

Put a little PEP in your Life!

April 2026 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 attended the Spring Fling. It was so fun watching all the little bunnies dance the night away, and the pictures with the Easter Bunny were a joy. I don't know if I had more fun watching the teachers or the children dancing! Thank you to DJ Jim Kennedy for making the night one to remember.

PEP's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Friday, April 3. The Easter Bunny will be hiding fun-filled plastic eggs for all ages in their designated play areas. The children will look for "their" eggs during their classroom's regularly scheduled outdoor time. The Easter Bunny will also be making a surprise visit during that time!

April 13-17 is the Week of the Young Child, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is an exciting year for NAEYC, as they are celebrating 100 years as an organization and 55 years of celebrating WOYC. NAEYC's foundational belief is that the early

childhood years, from birth through age eight, lay the foundation for a child's later academic and social success. Therefore, thoughtful investment in a child's education during these years can go a long way.

At Park's Edge, we know it takes a village to raise a child. We have special celebrations planned for parents, board members, and staff throughout the week. The themes for each day are Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. Please see the attached flyer for more information. On Thursday, April 16, we will have a parade at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate this exciting week.

WOYC is also a time to celebrate four years since we created our five Core Values: Children First, Professionalism, Teamwork, Positivity, and Commitment. PEP staff know that families are the strongest influence on young children, and when early childhood educators' partner with families, children do much better socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally.

Our month will conclude with Conference Night on Thursday, April 23, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be in your child's classroom.

Conference Night is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your child's teachers and discuss your child's development. Teachers work hard preparing each child's individual portfolio and Portage Assessment Tool to review during conferences. Childcare will be provided that night.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter.

Sincerely,
Kristin Burr

Happy Birthday!

Charlotte A.	04/04/2018
Emmett C.	04/07/2019
James F.	04/08/2023
Brady K.	04/10/2022
Hunter K.	04/10/2022
Hazel J.	04/10/2023
Owen M.	04/11/2019
Michael P.	04/13/2022
Evan B.	04/16/2020
Max K.	04/18/2017
Gracie J.	04/19/2018
Layla C.	04/21/2019
Theodore S.	04/25/2023
Vera O.	04/25/2025
Zosia P.	04/27/2021
Benjamin B.	04/27/2025
Calum D.	04/30/2022



Important Dates:

Friday, April 3rd–

Easter Egg Hunt

Toddlers through school-aged classrooms will be participating.

Monday, April 13th - Friday, April 17th–

Week of the Young Child

See the PEP website news page for details.

Thursday, April 16th–

Week of the Young Child Parade - 10:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary.

Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.

Thursday, April 23rd–

Conference Night

Sign-up sheets are available in the classroom.

Love Bugs

What did the tree say to the new spring flower?
I'm rooting for you!

Our Child of the Month is Lorelai! Lorelai can sit up on her own now, and she also has two adorable little teeth. She is always smiling and loves chatting with her friends.

Here's what our kiddos have been mastering:

Daniel can pull up to a standing position with teacher support and loves to give his friends hugs.

Jack can stand using the toy shelf and get down by himself.

Charlotte can sit up from a lying-down position.

Dawson can clap his hands and dances when music comes on.

Liam has found his voice and has been very chatty with us.

Brooks and Sully recently joined our class—welcome to their families!

In March, we painted with green on bubble wrap. We explored the texture by touching and playing with it.

This month, we will play the drums and splash in water!

Our books this month are The Loud and Quiet Book and The Book of Hugs.

Have a wonderful April!

Ms. Terri and Ms. Sydney



Beautiful Butterflies

What did the tree say to spring? "What a re-leaf!"

Beyond thankful for spring! A breath of fresh air, the flowers and trees beginning to bloom! We are so excited to be able to be outside more frequently as the weather warms up! With the weather still wishy-washy, please make sure your little one still has a jacket, hat and mittens here at all times. Also, with the change of seasons it is a great idea to take a peek in your child's extra clothes bin, located under their cubbies, to check fit and begin switching out clothes for the season, whenever it works for you!

