it off at the front desk prior to receiving your vouchers.

Emanuel Church is hosting another fun Lego Master Night on Friday, February 20 at 6pm. This month's theme is 'Build your favorite book.' It is a fun activity for the whole family, all are welcome! Sign up

sheet is located at the front desk.

Thursday, February 12th we will have our annual Valentine's Day Parade in Emanuel Church's sanctuary at 10am. Please dress your child in pink, red, purple, white and/or hearts. All family members are welcome too. Please read the insert 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 on ProCare and use the classroom chat so that the teachers see it immediately as well. If you have any questions for the office staff only, please use office chat.

Please mark your calendars, PEP has a Professional Half Day on Friday, March 6th. We will close at 12pm, lunch will be provided. All pm transportation will not be provided that day. We will have an afternoon of learning. We have WECA (Wisconsin Early Childhood Association) joining us virtually to share information on the TEACH Scholarship. Paychex

will be here to meet individually with each staff member about their total reward package and financial planning. We will be going over the results of the NAC Survey that was completed in November to create trainings for 2026. The Culture Team will also be meeting to discuss our center goals for the staff/program. Thank you to all our families for making alternate arrangements for the afternoon so we can have all staff attend.

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 19.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,
Kristin Burr

Happy Birthday!

George S.	02/01/2024
Levi S.	02/05/2024
Jane L.	02/06/2022
Waylon W.	02/06/2023
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
Beckett B.	02/20/2020
Oliver B.	02/21/2020
Hayden C.	02/23/2022
Bennett W.	02/26/2022
Colette A.	02/26/2024
Adalynn L.	02/27/2024



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Important Dates:

Monday, February 9th-

New Tuition Rates go into effect.

Vacation vouchers will be available with all paperwork turned in.

Thursday, February 12th-

Valentines Day Parade - 10am.

Parents and Grandparents are welcome to attend.

Thursday, February 12th-

No School - Whitnall School District - 4K only.

Friday, February 13th-

No School - Whitnall School District

Sign up for care in the downstairs classrooms.

Monday, February 16th-

No School - Whitnall School District

Sign up for care in the downstairs classrooms.

Friday, February 20th-

Lego Night - Hosted by Emanuel Church

All are welcome to attend. Sign up at the front desk.

Friday, March 6th-

PEP Professional Development Half Day

Center closes at noon. Lunch will be served. No PM 4K busing or afternoon busing.

Love Bugs

What do mountains wear to keep warm?

Snowcaps

In January we tested our creativity and did a couple of paintings with our feet, we made a polar bear and a penguin. This month, we will do some tin foil painting where the older children can feel the texture of the tin foil, as well as paint with a paint brush. The younger children will use their touch sense and explore some contact paper that will be taped to the floor for some cause and effect.

Our child of the month is Daniel! He is a chatty guy that likes to strike up a conversation. He is practicing sitting up with support, and has been strengthening his muscles with tummy time.

Smiley Ben can clap his hands and likes to look through the gate into the other classrooms to see what's going on with his other friends!

Vera is working on waving hello to everyone she sees; she is practicing standing while holding onto the toy shelf.

Lorelei is working on rolling over from stomach to back, she's learning how to grasp toys that are in her hands.

Charlette is able to sit up on her own! Her laugh is contagious and lights up the room. She is rolling around the room for toys.

Jack is practicing getting around the room, reaching for toys. Almost sitting up on his own.

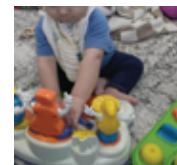
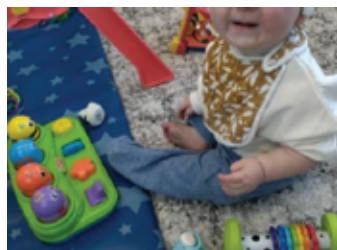
Dawson is practicing rolling over from stomach to back more often. He will explore with finger-painting and textures.

Liam is working on tummy time to strengthen his neck muscles, he has been watching himself in the mirror for some self awareness.

Our newest classmate will be Eloise! Welcome Eloise and family!

Have a wonderful February!

