



Dear Families,

April 2019

Happy Spring! This is such a wonderful time of the year and full of amazing changes! Many things will be happening at Preschool during the month of April. Read the newsletter, calendars and other notices with care so you don't miss a thing.

Our classroom is undergoing changes! The Business Office play area is becoming a Jungle! The blocks and books are moving to new areas of the room, as we prepare for the chicks.

We will have fun wearing Colors of the Rainbow! Please help your child choose colorful clothes to wear on Rainbow Days in April. Our rainbow of hands, made with the papers coming home with this newsletter, will be on display on the hallway bulletin board.

Easter Parties: At our Easter Parties, planned by volunteer parents, we will play fun games and 'wake up Alleluia'! Many thanks to those who are helping to plan this day for us, as well as to our St. Luke's Deacon, Stephanie Luedtke, who will come to tell us about the joys of Easter.

Earth Day is worthy of celebrating every day, not just on April 22nd. We will be talking about recycling and other ways to protect and care for our Earth. What does your family do to care for the Earth? Help us make a list of Earth-friendly activities by telling us about things you do at home or with your family!

Preschool Garden: While you're thinking and talking about caring for the Earth, be sure to watch our Preschool Garden (just outside Door E) for new developments. Our tulip and daffodils will begin poking their green leafy heads upward. Soon, we will see a beautiful array of bright, spring colors! Volunteer help is welcome for raking, mulching, and general 'spring cleaning' of the area. Let us know if you're interested!



It's Chickie Time! Your child will be introduced to our six-week Chick Unit, beginning with the incubator (the machine in our classroom that takes the place of a mother hen). The incubator will be turned on in preparation for adding the eggs on April 9th (counted as Day 0). We will read stories and discuss the changes taking place inside the eggs. Hatching day (also known as Day 21 or "Chick Day") is an exciting time and will be on/about April 29/30. On hatching day(s), grandparents, caregivers and families are welcome to visit, even if it's not your child's regular school day. Before you come, you might want to call ahead to see if anything visible is actually happening. I can predict the day(s) hatching will occur, but not the time of day. In my 35+ yrs. of hatching chicks, there have been occasions when all the hatching happened during the night! To get a wider variety of chicks in our brooder, we may supplement our hatch by purchasing a few day-old chicks that were hatched elsewhere.

Once the chicks hatch, they will need lots of care and I do not live near enough to St. Luke's to do it all by myself. We need help from those of you who want extra involvement at school. Daytime, evening and weekend opportunities will be available for the 10-14 days the chicks will be with us. Sign-up sheets will soon be posted on the door of the Preschool Family Room just inside Door E. ***I will provide all the necessary training.***

- **Chick care volunteers** check on the well-being of our chicks outside of school hours, refresh the food and water, and sometimes, clean the brooder (cage).
- **Hand-washing volunteers** help children with hand-washing before and after their turn to hold a chick (9:40-10:40-ish each day). I do the actual chick-holding with the children, myself, but you will get to watch when your own child holds a chick. We take lots of photos.

Around Mother's Day weekend, the chicks will move to their new home on a family farm.

We are currently looking for a home for our chicks. Come and enjoy this exciting time with us!

And Coming in May:

- **Chick-holding** every day until the chicks leave. Reminder: One volunteer will be needed for an hour during class time, every day, to help with hand-washing. Volunteers are also needed for chick care, evenings and weekends.
- **Preschool Potluck Supper** (Monday, May 6) – Weather-permitting, we'll raise our colorful 24-ft parachute! Watch for more information as the time approaches.
- **All-School Field Trip to Dodge Nature Center** (Monday, May 13) – Watch for information and permission slips.
- End-of-the-Year **Celebration Day Program** (Thursday, May 23) at 10:00 am, for ALL children. Watch for more information in May.

All too quickly, the year is coming to an end, but we still have lots of fun in store! Stay involved and enjoy it all with us!

Enthusiastically yours,
Stephanie R. Gustafson