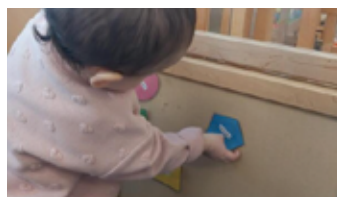
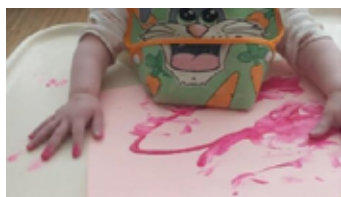
Last month, we started the Month celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. We read several of his books, and ball painted "Cat in the Hat's" Hat! For "Young artists" week, we used bingo dotters to make a pretty picture. Dotters are a favorite art medium in our classroom! We also played with different shapes with our shape sorter and flannel pieces. We rounded out the week with a kidz bop dance party! During walks in the church, Ms. Paige plays the piano for our little friends. The most popular is "Old MacDonald", listen for your little to sing "e,i,e,i,o"! For the last 2 weeks we shifted our focus to colors! Our little ones love to reach up high and watch the rainbow paper chain swing when they touch it. We painted with our very own colors to make a rainbow of art, and made art while smashing it in a bag!

In April, we will have just as much fun! We plan to begin taking our "walkers" out to play on the playground as the weather allows, our littles will enjoy more stroller rides outside! We will be starting the month talking all about Easter! Jesus LIVES! We will be playing with plastic eggs and Easter grass for sensory and cognitive development. After the bunny comes, it will be the week of the young child! That week we will be doing all of the kiddos favorite activities, read class favorite books, and sing our favorite songs. We will be rounding out the month talking about and playing with planets, and our solar system. For earth week we will be practicing cleaning up and discussing how to keep the earth clean.

Our friends Vera and Ben will be the "Babies of the month". We will be celebrating both of their first birthdays in April. Vera is pulling herself up to stand and loves scaling the furniture. She loves music and will stop whatever she is doing and will start dancing! Benjamin loves to get his friend's attention by making silly faces and playing peek-a-boo! He is a funny little guy and makes us all laugh everyday!

Happy Easter!

Ms. Holli, Ms. Julie and Ms. Paige



Darling Dragonflies

We can't believe April is already here—where did the time go?! Spring has sprung, and we are so excited! It's time to celebrate Easter and look forward to all the warm, sunny days ahead. With that in mind, please bring your little ones a light spring jacket or hoodie, and keep hats and mittens handy for those surprise chilly days. Fingers crossed the snow pants and boots can stay home for good!

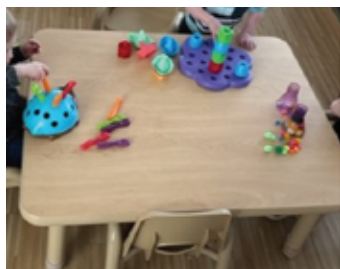
In March, our littles had a blast dancing through the St. Patrick's Day parade—it was such a joy! We loved seeing the parents and grandparents who were able to join us. We're really getting into the groove of our school routine. The children are practicing taking turns, holding the railing on the stairs, and showing kindness to their friends.

We're also working hard on communication skills! Whether it's signing "all done" or "more" at the table, or asking a friend for a turn with a favorite toy, these are big steps for our little learners. Communication is such an important skill, and we're here to support them every step of the way. Reading together and chatting with your child at home can make a big difference—it helps grow their vocabulary and strengthens that special parent-child bond. After all, parents are a child's very first teacher, and they're always watching and learning from you!

We're looking forward to celebrating Easter, a wonderful time to teach little ones about its meaning while enjoying all the fun activities that come with it. It's a season of hope, joy, and new beginnings.

This month, we'll also be talking about caring for our planet. We all share this beautiful home, and even small acts of kindness toward the Earth—and each other—can make a big difference. Together, we can help grow a happy, healthy world!

Ms. Jacque and Ms. Gina



Busy Bees

What a wonderful and busy March it has been! We have been enjoying yoga in the classroom, learning how to stretch our bodies, relax our minds, and practice calm breathing. The children have also begun learning how to use plastic safety scissors, and they are doing a fantastic job building their confidence and fine motor skills.

We made the most of the last bits of winter by stomping through the remaining snow and even building a snowman with Ms. Izzy, which was such a fun and memorable experience! Lately, our vocabulary and imagination have truly been blossoming. The children have been coming up with creative and silly stories as they play, build, and explore together, which has been so exciting to watch.

We had an amazing time marching around the church for our St. Patrick's Day parade, showing off our festive spirit, and we also had a hopping good time at the Spring Fling! It was so special to see everyone come together. One of my favorite moments is always getting to dance with the children—just like we do each week in our classroom!

As we look ahead to April, we are excited for all the fun and learning it will bring. We will be celebrating Easter and enjoying many of our favorite activities during the Week of the Young Child. This is a special time where we focus on making learning extra meaningful and fun for the children. We will also begin exploring space—learning about the stars, planets, and beyond—as well as talking about how to care for our home, Earth, and keep it clean and safe.