Ms. Terri and Ms. Sydney



Beautiful Butterflies

What did one light bulb say to the other on Valentine's day?

I love you watts and watts!

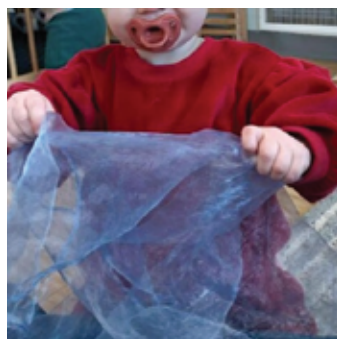
Your kiddos light up our lives every day, and as always, we are honored to be able to love and care for your beautiful babies! January was full of fun (and staying warm). Our little friends had a blast shaking their groove thang to the music while playing with scarves. We enjoyed art time, our favorites this month were coloring with markers on giant paper as a large group, and finger painting melted snowmen! We talked about all the animals who take a nap ALL WINTER, and saw photos of bears, foxes, skunks, bats and more who hibernate. We also heard the story "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" and "Polar bear, Polar Bear" by Eric Carle. Our little ones are continually trying to say more words to communicate. We are pulling up to stand, cruising along furniture, and taking first steps. A few of our friends are full-time walkers!

We made it to February, the month of love! God is love! We will be singing "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children" throughout the month of February for our Christian component. In addition to Love, this month will be full of fun with the themes of Olympics, Parts of the body and healthy teeth! Look out for all the photos of all of the fun we will have throughout the month.

Alex will be the baby of the month for February! Mr. Alex just celebrated his birthday at the end of January. Alex loves to scoot around the room, enjoys stacking squishy blocks, pushing toy cars, and playing with farm animals.

Have a fantastic February!

Ms. Holli and Ms. Julie



Darling Dragonflies

“Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.” – Malvina Reynolds

In January we rang in 2026 with teaching our Dragonflies about New Year celebrations and how fun and joyful experience they can be! We learned how some animals hibernate and others can use their shadow to predict if spring will come early or not. We've been enjoying walking in a winter wonderland whenever the weather has permitted us to. On days we cannot get outside we've enjoyed playing dress up, art projects and working on our fine motor skills with puzzles and peg boards.

In February our themes will be cheering for the good ole USA in the Olympics, spreading love like Jesus, learning parts of our bodies as well as dental hygiene. During the week of “All You Need is Love” we will be teaching our class about being loving how Jesus loves us and how learning how to be loving is essential for developing emotional intelligence, nurturing relationships, and fosters empathy. The following week we will be learning to identify parts of our anatomy and learn how to keep it healthy and strong. Perhaps one day becoming an Olympic champion ourselves! Our last theme for February will be about Dentists which helps us to learn how to take care of our teeth!

We are still continuing our goals for the Dragonflies in February by learning simple counting at least up to 5, basic shapes, the colors of the rainbow, animals and the noises they make and simple manners such as please, thank you and excuse me. We have been seeing much improvement throughout January. Great job everyone! We encourage parents to incorporate these in daily conversations and games at home. Please feel free to reach out to us for ideas!

Ms. Brooke is about to have a new addition to her family soon and will be out on her maternity leave and bonding with her new baby! We will miss her very much! We love you!

Ms. Brooke, Ms. Jacque and Ms. Gabi



Busy Bees

Brrrr it's cold out! We survived the frozen month of January! We may have spent most of the month inside, but we have kept busy between dance parties, bringing snow inside, and doing art activities.

We learned about snow and winter snowflakes. We mixed snow and watercolors in the sensory table to see what would happen and it turned out beautiful. We learned about hibernation and created a bear cave with a cardboard box and helped the stuffed bears in our room take a nap for the winter. We froze some water and let our Little People dolls go ice skating on the sensory table, and we watched them slide around.

Our Bees have been loving singing, and we hear them sing songs throughout the day. We also love to hear all the stories they make up for the toys they are playing with, even if we don't understand them, they are communicating so much more. We have been getting better at cleaning up toys and wanting to be independent with hand washing and getting ready for outside when we are able to!

February we will be working on counting and continue working on sharing, which is always hard as a toddler!

