



# March Newsletter 2021



Upcoming events:

**Parent Teacher conferences:** Week one and two for Preschool, week three for Toddler, and week four for Infants. Please sign up at your earliest convenience if you haven't already. These must be scheduled in advance so that we can arrange coverage in the classrooms. PTC are held twice a year, once in March and once in September. Please note that if you feel like additional conferences are needed, we would be happy to accommodate that.

**School Closure:** Our School is closed March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for deep cleaning and rearranging of the school.

**Our School is closed on April 12<sup>th</sup>** for a staff development day.

Our School is looking for volunteers to help in April with Yard Cleaning days, please let Megan know if you would like to help us with this task, we need as many hands on deck as possible.

Toddie-land is learning about Dinosaurs this month, they are planning a roaring good time!

The Infants are learning about spring, St. Patrick's Day, bugs and plants.

This is the time of year we usually begin preparing for our school play. Due to social distancing, the preschool teachers will be testing their skill as amateur videographers. Since it's new to us, we're sticking to material all of these kids are familiar with - nursery rhymes and songs! Rather than our usual spring play, we will be filming shorter segments of the kids as individuals and in groups to retell some of these old favorites (like Jack & Jill, Humpty Dumpty, and the Three Little Kittens). We are still going to be fundraising to the best of our abilities and would love any additional help for fundraising. Please just let Ms. Meg know you are interested in helping. If you are a business owner or know that your company would love to donate to Our School and our children, we would be honored.





# March Newsletter 2021



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY YEARS

The early years from birth to age eight are critically important for all areas of learning and development.

In the first few years of life, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second. These are the connections that build brain architecture – the foundation upon which all later learning, behavior, and health depend.<sup>1</sup>

That is why it is important for everyone – parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors – to help kids develop and start on a path to success.

Early experiences are important in shaping how successful children are later in life. Studies show that kids who have quality early childhood experiences, including attending quality early childhood programs, are more likely to graduate from high school, own a home, have a job and earn a higher income.<sup>2</sup>

Learning in the early years lays the foundation for a successful and happy future for Colorado's kids.

### KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

**REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR:** If you would like to enroll your child for the current year (2020-21), please call the school you wish to enroll in directly. If you're new, you can use the map to the right to determine your attendance area school. If you need help or have questions, feel free to call our district office at 970-384.6004.

**REGISTRATION FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR:** If you're planning ahead for enrollment for next year (2021-22), **Kindergarten Registration Day is April 16.** Elementary schools will be hosting kindergarten information nights and tours throughout March. If you plan to enroll your child in a school outside of your attendance area, we suggest that you submit an intent-to-enroll form (available online and at all schools) by March 15. Kindergarten enrollment takes place on the third Friday in April. In the meantime, you can sign up for our district "new family" newsletter [here](#).

**Transition to Kindergarten** Going to kindergarten is a major milestone of early childhood. As with other transitions, going to kindergarten can bring about feelings of excitement as well as fear for children and families. For example, a child's readiness for kindergarten may be a question on the mind of many families. Children who are ready for kindergarten are able to do things independently such as going to the bathroom, getting dressed on their own, and other personal hygiene tasks. Ready children also have acquired more complex motor skills like skipping and balancing as well as developed the fine motor skills needed to use a writing utensil. Kindergarteners may still be working on self-regulation skills but they can engage in some strategies to manage their behavior and emotions so that they can learn academic skills in the kindergarten classroom. Whether coming to kindergarten from a preschool setting or the home, parents can support children's readiness with a few simple activities: • Read together every day. • Provide opportunities to draw, write, and use scissors. • Engage in counting and comparison activities during play and routines such as meals. • Play with blocks and other small manipulatives to support fine motor coordination. • Support children in making positive choices on their own. • Make sure children get enough sleep and healthy meals. In the first weeks of school, children may be evaluated using a kindergarten readiness assessment to help teachers understand their developmental progress and how best to support their learning. Children who receive special education services in preschool will receive transition support to continue services in kindergarten.