

Summer 2010

Belmont Weekday School

The Heat is On



As the weather continues to warm up, please remember to apply sunscreen to your child PRIOR to arriving to school. It takes 30 minutes for the sunscreen to penetrate the skin and be effective! So that the sunscreen does not need to be reapplied, several of our parents have chosen to use 8 hour sunscreen on their children. Our teachers like this option too!

Remember that we spend a great deal of time outdoors, so it is also important to dress your child in cool, comfortable clothing, including sneakers and socks. Don't forget to also have a change of clothes stored in your child's classroom in case they are needed.

To beat the heat, water play will continue throughout the summer session at varying times. Please check with you child's teacher for dates and times of swimsuit water play. On those days, just be sure to send your child to school in his/her bathing suit. Don't forget a towel and a complete change of clothes including sneakers and socks for more fun after water play is over. **And, always label everything!**

The Weekday School Gives to Hands On Nashville

In April the Weekday School held a silent auction for beautiful hand-painted platters created by the teachers and children. This fundraiser was a great success, raising \$510 for the school!! It is a wonderful testament to the sense of community shared throughout the preschool. The timing of this fundraiser was more important than we knew, as it was held right after the devastating flooding that occurred on May 1st and in the days thereafter. We were able to do our part to help the community of Nashville as a whole, thanks to our preschool family's generosity. Belmont Weekday School donated 50% of the proceeds from this fundraiser to Hands On Nashville, a local group that continues to work fervently to help our community at the local level. While this may seem like a drop in the bucket compared to what it will cost to get this city back to normal, we know every little bit helps. We feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of this giving community.

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Dates to Remember:

- June 1: First Day of Summer Session
- July 5: Independence Day Holiday—WDS Closed
- August 23: Last Day of Summer Session

*** Check with your child's teacher to see when "water play" days begin! ***

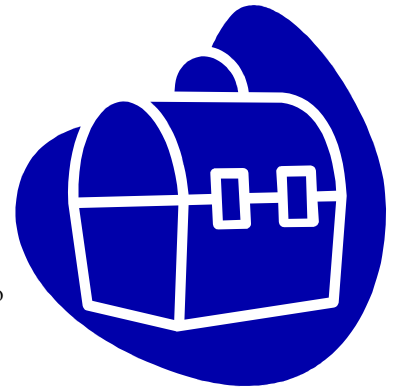
Healthy Lunch Reminder

At Belmont Weekday School, we have the opportunity to help our children develop healthy food habits that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. Not only does good nutrition foster healthful growth and development, it helps your child get the most out of their learning opportunities.

A proper lunch should include: one grain, one protein, and two servings of fruits and/or vegetables. Your child's lunch should meet this criteria every day. Your teacher will be sending home a note every time your child's lunch is missing a component of this criteria.

Each classroom keeps crackers, fruit, and cheese in the room during lunch in order to supplement any lunches that are lacking a component. For our smaller children, we ask that you cut all grapes into fourths, carrots and hotdogs into small bite size pieces. Please do not send raisins or craisins in your child's lunch. These items are choking hazards. We also ask that you do not send cookies or candy in your child's lunch. If these items are sent, we will ask your child to leave them in his/her lunch box to take back home.

Please feel free to visit www.mypyramid.gov to find more nutrition information. We appreciate your support to help foster healthy eating habits for our children.



Classroom News: Infants

We are so excited to have a classroom full of new babies this summer. In this class the first few days will be a very new experience for you and your child. We would like to make this transition as comfortable as possible. It's very important for us to communicate with each other on a daily basis to ensure that your child's day goes smoothly. Some of our activities this summer will include art and music. We like to let the children paint freely using different textures and brushes. We love to sing and dance in this class, we will sing many familiar children's songs and play our musical instruments. Please feel free to bring in your child's favorite CD. In our class we have story time several times a day, the book center is a popular area for our babies. We also go on nature walks in the "bye bye buggy"; this proves to be the children's favorite activity. We push the babies around the neighborhood and see nature up close such as trees, flowers, bugs, birds, etc. During July we will have water play and we will send home information when it gets closer to that time.



Important Reminders:

- 1) Please label everything!
- 2) Apply sunscreen in the morning. We will reapply as needed or you may purchase an 8-hour sunscreen.
- 3) Most importantly, cut all food into very small pieces. For example, grapes should be cut into fourths. All food should be smaller than a penny. Your cooperation helps to ensure your child's safety during mealtime.

Looking forward to getting to know you and your child and having a fabulous summer.

Thanks,

Ms. Jade and Ms. Ashlee

Crocs at School?

Please do not send your child in crocs, cowboy boots, or any open toed shoes. We have implemented this policy primarily for your child's safety and comfort. Thanks for your adherence to this important safety policy.

Summer Needs of the Month

Each month the WDS has a different “need of the month”. We ask each family to bring these items in to your child’s teachers. Since we are only publishing one newsletter this summer we are including all of our summertime needs. You may bring your donated items to Ms. Jean or Ms. Laura. Thank you in advance for your participation.