We can't wait for all the fun February will bring. We will learn about the Olympics and different kinds of sports, Valentine's Day and love, and head shoulders, knees and toes and our amazing teeth. We will be having a valentine exchange the week of February 9th through the 13th. If you'd like to bring in a box to collect cards and valentines for them to hand out, please have them ready by Monday, February 9th! We will also have a parade on Thursday, February 12th!

I hope the weather warms up so everyone can have a warm and cozy Valentine's Day!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Izzy, and Ms. Shanda



Sunshine Room

What do snowmen eat for lunch?
Icebergers!

Hello Sunshine Crew!

I hope you all had a happy New Year! May all of your days stay bright, the nights calmer and your moments sweeter, I'm excited to see what the new year will continue to bring. Before Christmas almost everyone had asked for snow, the new year did not disappoint. The sunshine's have been loving the snow and all we can do in it and with it! They have been practicing putting on their own snow gear, followed by zipping up their snow pants and jacket:) We are so proud of our little Sunshine's.

With the colder weather outside we had to stay inside some days, but it didn't stop the fun! Our favorite had to be our hot chocolate playdough AND cloud dough, it smelled just like grandma's hot chocolate. The cloud dough smelled different, it smelled just like chocolate covered strawberries, our teachers favorite treat!! Moving forward our favorite theme this month was arctic animals. We learned so much about hibernation as well as what is an arctic animal, our favorite is the arctic owl. We are preparing for Valentine's Day and can't wait for our classroom party!

Just a friendly reminder to check your child's cubby to make sure they have all the proper gear for outside play:) As well as appropriate back-up clothes for the just in case moments. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to us using the app, during drop/off or pick-up and even calling during the time frame of 1-3pm Monday through Friday's. We're looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, laughter, and fun!

Thank you! The Sunshine Crew:)
Ms. Nay-Nay & Ms. Alexis



Fantastic Frogs

Hello February! As we welcome February, we are all excited to learn about groundhogs. Will he see his shadow or not? We will also be learning which animals hibernate over winter.

Looking back on our January adventures, it's fun to remember all the fun activities we've done! The weather was nice for us to play and take walks out in the snow. We learned about snowflakes and how they are unique just like each one of us are. We spent time in the library for stories like "Snowball Soup" and went back to the classroom where Mrs. Sandra had a big pot of cotton snowballs with ladles to make our own snowball soup! The children also took turns ice fishing and coloring mittens. The kids got their wiggles out by crawling through the indoor tunnels, and they really enjoyed making ice caves with the ice blocks and playing with the penguins and bears.

We are excited for February. Our themes for February are Olympics, All you need is love, Head Shoulders Knees and Toes, and Happy Healthy Teeth. For the week of the Olympics, we have a laminated ice rink for the kids to "skate" around on in their socks. During the week all you need is love, we will be learning "Love is Patient, Love is Kind" along with the song "Jesus Loves Me". On Thursday, February 12th at 10am we will be showing off our Valentines gear for the Valentines parade. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to attend. The last week in February we will be learning about Happy Healthy Teeth and that teeth are bones on the outside of our body, and how God helps us take care of our bodies.

It's been a fantastic start to the new year! And we are looking forward to being part of each child's growth in the coming months. Just a reminder if your child has a water bottle at school, please remember to take them home each day to clean them.

Have a blessed Month!
Ms. Sandra & Ms. Sue



Shining Stars

February is here, and we can't wait to see what fun things we will LOVE this month! To recap January, we first started off with New Years week, where we made some glittery fork painted fireworks! After that, we learned how we are all so unique like snowflakes, we are different and special in our own way! We then walked our way into a winter wonderland where we explored all the different arctic animals that live in winter conditions. What's your favorite arctic animal? We then jumped into hibernation week, we explored so many new animals that we had no idea hibernate! Did you know hedgehogs hibernate? Check out our pictures of them in the hallway! And to wrap it all up, we crawled into groundhogs and shadows week, where we explored shadows through a shadow puppet show!