We are especially excited for our Easter egg hunt on the 3rd, which is sure to be a joyful and memorable event for everyone!

Just a friendly reminder that conferences will be held on April 23rd. Please feel free to sign up if you would like time to connect and talk more about your child's growth, progress, and all the wonderful things they have been working on.

Ms. Emily and Ms. Izzy



Sunshine Room

What kind of music do bunnies like?

Hip hop!

Hello, Sunshine Crew!

With the beautiful weather starting to roll in, the children have enjoyed spending more time outside while soaking up the sun. This month, we wanted to focus on the colors of the rainbow. The children have been doing an outstanding job with their color recognition. It's been amazing to witness the growth in confidence as they point out different colors throughout the day!

We were so happy to see everyone at the Spring Fling—the children couldn't stop talking about it! We had so much fun dancing, getting tattoos, and spending time together. The best part was seeing the excitement on the children's faces when they saw their friends. During group time, we noticed the children's gears turning more and more as they counted higher each day. It was incredible to see how high they could count on their own by the end of the month!

We are also proud of how independent everyone is becoming. Many of the children are doing a great job putting their coats on and zipping them up all by themselves! With the weather getting warmer, we are hoping we won't need our coats anymore :)

Looking ahead to April, we are getting excited for Easter. We will be talking about how Jesus has risen and the meaning behind Easter :) while also enjoying fun activities like egg painting, color matching, and an egg hunt, which will be held on April 3rd at 10 a.m. The children are thrilled and can't stop talking about their Easter baskets!

We also want to say thank you for creating such a wonderful community. We can't wait to watch these sunshines keep on shining!

Love, The Sunshine Crew

Ms. Nay Nay & Ms. Alexis :)



Fantastic Frogs

We are loving the warmer weather—the sun is shining, and spring has arrived! We can't wait to begin April with the celebration of Easter and the resurrection story of Jesus. During our nature walks, we have been searching for signs of spring. The children pointed to the colorful flowers next to the field, but they were made of plastic. Nevertheless, real flowers will soon begin to sprout.

The cold and blizzard this past month came in like a lion, but thankfully it melted fast and we made it through. Some of our highlights this past month included celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. It was great to see all the wacky outfits the children wore—not to mention the teachers! Green eggs and ham were a success this year. Almost all the children tried them and even wanted seconds and thirds.

The children studied graphing this past month. They sorted, counted, and matched various graphing cards using Lucky Charms cereal. They also had the opportunity to enjoy their Lucky Charms snack after completing their graphing. This was a wonderful way to develop several developmental domains, such as science, math, and fine motor skills.

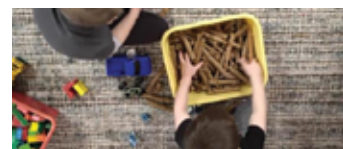
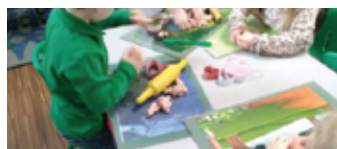
We are looking forward to the month of April as we celebrate Easter, explore the solar system, and learn about our planet and what we can do to keep it clean and safe. Our themes for this month include "Happy Easter," "Out of This World," "Week of the Young Child," "Our Planet," and "May Flowers."

During the Week of the Young Child, we will focus on some of the children's favorite activities. Here at Parks Edge, we put children first, so we want to make it extra special for them. One of their favorite activities is "Show and Tell," where they bring in their favorite toy from home to share with their friends. We usually have this activity on Fridays, but during the Week of the Young Child, we are planning to extend it throughout the week. The children are also welcome to bring in their favorite book for us to read aloud to the class.

Thank you to all the families who came out for our "Spring Fling." The children were so excited to see their friends and enjoy music and movement. Please remember to check your child's cubby in case they need extra clothing.

We hope everyone has a safe and blessed month—Happy Resurrection Easter!

Ms. Sandra and Ms. Sarah



Shining Stars

Hello Star families! We are so 'egg'-cited for Easter and absolutely 'showered' with joy to see what April brings us!

