



Bear Necessities

Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center

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A Visit from Cooper Lane Elementary to bring Holiday Cheer!!!



Principal's Corner



HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope you all enjoyed the nice, long break.

It was nice to be back in school and the children seemed happy to be back in their school routines.

Winter is here and it's difficult to get out and play. This is the perfect time to snuggle up with a good book. Research shows that reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do. Books can spark the imagination in ways that videos and TV shows cannot. Take a trip to your local library and check out some books that you can read and others that your child can "read" such as picture books with few to no words. Your child's teacher can recommend some good books. So it might be cold outside, but it's warm and cozy inside, especially when you and your child are cuddled up with a book! Happy reading.

The Chapel Forge preschool staff is involved in Annual Review preparation and meetings now through March. Even though the meetings are scheduled throughout the year, the bulk of them seem to be in the second half of the school year. For those of you who have been through the Annual Review process before, you know that it is a lengthy and intensive process. It is very important for you, as parents, to be involved in this as much as possible. The teachers and therapists will be sending home meeting notices and checklists for you to complete. It is important for you to respond to these in a timely manner. It is also important for you to share any additional information you may have that would assist the staff in this planning process. The most important thing; however, is that you make every effort to attend the Annual Review conference so that you can be an active member of the team. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tips from Robert



Parents are the ultimate models for their children. In early development children are provided with countless opportunities to observe their parents navigating through social situations and interactions with others. These observations provide models for behavior and set a standard for children to aim their sights on. Through observation, many of the questions children have about their environment are answered. In many of my previous writings I have consistently pointed out that our children are watching us in order to learn how to act and respond toward others and how to assess their environment. Modeling traits such as acceptance, determination, persistence, patience, and kindness are all important if we are to expect our children to obtain these attributes.

The holidays represent a time when children are exposed to many different traditions and practices. Some are family traditions, some are religious traditions, and some are cultural traditions.

The activities and practices that go along with these traditions may appear strange or different to our children and they may want to know more about them. Providing answers to possible questions goes a long way toward teaching children that people are the same in many ways, but they are also different in many ways. The differences in people are what make them special and unique. Modeling tolerance and acceptance for others are important steps in cultivating social and emotional development, so be careful about how you respond and remain positive, because your children are watching. Taking time to learn about diversity is a great step in creating interest in not only the children in your child's immediate environment, but in the global community. When a parent considers it important to learn about cultural differences it instills and cultivates genuine respect for others in their own children.

The public library is filled with books and videos about different holiday traditions. Taking time to share this information with your children will not only create quality time for literacy, but a chance to lay the foundation for tolerance, acceptance, and admiration for the unique qualities in others. Who knows, this time may also provide the opportunity to create a brand new tradition for your family!

To help you create acceptance of others, here are some books suggested through the CSEFEL initiative in our school:

And Here's to You by David Elliott
(Ages 4-8)

Big Al by Andrew Clements
(Ages 4-8)

The Brand New Kid by Katie Couric
(Ages 3-8)

Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes
(Ages 5-7)

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
(Ages 4-8)

Franklin's New Friend by Paulette Bourgeois (Ages 5-8)

Horace and Morris But Mostly Dolores by James Howe (Ages 4-8)

I Accept You as You Are! by David Parker (Ages 3-5)

It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr
(Ages 3-8)

Margaret and Margarita by Lynn Reiser
(Ages 5-8)

Have a happy and restful winter break.

Sincerely,

Robert Marino, School Psychologist



FUNNY HAT DAY!





Happy Grandparents Day!!!



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We're on the web at:
www.pgcps.org/~chapel



Chapel Forge ECC

Thank You !!!

The Family Involvement Committee would like to THANK YOU for all of the help you gave us in making the holidays more joyous for our Chapel Forge families this year. Through your assistance and generosity in donating both money and gifts, we were able to brighten the lives of many children and their families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday. We provided Thanksgiving baskets for 21 families and Christmas gifts for 18 families, due to the wonderful assistance of our community Partners.

We would like to THANK the following Community Partners for their assistance this year:

Southern Comforters

St. Matthews United Methodist Church

St. Matthews United Methodist Church Missions Committee

Primary Day School of Bethesda

Holy Trinity Church Hunger Committee

Mormon Helping Hands Thanksgiving Basket Service Project

Please accept our heartfelt THANKS for your help!!

The Family Involvement Committee

Of

Chapel Forge ECC