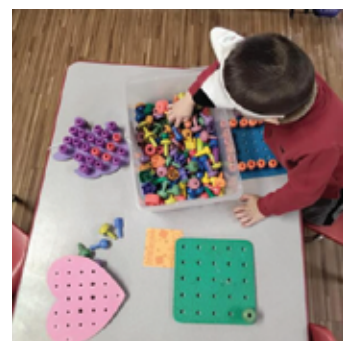
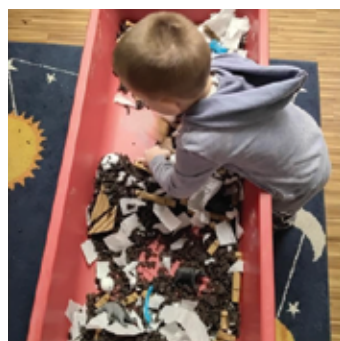
Our focus for January was kindness and respect. We are exploring ways to show kindness and respect to our teachers and friends with kind words and gentle hands. Our book of the month was "The Not So Friendly Friend" by Christina Furnival, which discusses the topic of setting clear, firm, and healthy boundaries with our friends when we may not feel like playing!

The first week of February will be the Winter Olympics, we are excited to learn about some of our favorite winter sports! After that, we are going to 'love' Valentine's Week, we are 'hungry' to make heart pizzas! Then we will 'dance' our way into Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes week, how fast can you sing it? And then to wrap it all up, we will talk all about our shiny teeth and how we take care of them!

Some goals we have for February are to continue on our kindness, as well as working on our listening ears during transitions. We have been encouraging listening and cooperation with new interactive surprise incentives such as bubble dance parties and 'shoes off' time! Please feel free to share some fun incentives and rewards that work well at home to make these surprise rewards even more special!

We hope you love what February brings!

Ms. Mariah, Ms. Hannah, Ms. Nola, and the Stars Bunch



Slithering Snakes

Hello, and a (hopefully) warm welcome to February! January brought the full fury of winter's chill, and we all hope February's warmth will dull the chill enough to return outside to enjoy the snow! While the forecast has again and again dashed all hopes of outside, please remember to bring your child's snow gear so that any chance to get outside can be seized swiftly to provide our energy an appropriate outlet! There are still plenty of opportunities this winter to build snowmen and have snowball fights, and return inside to warm up snugly in our reading area. We would also like to mention that with temperatures being what they are, if any of our families have old blankets they no longer need we would happily take them to store on the bus in case any child would like a little extra warmth on their bus ride. Now let's move on from talks of cold and snow to our upcoming months and the wonderful moments they will bring!

February will provide us with ample opportunities to demonstrate our compassion and care for one another, but perhaps the most obvious chance will be the exchanging of Valentines. This year the children who attend Whitnall will have off school the 13th and the 16th so we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with you all on the 13th! Please bring any Valentine;s you'd like to pass out on that day, and if you'd like to you may bring in a decorated box or bag! We are very excited to have the chance to celebrate with our school agers this year, as well as having those two days off to spend at PEP. A final note about the recent happenings of our classroom, we are now the proud caretakers of four gold white cloud minnows. While our last two bettas unfortunately got sick and passed, our new fish are a very hardy breed that live between one to three years, and are very active and a joy to watch. As of yet they have no names (Finding groups of four for inspiration has proven difficult) but are very open to any and all suggestions and will be putting it up to a vote when we find a suitable list! As always thank you for taking a moment to read this and connect with us, and we look forward to another wonderful month with you all!

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicole and Mr. Cody

Purple Moons

Baby, it's COLD outside. Thanks a lot, January!

Despite the frigid cold, we stayed busy in the classroom and made the best of our time inside.

We began this month talking about our goals for the new year! We discussed what a goal was and how we can take steps to reach our goals. Some of our children set a goal to learn to read while some of them set a goal to get home and watch TV. We all have our priorities!

The next week we brought the weather inside and talked about winter and snowflakes. We made beautiful winter scenes that are hung up on our bulletin board in the classroom, we made torn paper snowflakes, ate yummy pretzel and marshmallow snowflakes and made snowflakes appear with white crayons and blue watercolor paint.