March was full of all sorts of fun themes and adventures. First, we started with 'Dr. Seuss' Birthday' with spirit week. We loved seeing everyone dress up and participate in the fun! We loved reading 'The Cat in the Hat'. See what your kiddo said about meeting the cat on our discussion poster in the hallway! After that, we created some beautiful and unique art during 'Young Artists' week, we used all sorts of fun recycled materials to make a beautiful classwork masterpiece! Then, we sham-'rocked' our way into 'St. Patrick's Day' week where we had a silly little leprechaun visit our room, and he made such a mess! He turned our milk green and hid golden coins in our cubbies! And to wrap up March, we learned all about diversity during 'Colors Around the World'. We talked about how all of our families are different and explored different foods from around the world!

April is full of all sorts of fun, starting with Easter week of course! We can't wait to decorate our classroom with all sorts of fun pastel colors and do our annual Easter egg hunt! After that, we will 'fly' into 'Outer Space' week where we will discover all the different planets in our solar system and find out what makes them all unique. Then we will jump right into Week of the Young Child! We are looking forward to celebrating our kids, our families, our teachers, and of course our administration! And to wrap up April, we will be celebrating 'Earth Day' by helping clean up our planet and creating projects with recycled materials.

This past month, we talked a lot about listening ears and gentle hands. This is a topic we will be bringing into April with us, as well as respecting friends and teachers. We have been implementing more structured transitions and activities, as well as reading books related to these topics to help show what kind, loving, and gentle in the classroom looks like. Please feel free to share any ideas or strategies you may be using at home to help with this stage of development!

The weather is giving us a run for our money! Please make sure to be prepared with all kinds of outdoor clothing. There are some days that still require hats and gloves with the windchill, as well as boots with the mud! Children are more than welcome to bring an extra sweater to keep in their cubbies, as well as keep a pair of labeled boots, gloves, and a hat at school!

We are so glad spring is sprung-ing and are looking forward to a joyful month!

Ms. Mariah, Ms. Hannah, and Ms. Nola



Slithering Snakes

Hello! April has come at last but unfortunately seems to have forgotten warmer temperatures at home. With April will inevitably come soft rains, so please remember to bring a proper coat to repel the worst of it, as well as boots to traverse muddy terrain. This month will begin with the tail end of Whitnall's Spring Break, and at the end of that week we will be visited by the Easter Bunny! He will be going around the center to hide his Easter eggs, as well as to take a picture with each classroom and child who would like one! Also, during April will be the week of the young child, a chance to celebrate the reason we are all here and show appreciation for the community we are fortunate enough to serve. Please keep an eye out for that week's schedule as it will detail each day's theme and events! April promises to be a month that can deliver on its promise of events, while at the same time offering a respite from the routine of the school year.

While we value literacy every day out of the year, as we begin to wrap up the school year we would like to be very intentional about providing plenty of chances for our children to not only read and work on their literacy but provide a foundational interest and love for reading. Mr. Cody will be working on a list of books that will be available to read while in our classroom, as well as books to check out outside of Park's Edge. We value reading as not only a skill that will help your child excel, but as an opportunity to challenge our minds, experience emotions and feelings elicited only through tale, and escape to an endless multitude of worlds whose only limitations are what we can imagine. This summer we will be reading a class chapter book, which is as of yet undetermined, so if there are any books your family currently enjoys, please let us know! We appreciate any and all family feedback, and hope for your support and enthusiasm on our literacy journey.

As ever we appreciate you taking the time to read this, and would love any feedback, whether they be comments or concerns. We hope you have a wonderful month, and look forward to our rapidly approaching summer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicole and Mr. Cody

Purple Moons

Purple Moon Families,

Can you believe it's already April? We've definitely been enjoying the warmer weather days that Wisconsin has been so generous with!

Before we get too ahead of ourselves, let's flashback to the first week of March where we rhymed all the time with Dr Seuss! We made truffula trees, silly socks and of course made green eggs and ham!

We then put our little artists to work during "Let's Create Young Artists" week! We completed our "Draw What You Imagine" activity. From The Arctic, to surfing on a beach, to the movie theater, their big imaginations were brought to life! We created a class mural, made a scrumptious fruit rainbow and, overall, embraced our creativity.

We were tricked and treated by sneaky Leprechaun Joe on St. Patrick's Day! We did our best to create a trap to catch the little fella and boy, were we close! We were lucky enough to catch his boot and a get a few treats from him. He sent us on a scavenger hunt to find his pot of gold, but alas, no gold. Just some spicy chips, pickle balls, green cookies, green peeps and lucky charms. The kids were pretty content with all of that though! If you see a Leprechaun hobbling around with only one boot, tell him we're looking for him! Better luck next year!