June: Summertime means lots of outdoor themed crafts. June’s need is **Construction Paper and Glue sticks**

July: Playground time sure is fun, but let’s keep all those bugs outside. July’s need is **Liquid Hand Sanitizer and Clorox Wipes.**

August: Back to school! Ready to start the new year? Parent’s, let’s help get your class started right. August’s need is **Paint, Watercolors and Playdough.**

Life’s Little Instruction Book
Suggestion # 226: “When someone hugs you, let them be the first to let go.”

Classroom News: Toddlers

Welcome to the Toddlers class. We are delighted and excited to meet our new group of children. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your sweet toddlers. We appreciate the trust you have in us. It is very important at this time to maintain communication daily. Parents are the most important experts on their children. We value the knowledge and information you share with us every day. We’ll ensure that your child will have a smooth and comfortable transition to our classroom. Also please let us know about any concerns or questions you have at anytime.



Children learn through play throughout out the whole day. They learn through hundreds of repetitions and activities until concepts are solidified. It’s rare that a child learns just one thing from activities. Physical coordination or “motor” skills are engaged along with language, thinking skills, and social interactions. We have prepared a variety of activities that the children will be exposed to during this summer. Texture Scrap Painting: Children are often interested in painting on their actual clothing, so painting on fabric scraps or old worn clothes is a new, real-life experiment without the concerns of ruining favorite outfits. We will do Paper Quilt Painting: Different kinds of paper are taped together to make a giant paper “quilt” on which to paint. The children will enjoy the different textures, and they may notice how the papers react, attracting or resisting paint. We will help them to understand the process and enrich their vocabulary. Look forward to comments on the daily report sheets about experiences your child has each day. Also, we will learn about ocean life and what changes in nature summer brings to us.

Swimsuit water play is scheduled for the month of July. Important reminder: you should always apply sunscreen before coming to school, especially on swimsuit water play days. Our welcome package includes suggestions for healthy lunches provided by DHS. Please review this information and let us know how we can answer your questions. To ensure safety during meals please remember to cut your child’s lunch into very small pieces. Please send with your child 2 or 3 extra changes of clothes for the cubby. Toddlers will be very busy and will get messy so a change of clothes is necessary. Please label all of your child’s items. You can always find a sharpie in our classroom if you forgot to do so.

We thank you for your cooperation, support, and for sharing your children with us. We are truly honored.

– Ms. Karina, Ms. Kim, and Ms. Meaghan

Classroom News: Twos



Summer in the Twos is going to be an exciting time. June is going to start off by taking a trip to the beach. The children will explore shells, sand, and go on a shell hunt. We will also explore the ocean and learn about what's under the sea.

July will be filled with Red, White, and Blue as we celebrate the Fourth of July. July will also bring us Ms. Shelia as she comes to our class for music. Water play begins in June and continues through July. Our water play will be every Tuesday and Thursday.

We are looking forward to teaching and getting to know your child. We also cannot wait to watch them learn and grow over the summer months.

Much Love,

Ms. Mimi and Ms. Lindsey

Keys, Sponges, and Corks, Oh My!

Our classrooms are in need of items to be used in centers: Art, Science, Dramatic play, Water Table, and storage for the Math Readiness Center. These are items that you would normally throw out or recycle.

There will be a drop-off container outside of Ms. Laura's office (room 109). We are looking for old paint brushes—any size, wine corks, yogurt cups—any size, baby food jars—any size, with or without lids, empty wipes containers (Clorox wipes or baby wipes), shoe boxes with lids, and sponges—any size.

We are also requesting any small non-working appliances like radios, CD players, or DVD players that our older children can "take apart". Taking apart these small items help exercise the children's writing fingers.

Thanks for your help!



Classroom News: Nearly Threes



We are so happy to welcome a new group of children to the Nearly Three's.

We have a lot of wonderful learning experiences planned for this summer! We have planned a *pretend* week of camping, learning about all sorts of bugs and activities revolving around the beach and ocean. We will also have water play on Mondays and Tuesdays during the months of June and July.

Please remember to cover your little ones from head to toe with a long-lasting sunscreen before bringing them to school. This allows us to use each minute of our day learning and having a great time with our friends.

— Ms. Kelly and Ms. Claire

Life's Little Instruction Book

Suggestion # 373: "Let your children overhear you saying complimentary things about them to other adults."

Classroom News: Younger Threes

Welcome!

In the Younger Three's classroom this summer we are planning to have a blast! Ms. Lauren and I are very excited about meeting our new friends and our returning friends. During the month of June we will start with getting to know everyone in our class as well as our class routine and rules. We will also touch on Flag Day, manners and feelings, Father's Day and sun art. Red, white, and blue will dominate our first week of July as we explore the fourth of July. As we move through the month of July we will talk about ice cream, sand, sun, and bugs. August will find us discussing nature. We will go on a nature walk, read lots of books about bugs and insects, and even make a leaf collage. Animals and their characteristics will be the topic that ends the summer session.

We can't wait to have a fun filled summer with your children!

– Ms. Diane and Ms. Lauren



Classroom News: Older Threes

Welcome to the Older Threes Summer 2010!

