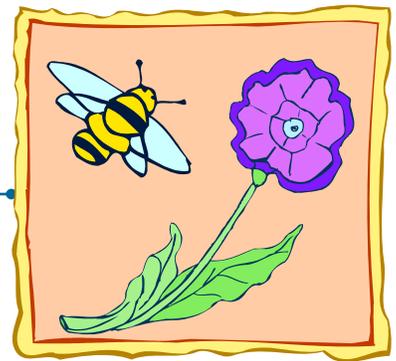


Westminster School for Young Children April 2014 Newsletter

3900 West end Avenue Nashville, TN 37205



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR NANCY SUTHERLAND

This year is moving so quickly for all of us. We are excited about all that is in store for you and your children as the year closes. We have Spring Sing in our 3s, "Mother's Day Tea" in our 4s and the "Circus" in our 5s. Our 1s and 2s continue to explore their world with farm, nature, and transportation units. The teachers do an incredible job balancing end of the year commitments with their own children and families as well as continuing to love and teach each one of your children daily. As we draw toward the

end of our school year, many of you may have questions about who will be your child's teacher next year. A lot of thought and time goes into making this decision. Your child's current teacher and other teachers in that age level meet to discuss placement for your child. Consideration for ratios of boys and girls, siblings, and placing your child with the teacher that will be the best fit are very important. The teachers and I will meet a final time to make sure that we have the right place-

ment for every child. We have wonderful teachers and we want to have the best overall classroom environment we can for your children.

If there is special information we need to know in placing your child, please call me. We appreciate your trust in this matter.

Sincerely,
Nancy

*"Play is the highest form of research."
Albert Einstein*

April 2014

April 1-2
Tuesday & Wednesday
Spring pictures 3s, 4s & 5s

April 10-11
Parent-Teacher Conferences for all ages
No school Thursday & Friday
Childcare available—No reservations needed

April 18-21 Easter Holidays

April 24 and 25
Thursday and Friday
3s Spring Sing

May 7 and 8
Thursday and Friday
4s Mothers' Day Teas
Classrooms
4s only

May 9 Friday
5s Circus-
9:45-10:45
Fellowship Hall

May 16
Last school day for all ages
12:00 dismissal

May 19
Teacher workday

Happy Summer!

June 2
Camp Westminster opens

Sharing Nature with Young children" April 15th

Maria TeSelle, our associate director and resident gardening buff, invites you to come to a short informal workshop on Sharing Nature with Young Children: why it is important; what we are doing here at WSYC and what simple activities you can do at home to support this kind of learning. Child care available by reservation email astrobelwsyc@gmail.com



Join us Tuesday, April 15th
9:15-10:00
Goodpasture Hall



News from NAEYC Accreditation

Congratulations! Your program has achieved a new, five year term of NAEYC Accreditation (National Association of the Education for Young Children) by successfully completing the renewal process. The administration, teaching staff and families of Westminster School for Young Children are all to be congratulated for continuing to uphold the mark of quality represented by the NAEYC system. On behalf of NAEYC, and specifically the NAEYC Academy for Early childhood Program Accreditation, I commend your program's outstanding efforts in renewing NAEYC Accreditation. *NAEYC Accrediting Team*

We received this letter in the last weeks and we are so excited. Both the administration and teachers have worked very hard on this for over a year and we were very pleased with our scores being very high. We would also like to thank each one of our families for your input and support during this time. We especially appreciate your precious children whom we enjoy everyday.

NAEYC has a great web site especially for families. For more information about the standards and NAEYC Accreditation, visit www.families.naeyc.org

Parent Surveys



We value your input into Westminster very much. You will be receiving an on-line evaluation in the coming weeks. Please complete and return by e-mail by May 14th. Your comments and ratings are so important to us in making Westminster an even greater place to educate and love your children. This survey will give us the feedback that we need to continue to provide a wonderful program for your children.

Please join all of us in thanking our fabulous Child at HeArt volunteers:

Co-chairs Anabel Atkinson & Stephanie Greenfield

Auction committee members:

Holly Farley Lori Mills
Jennifer Rahne Amanda Gaston
Jonathan Fortner Grace French
Clare Michels Janet Dyer
Rachel Hartline



Auction check out: Beth Garza, Paige McGehee, Katie Sturdivant

Invitations: Renee Smith

Invitation mailing: Kate Griffin

Communications: Russelle Bradbury

House: Devon McFarland & Elizabeth McCrary

Children's art: Constance Baker & Melissa Rick

Decorations: Camille Rogers & Beth Ross

Auction Display: Roxana Hare & Susan Tatman

Click-it: Liz Miller, Marisa Adair & Catie Lee

Treasury: Alyce Ory



Camp Westminster opens on Monday, June 2nd and meets Mon-Thurs for 6 weeks through July 17th from 9-2:30 each day. Campers are welcome to join us for any or all of the 6 weeks in June and July, and our youngest campers (currently enrolled 1s & 2s) may choose 2 days or 4 days each week.

Registration continues throughout camp until our rooms are full. New themes and guest visitors make for great fun! Each day includes water play and messy art, so send your campers in bathing suits with a full change of clothes and lunch each day. Remember to send a water bottle and apply sun screen and bug spray too.

Dates, details and forms are available online at www.wsycnashville.org and in the school lobby.

Maria TeSelle-Camp Director 297-0235
Imagine the fun!



“Week of the Young Child”

Join us for

Lemonade and Cookies

Tuesday, April 9th

Back Playground 2:15

(after Hook-ups)



The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The 2014 Week of the Young Child™ is **April 6–12** and the theme is:

“Early Years Are Learning Years”

MUSIC NEWS FOR APRIL

March simply flew by! We enjoyed singing and dancing to songs about springtime, bugs, and life on the farm, as well as using our best listening ears to critically listen to some famous Classical pieces such as Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons: Spring*.

I'm so excited for April! We will spend time diving into the wonderful world of Opera, learn some traditional Japanese music, and enjoy singing even more springtime favorites. The 3s will be preparing for their special Spring Sing program which will be held April 24-25th, where they'll have a chance to perform some of their favorite springtime songs for you.

Additionally, I'm thrilled to experience my first Recycled Instrument Day in honor of Earth Day. Your child's teacher will be sending you further information about Recycled Instrument Day in the coming week, but keep in mind that instruments should be a manageable size for your child to carry, and easily transported to music class. I'm so excited to see what my students come up with, and can't wait to experience some recycled instrument jam sessions!

As always, feel free to come visit us in music class! We really have a BLAST and would love to have you.

-Grace Waugh

Recycled Instrument Day

Recycled Instrument Day

In honor of Earth Day, we will be having our annual Recycled Instrument Day! As you see in the calendar, the celebration is on two days (April 23 & 24th). In the next couple of days, teachers will be sending you more information about which classes will bring their instruments on which day. Please be on the look out for that info. So what is Recycled Instrument Day? Each child is asked to create an instrument made out of recyclable items. Keep in mind that instruments should be a manageable size for your child to carry, and be easily transported to music class. They will bring the instruments to school on their scheduled day and briefly tell fellow students about their musical creation and how it is played. We will close with a jam session!

NOTES FROM SOPHIE MANESS-

Please join us each Wednesday through April for Chapel at 8:30. This is not a sit down and be quiet time. We sing we pray, talk and move around a lot. It is wonderful way to start your day. Through simple messages about God's love we get to know each other a bit better. Miss Grace has us singing lots of terrific songs. Come join us as we get ready for spring and Easter.