We then talked about the Colors Around The World. We talked about how life would be pretty bland if everyone was the same, so it's important to embrace our differences and what makes us unique! We also talked about different cultures, abilities, family structures, etc. At the end of the week, we shared our lovely take-home activity with our classmates! It was so fun to hear all of the different traditions our families have. We also tried a delicious biscuit treat from Serbia from one of our classmates and Pizzelle's from Italy from Ms. Maria!

We're closing out March and beginning April talking about the resurrection of Jesus and the real reason why we celebrate Easter! It was lovely to see some of your smiling faces (and dance moves!) at our Spring Fling! We enjoy these events, but seeing you all makes them even better!

We hope everyone is enjoying the (occasional) Spring weather and that you have a blessed and wonderful Easter!

Ms. Maria, Ms. Kasey and Ms. Eryn



Themes with Christian Sub Themes

4/6-4/10 - Out of This World

Psalm 147:4:

“He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.”

Hebrews 11:3:

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command.”

4/13-4/17 - Week of the Young Child

“Our God Is an Awesome God” (song)

Matthew 19:13–15:

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

4/20-4/24 - Our Planet Our Home

Genesis 1:

The Creation Story—God spoke the world into existence. He is so powerful.

4/27-5/1 - God’s Showers Bring May Flowers

Deuteronomy 28:12:

“The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.”

A Pastors Prayer

Loving God,

Your love guides our hearts.

The resurrection of Your Son proves to us that the way of Christ should be our guide. He wants us love our neighbors as ourselves. Teach us to be kind and caring to everyone we know. Amen.

-Pastor Josh



NAC Nook

This month’s NAC nook will address the NAC standard of moving to the next classroom.

A13. My child has been in the same classroom with consistent teacher(s) and has not been moved to a new classroom more than one time each year.

Children may move more than once per year. Much thought is put into when children are moved, and we move based on birthday over just age. We also do our best to move children with other peers. There is a transition week before children are permanently moved to the next classroom.

Please keep in mind that if we are very low due to a holiday etc. or a lot of staff/children are sick, your child may be moved back. This of course is very rare and would only happen if necessary to maintain safe ratios and allow us to let everyone attend in these types of situations.

When your child moves to the next classroom, you will receive a packet with information on the next classroom, teachers, and schedule. We will do our best to send a message on ProCare as well when classroom changes occur.

Please let us know if you have any questions on this standard.



Happy Anniversary!

Happy 4-year anniversary to the fantastic Ms. Mariah.

Ms. Mariah is our 4K teacher in the Shining Stars classroom. She is our real-life Mary Poppins and enjoys singing and dancing with the children! Each time there is a spirit week you bet she will be dressed up and lighting everyone's faces with the best costumes.

Ms. Mariah is creative with her lesson plans, thinking of the best math and reading activities to help prepare the children for kindergarten. The children look so proud once they finish tracing/writing a new letters, complete their counting activities, and sound out their new sight words. There is so much encouragement from Ms. Mariah that helps build the children's confidence for the next step in their education.

Ms. Mariah loves developing creative outlets and has recently started making signs as a side project. For all our big events she uses her creativity to make signs that add a depth of warmth for each event and the children love taking photos next to her cute displays!

You can hear Ms. Mariah's laughter throughout the building, and she always has a smile on her face. She is always singing fun songs, telling funny stories, and creating fun memories in the downstairs classrooms.

Happy 4-year anniversary Mariah!



Happy 3-year anniversary to the fabulous Ms. Jacque.

Ms. Jacque is our jack of all trades. She helps out in any classroom and is currently a teacher in our Busy Bees room. She likes to play with the children and have painting sessions with them, creating fun murals for the room! Ms. Jacque also ensures there's plenty of bubble dance parties for the kids to enjoy!

Ms. Jacque is one of the kindest humans alive. She is the first person to ask if you need anything when going on break and at least once per week brings in a trinket for a co-teacher that made her think of them. She also enjoys planning lunch dates with her co-teachers and creating a fun atmosphere for everyone to be in.

Ms. Jacque is a big fan of art and her creative side shines throughout the classroom. She plans fun activities and cool sensory projects that are always a hit with the children. She also shares her love of art, music, and books with her co-teachers.

She enjoys learning and always knows the most interesting, random facts on a variety of topics, especially the human mind. She is into astrological symbols and how these play into personality.

There is no one Ms. Jacque loves more than her three children, Iniko, Atticus, and Adelaide. They are her world and she loves planning fun activities for them to do together. She is always sharing stories of her children's favorite television shows, activities, how school is going, and does research each time they get a new interest so she can show how important they are to her.

Happy 3-year anniversary Ms. Jacque!