We can't wait to get to know you and your child..

Our themes this summer will be the beach and ocean life, camping, insects and their value to our environment.

The curriculum we follow in this class focuses on well planned play experiences. We arrange the class room according to the children's developmental stages and plan activities that excites and challenges the child so they learn while they play.

We paint, play in mud, sand and water daily—inside and outside, so please keep that in mind when you dress your child.

On Fridays we will have swimsuit day. Please remember a towel, swim suit, sun screen and bug spray if they need that as well.

We are looking forward to a great summer together with your child.

Ms. Maria, Ms. Michelle and Ms. Annie



Is Your Child With You?



Please be aware that children are not allowed to go anywhere in the building without being accompanied by an adult. Our hours are 7:30am–5:30pm, 5 days/week, and if during these hours, our licensing counselor found a child walking alone in the hallway, or alone anywhere else in the building or playground, our license would be revoked. If you have signed out your child, you must stay with him/her at all times, until you have left the premises. Do not let your child go the bathroom, drinking fountain, or anywhere else in the building without you. By signing out your child, you are assuming the responsibility of caring for your child. Thank you for cooperating with this safety policy.

Classroom News: Pre-K Fours

Welcome to summer in the Pre-K Four's class.

This summer, your child will engage in math, science, music and literacy as well as fluid and sensory play. Part of our outdoor play will include water play. On water play days, your child can dress in his/her swimwear.

We will begin the summer with a unit on camping. Your child will learn about equipment used on camping trips, camping songs, and how to stay safe when out in the wilderness.

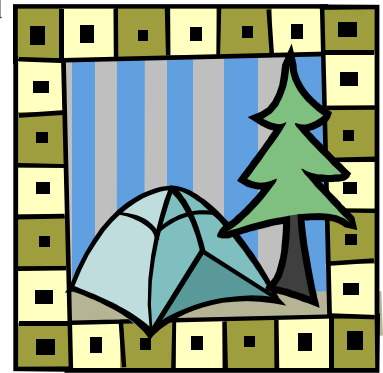
As the summer evolves, we will explore the wonders of the ocean. We will learn about life in the ocean as well as the geographic locations of our world's oceans. Don't be surprised if your child comes home asking you if you know the names and locations of the various oceans.

We will conclude the summer with a study of insects. Your child will be allowed to observe insects on the playground and learn a little about the role insects play in our daily lives.

It is our hope that your child will find these units stimulating. We will read a plethora of books to help us learn and for pure enjoyment too. Reading to your child is part of each day in our class. We hope to extend your child's vocabulary through reading, conversations and with our class word wall.

We look forward to getting to know each family and your precious child.

Ms. Val, Ms. Liz, and Ms. Michelle



Life's Little Instruction Book
Suggestion # 188: "Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know."

Classroom News: Pre-K Fives



Summer is finally here and the Pre-k Class is gearing up for an exciting summer session.

We will be learning about bodies of water including oceans, ponds, lakes, and rivers. We will explore the similarities and differences between the city and country. We even have one or two field trips in the works that will help us learn more about our own city of Nashville.

This summer will be a time for enjoyable exploration in the Pre-K Class!

Ms. Carol and Ms. Elizabeth

"Children should be able to do their own experimenting and their own research. Teachers, of course, can guide them by providing appropriate materials, but the essential thing is that in order for a child to understand something, he must construct it himself, he must re-invent his world."

— Jean Piaget 1972

Belmont Weekday School

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Director's Corner

Welcome to Belmont WDS! We are so excited to have 23 new families with us this summer. What a joy to have so many new faces at the preschool.

As always you are welcome to come by my office, call me, or email me with concerns, questions, comments, or suggestions about your child's preschool experience. My door is open.

I wanted to give everyone an update on our little playground. The new awning is being installed over the climbing structure, which will provide additional shade for our smaller children. We are able to provide this new addition to our playground due in part to your fundraising donations this past school year. Thank you.

One last thing, it is important to get siblings on our waiting list asap. We will not assume that your child's sibling will attend the preschool. Call or come by the office to give us your child's information and we will be happy to assist you.

— Ms. Jean

www.belmontweekdayschool.com

Parking at the Weekday School

Parking can be a hassle sometimes around the preschool but with a little patience, parking is usually available. You may park along Magnolia Avenue. You may have to walk a bit further than you would like but at least you will know that your car is not parked blocking someone in or in a place where you will be towed.

Space along the curb near the fire hydrant is a **NO PARKING** zone, and you will be ticketed, and/or towed. Metro police have resumed ticketing illegally parked cars. Perhaps you witnessed an accident recently when someone illegally parked there during morning drop-off? Parking your vehicle by the curb blocks—in cars that are legally parked in designated spaces. **Several times a week, cars are blocked in spaces when a WDS parent parks by the curb to “quickly run in to pick up or drop off a child”! Please do not do this!** Also, please do not park in the Hillsboro Imaging lot off the cul-de-sac at any time of day. Their office is open until 8:00pm on weeknights, so please keep that in mind if you are here after hours for either church or WDS business.



Thanks for minding these few simple parking rules and courtesies.
