



THE HELEN G. MUIR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

“Love is the rule in our school!”

May 2009

What an exciting school year this has been! We’ve watched the children grow in leaps and bounds. Each one is so unique with their special personality! They never cease to put a smile on my face and brighten my day! With May being the last month of school, I would like to thank our parents for the all of the wonderful support you have given us this year. Your generousities, with your time and donations, have helped to make all of our activities possible. Parents are great partners! Thank you, Deanna Poynter, for playing the piano for chapel and music. And to Pastor Suzy, thank you for the wonderful bible stories you shared with the children! We had three spectacular parent volunteer physical education teachers who kept the children in shape for us this year! Thank you Mrs. Sprott, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Yacobi for your never-ending energy! We’re going to miss you next year!

Thank you, staff, for your love of children and dedication to early childhood education! You have all made this a fantastic school year with your amazing talents!

We’ve been busy practicing for the spring program. The children are excited about performing their favorite songs for their parents on Friday, May 29th. Please mark your calendars so you’ll not miss this important day! Our 4-year olds will also have a special graduation time. A reception will be held immediately following the program in the fellowship hall. Thank you to everyone who donated food and beverages! A special thank you to Hannah Gray’s Mother, Ann Edgar, for organizing both the Christmas and spring programs, and to the terrific Mom’s who assisted her!

Please keep us in mind for your summer child care needs. We’ll be offering full and part-time child care June through August. Our new summer camps begin July 6th. There’s an exciting new camp each week!

Important dates to remember in May –

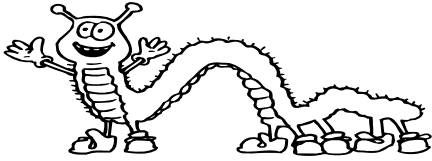
- May 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences
Preschool closed, child care open for full time students. Child care will also be available for parents during their scheduled conference time.
- May 25 Memorial Day – Center Closed
- May 29 Spring Program – 9:30am
Preschool closes for summer break for the 2½ and 3 year old classes at the conclusion of the program and reception.
- June 12 Last day of school for 4 year old classes

Have a safe and fun summer!!

Norma Topping
Director



Wythe Presbyterian Church, Hampton



MAGNIFICENT FOURS

April has been a busy month for the Magnificent Fours class. The book fair was the first of many things happening. We would like to thank everyone who donated a book to our class. We have read all of them and loved every word!

Easter was next on the calendar. We had a great time hunting for eggs. The rain didn't dampen our hunting spirit at all. We would like to thank our parents for the filled eggs and party treats. They were great!

Week of the Young Child began with a parade in our neighborhood. What fun marching around in our costumes! The week continued with our parents joining us in Chapel and Music.

Our caterpillars have finally arrived! It is always an exciting time watching them change from fuzzy caterpillars to beautiful butterflies.

Earth day came with a reminder of what we should be doing to keep our planet clean and healthy. We made a water filtration system. This gave us some idea of what it takes to keep our water clean. Along with this came our Doors to Discovery curriculum, Water Wonderland. We have learned how water is such an important part of our life.

We are coming to the end of our alphabet in a few weeks. Letters T, U, V, and W were explored this month.

Al and his friends have taught us the importance of problem solving by showing us how to stop, think, and ask, "What's the problem?"

We have been using this in class and I hope that you are hearing it at home.

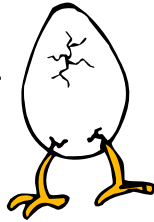
The month of May takes us to our last field trip of the school year. We will be visiting the Virginia Living Museum. Next we will have a fun filled day at our famous school carnival! Looks like another busy month for us!

Mrs. Susan Minter

Mrs. Heather Secrist

TERRIFIC TWO ½'S

The month of April brought lots of showers and our class was very fortunate that they did not interrupt our Easter egg hunt. It really is amazing how quickly 80 colored eggs can be scooped up when only 8 "Lego" blocks can take ten times as long! Who knew? A big "Thank you" to all those parents who sent in treats to make our Easter celebration special, it would not have been any fun without you.



This month our class is learning all about babies of spring with feathers, fluff, and fur and their textures and 'tickleness'!

Our color is purple and our room smells delightfully like grape Kool-Aid. The children used the Kool-Aid to make play dough adding the texture of flour to our feather, fluff, and fur theme. All this in a carpeted room!

Along with our pollywogs that we are faithfully watching, five small caterpillar friends arrived for our curious eyes to behold. As usual it will be a very busy month in our class!

Mrs. Debbie Wheelless
Mrs. Chanda Washington-Palmer

FANTASTIC FOUR'S

Spring hopped into our classroom and brought a visit from the Mayor of the City of Hampton, Mrs. Molly Joseph Ward. We had a wonderful time listening to her read us the story "My Lucky Day." After the story everyone made a special necklace craft. The children really enjoyed meeting the mayor and presented her with a fox puppet they created.

Our class has finished up their alphabet and numbers. Now the real fun starts! We have begun blending sounds and making words. Everyone is having fun with this new activity.

Tabby Tiger has set sail with a new unit on water. Our class has been working with Tabby on creating some great science projects involving water. Be sure to ask your child about dehydration and grapes. Also, can a raisin turn back into a grape? Hmmm?

The Easter holiday had us talking about our savior, Jesus Christ, and what he did for us all.

We hope everyone has a blessed spring!

Mrs. Kate Radermacher
Mrs. Nicole Kelly



THRILLING THREE'S In May

*In May I may go out,
May jump
And run
About –
May laugh and play
In merry May,
I may
In May –
I may!*



Each weekday morning at 9:00 AM we open our classroom door to a hallway full of 13 happy, smiling children who can't wait to start another day at preschool. From the time we sing "Hi, Good Morning Friends" until its time for "Good-bye Friends," a world of learning has taken place! It may look chaotic, but our job as teachers is not so much to manage children, but rather enjoy really playing with them. We are always ready to listen to them, answer their questions and hear all of their excitement. These "interruptions" as some would see it, actually become "teachable" moments! Lesson plans are put aside. Tomorrow is another day!

Our recent science units have found us studying the life cycle of the butterfly, and planting seeds to watch them grow. We've made rain and rainbows and studied the water cycle.

Why paint with brushes when there are so many other things from which to choose? How about carrots, worms and eggs! We built shredded wheat bird nests and fed our baby birds yummy worms. We ate some, too! Delicious!

All of those April showers brought us not only May flowers, but puddles to jump in, and ducks with umbrellas.

We celebrated the *Week of the Young Child* with a costume parade, ice cream social and reception for the parents of the preschool at the conclusion of our Friday music program. Although this was special, please know that we celebrate your children everyday in our classroom.

Mrs. Michele Aravich
Mrs. Gail Carnes