



Dear Parents,

“The Television Tussle” is the title of a recent email article sent to me from Exchange magazine. Ideas included are from Rosyln Duffy’s book, The Top Ten Preschool Parenting Problems. She observes that one of the hardest challenges parents face is limiting the impact of television on their children’s development. Here are some of the steps Duffy suggests:

- Do not place a television or computer in a young child’s bedroom.
 - View programs together.
 - Choose non-commercial programs.
- Most videos from the library ... do not promote consumerism.
- Read. Raise a reader. Read to your children. Read with your children. Model reading. Make time for reading.

Great ideas! You can check books out of the Akron Mennonite Church library or sign up for a library card at the Ephrata Library. Nothing like snuggling together and reading a good book!

Registration for Preschool and Pre-K class has begun for the 2012-2013 school year. If you know anybody that may be interested send them to our website and/or have them stop by the office for a registration form. Remember, if they mention that you referred them when they register, you receive \$25.00 tuition credit!

Cathy Stephens

Site Director

February Calendar

Feb 3	Bookmobile
Feb 17 & 20	Full Day Eagles NoPreschool/Orioles

Warbler Room (Infants)

February is here! It is the month where we think about friends, family and those we love. The Warbler room is no exception. During February, we will be talking about friends. This involves reading some new books on all kinds of children who can be our friends.

Each new week brings many new accomplishments for the Warblers. It is so much fun to watch those who are beginning to walk, crawl, and do other things for themselves.

As always, please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns about your child and their day in our room.

Ms. Kelly M, Ms. Jody & Ms. Ruthie

Bluebird Room (Older Infant)

I see no better way to start of the month of February than by welcoming our new friends, Xander, Jazzlyn, Hunter, and Cole!

During the month of February the focus in the classroom will be Friendship and Diversity. There are many activities planned to promote a sense of community within the classroom as well as an understanding of individuality. That may sound like some pretty over the top ideas for one year olds but learning to work together and understanding that everyone is special will build a strong foundation for Emotional Intelligence.

*Look for more information to come on some special activities planned in the near future.

Ms. Amy, Ms. Michelle & Ms. Joanne S.

Robin Room (Toddlers)

Love, friendship and sharing are going to be the hot topics in the Robin room for this month of February! Being kind is such an important life lesson, and we the teachers feel it may be one of the most valuable gifts we can give to our young learners. Valentine’s Day is a perfect time to really focus on friends

and think about how we relate to them. The Robins will be exchanging Valentines (if they wish) and enjoying a small party on Tuesday, February 14th. (See attached sheet)

A transportation unit will also be part of this month’s curriculum. We believe that boys and girls alike will enjoy learning about “things that go.”

Quite a few Robins are working on potty training! It is so rewarding for us to share the children and parent’s joy as they become successful at this endeavor! Let us know what is working, not working, for you at home.

Ms. Debbie, Ms. Joanne, Ms. Barb,
Ms. Sue & Ms. Dolly

Hummingbird Room

We did not have much snow or cold weather for our winter theme, but we are not complaining! We “visited” the Artic, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and the Philippines in January as we learned about different places around the world.

We are starting February off by learning about zoo animals, as requested by the class. The last two weeks we will be blasting off into outer space!

We will be celebrating Valentine’s Day on Tuesday, February 14. Look for a Valentines class list and a sign-up sheet to bring in a special snack for that day!

Show and Tell Days:

February 10- Animals

February 29- Space

*Feel free to allow your child to share something unrelated to the theme if they do not have something related.

Ms. Kelly & Ms. Suzy

Cardinal Room

The Cardinals are back into the swing of things, after our long holiday break! Our room was quiet for a few weeks after Christmas, as a few of our families were still enjoying the Holidays together. But now we are all back together, and the pace has certainly picked up!

We are excited to welcome a new addition, Sean, to the Cardinal room. We enjoyed wrapping January up with some Nursery Rhyme fun! We learned lots of new rhymes and clapping games, while getting lots of opportunities to practice rhyming, tracking, and other pre-reading skills.

We will begin the month of February by learning about Dinosaurs! The third week of February we will be focusing on friendship, and celebrating friendship by having a party on February 14th. The last week of February we are planning on learning all about dental hygiene.

Ms. Amanda, Ms. Nicole & Ms. Pat

Orioles

As January comes to an end, and February begins, we have a lot happening in the Oriole room! We will start off our February with a Groundhog's Day Theme and a Reading Theme of Markets Around the World. The children will get to compare and contrast different markets in different countries and learn some different ways to say "hello" in other languages, too!

We've been learning about our birthdates and have been working really hard on remembering the month our birthday comes in and sometimes even the day! Ask your child about our birthday

graph and check it out in the classroom. We even made a birthday cake to celebrate all of the Orioles' birthdays this year. It was delicious and everybody got to help.

February will also include themes on Love & Friendship, Dental Health. Also, at the class's request, we will include Transportation & Maps.

On February 22, we will get a class visit from Dr. Eby, Dentist, and he'll be showing us how to take care of our teeth properly.

Please take a close look at your February calendar, as there are important dates to remember. There is no school on Friday, February 17, and Monday, February 20. Pajama day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 29.

As always, thank you for sharing your children with Miss Sumathi and me. We have a great time learning together each day!

Ms. Lori & Ms. Sumathi

Preschool

Preschool is excited to have a Valentine's Day party this month. I already sent home a class list if you would like to bring Valentines to school on Wed. Feb. 15th. Try letting your child write the names of their friends. In order to hold all of our valentines, please bring an empty cereal box to school by Feb. 8th. We will be decorating them as our valentine holders. Lastly, if each family could sign up to bring one thing from our Friendship Trail Mix list, we would really appreciate it. The children will be making our snack that day.

We will be pleased to welcome Dr. Eby a local Akron

dentist to our classroom on Feb. 22nd. He will be talking to the children about dental health and doing a super fun experiment with them.

Since we are in the midst of all these illnesses, please call the school if your child will not be coming. Please use your best judgment, along with our policy, when deciding if your child is well enough to come to school.

Looking forward to a fun-filled February!

Ms. Dede & Ms. Joanne S.

Eagles

This Month we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. by setting off balloons with our Dreams attached. We had two full days with the Eagles. One day we had lots of fun bowling. The second day we had an excellent presentation from "Bark Busters" and how to handle strange dogs.

It is that time of the year again. We are being diligent with washing our hands and remembering the proper way to cover our coughs. Please remember to dress children properly. You may wish to send a sweater or sweatshirt along with your child.

We are looking forward to February and celebrating Valentine's Day. Planning is in the works for Friday, Feb. 17 and Monday, Feb. 20., when both Akron and Brownstown Elementary do not have school. Look for information and permission slips in the near future. Please be sure to sign your children up in a timely manner so we can be accurate in our planning.

Ms. Sandi, Ms. Molly, Ms. Tina, Ms. Nami, Ms. Heidi, and Ms. Dolly