We wanted to continue to embrace the cold weather outside, so we created winter wonderlands and learned more about arctic animals. We made hand print penguins, beautiful snowy owls, silhouette scenes and winter hats. We played in shaving cream, "sock" skated in Kurth Hall (this has been determined a fan-favorite) and ended the week making "polar paw prints" with whipped cream, Oreos and chocolate chips. Be sure to come in and check out your child's art hanging on the bulletin boards in the classroom! We truly have a room full of creative minds.

All this talk about winter mixed with the cold weather made us pretty tired, so we decided to talk about hibernation. We discussed the difference between hibernation, migration and adaptation and which animals hibernate, migrate or adapt. We created bears in a cave and hedgehogs, sorted bears by color and Ms. Maria taught us about patterns. We mastered Tic-Tac-Toe and often challenge the teachers to a game. We played in our hibernation sensory bin and built caves for a bear, collected food before hibernation and of course, made delicious Grizzly Bear Fudge! The kids LOVED the fudge! We love the creative cooking ideas that Ms. Maria comes up with and we love watching the kids as little chefs.

I'm sure a lot of us wish we could sleep winter away but hang tight! Hopefully spring is nearby. Groundhogs' Day is upon us! This week we made shadow puppets, played in our kinetic sand sensory bin pretending to be little burrowing groundhogs, tested our dice rolling skills with our "roll and color" activity, danced away during our "shadow freeze dance", matched shadow shapes and made yummy jello ball "burrows." Thank you to everyone who participated in our shadow prediction take-home-activity! The kids had a lot of fun making educated guesses on whether Phil will be our friend or foe depending on his decision. We are counting on you, Phil! Do not let us down, furry friend.

February brings more fun. Coming in first place, we have our Olympic week where our little athletes will go for the gold! We will then fall in love with Valentines Day where we express our love for those around us, especially for our little friends. From our heads to our toes, we are learning and growing! We'll learn about our bodies and how we can keep them healthy and happy. Smile! It's healthy teeth week! We'll look further into what causes healthy teeth and what causes unhealthy teeth, we'll talk about maintaining healthy habits and how dentists help us!

We hope everyone stays warm and we look forward to seeing you all in February!

Ms. Maria, Ms. Kasey and Ms. Eryn



Themes with Christian Sub Themes

2/2-2/6: Olympics

The flame represents God's presence and spiritual fire that needs to be kept alive through community and fellowship.
Romans 12:6 We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us. God gives us gifts and talents to edify the Body of Christ and not for selfish gain.

2/9-2/13: All You Need is Love

Jesus Loves Me (song)
Love is patient love is kind 1- Corinthians 13: 4-8

2/16-2/20: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." - 1 Corinthians 12:12

2/23-2/27: Happy Healthy Teeth

Psalm 6:2 Oh Lord, heal me for my bones are troubled. (Teeth are bones we can see).
God tells us to take care of our bodies that's where he abides.

A Pastors Prayer

God of Love,

Your love often feels intangible.
But it is made known to us, in the breaking of bread, a meal shared with friends, children laughing and playing, old friends reminiscing of the past, people standing up on behalf of other people. Love is not for us to hold onto and never share it but for us to share it abundantly. Be the guiding light of love we seek. Encourage us to let love flow freely from everything that we do. We pray that everyone will feel love and be loved. We pray in Jesus' name, who lived so we may know love, Amen.

-Pastor Josh Simon



NAC Nook

Hello Everyone,

The standard for February's NAC nook is our use of positive redirection.

F4. Teacher's give directions using positive words, for example, "Walk" rather than "Don't run", "Gentle touches" rather than "Don't hit".

Instead of telling the children what not to do, we let them know the desired action. This puts an emphasis on the positive behaviors over the negative ones. It is also a part of our Park's Edge Preschool standards and is something we train on at least once per year.

We also redirect children to another activity versus taking away toys. This allows them to learn how to walk away and find an activity that will help calm their bodies when frustrated, tired, or they prefer to have a quiet moment.

If you have further questions about our use of positive redirection let us know.



Happy Anniversary!

Happy two-year anniversary to the wonderful 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. Nola now floats around to any classroom downstairs that needs her. She is a tremendous help wherever she goes

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

Three 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.

