

## The Family Connection

### Important Dates

Feb. 15-March 5	Re-enrollment for Current Families
Feb. 15	½ Day Extra Care Available for Kids' Club by Sign-Up
February 18-19	All Programs Closed Mid-Winter Recess
March 5	NEW FAMILY Pre-K Parent Open Houses
March 6	New Family Enrollment Process Begins
March 7	Deadline for Spring Recess Extra Care for Kids' Club

### **Key Fob Protocol . . .**

We want to remind families of the importance of using your key fobs to enter our school buildings. We ask that each family swipe their own fob for entry and do not hold the door open for other families to enter without swiping their fob. This level of protection is for everyone's safety.

Also be advised that not all staff may know you so you may be asked to identify yourself if you buzz in without a fob. If you lose or misplace your fob, please inform us as quickly as possible so it can be deactivated.

We appreciate your cooperation.

### **From the Coordinator . . .**

Please take the time to read through this newsletter for important information regarding the re-enrollment process for current families as well as information on new family registration.

Early Childhood Education and Extended Day tuition rates for the 2019-20 school year went to the BOE for approval on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Increases were proposed following a review of our current rates, comparisons with similar districts and a thorough review of our anticipated needs and projected costs for the coming school year. Please visit our website for more information on our programs and rates.

Our NAEYC Accreditation Pre-K Family Survey was sent out at the beginning of this month. We appreciate your thoughtful reflection on your experiences and we will be using your feedback for accreditation purposes.

~Chelsea Simons



## Registration Information

### **Re-Enrollment Registration Process for Current Families including Pre-K, Kids' Club & Club Mid . . .**

- Beginning **February 15th**, current families will receive an **email containing the email link to register** your child for the 2019-2020 school year programs.
- This email will also include the link for the 2019 **Summer** programs including Full-Day Pre-K Summer Camp – offered at Ridge Wood and Old Village School and Summer Kids' Club (offered at Ridge Wood only).
- You must pay your registration fee(s) online. You have until March 5<sup>th</sup> to complete this re-enrollment process.
- We anticipate that all returning children and new incoming siblings will be placed.
- We have a new class offering called the **School-Day Five-Day** class. Like our current School-Day Three-Day class this class will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. but will meet Monday through Friday. This class will be offered at Ridge Wood only.
- All Full-Day Pre-K children will be looped with their current teacher unless we are informed otherwise. Please email [ECTeam@northvilleschools.org](mailto:ECTeam@northvilleschools.org) to request a change.

Office is located at Ridge Wood Elementary School on Six Mile Road west of Ridge Road.

Phone: 248-465-2550

Fax: 248-465-2561

Email: [ECTeam@northvilleschools.org](mailto:ECTeam@northvilleschools.org)

Website:

[earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org](http://earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org)

## Accreditation Pre-K Family Survey . . .

Please be sure to complete the Pre-K Family Survey by Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. We would appreciate your response to this survey as the results will be used for accreditation purposes.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9S7MX7J>

## 2019 –2020 PROGRAM ENROLLMENT INFORMATION FOR NEW FAMILIES . . .

**It's as easy as 1, 2, and 3!!!**

### Step One - **View** our Online Curriculum Webinars & Registration Information

Families can access informational webinars on our programming options for the 2019 Summer and 2019-2020 School Year, curriculum specifics and the registration process.

To access the webinars and registration information, please visit our website:

<http://earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org>

### Step Two - **Attend** a New Family Pre-K Parent Night Open House (**PRE-K ONLY**) A Pre-K Parent Night Open House

will be held at each of our four Pre-K locations – Old Village School, Thornton Creek, Ridge Wood and Winchester on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** These Open Houses are intended for potential **new** families to visit our classrooms and meet Early Childhood staff. They are designed for parents/guardians so we respectfully request that children **not** attend. Once enrolled, opportunities are provided for parents and children to attend an Open House together before school starts.

We request that families watch the webinars and view the registration information referenced above **prior** to attending the Open Houses.

### Step Three – **Submit** a Program Request Form

Program Request Forms will be available on our website beginning **March 6<sup>th</sup>** for **new** families. You will be able to submit this form Online. Please complete and submit a Program Request Form if you are interested in enrolling your child in any of our programs:

- Parent/Child
- 3's - Half-Day Pre-K
- 4's - Pre-K PLUS & School Day 3-Day & 5-Day
- Full-Day Pre-K
- Kids' Club
- Club Mid
- Summer Kids' Club
- Summer Full-Day Pre-K Summer Camp

Our office staff will contact new families regarding the registration process once placement is confirmed.

### Registration Placement Guidelines . . .

The guidelines for placement of children in the Early Childhood Education And Extended Day Programs are:

*Pre-K Programs:* First are those children living in the NPS district (Early Childhood Education families currently enrolled are placed first, new families are placed second); next children of NPS employees who live outside the district; and lastly all other children from outside the Northville Public Schools district. In keeping with best practice, returning Pre-K children will be placed with their 2018-2019 teacher to the extent possible.

*School Age Programs:* First are those children living in and attending a NPS district school (Early Childhood Extended Day families currently enrolled are placed first, new families are placed second); next children living within the Northville District not attending a Northville Public school; then children of NPS employees who live outside the district; and lastly children who live outside the NPS district.



## **Kids' Club Extra Care Spring Recess Reminder . . .**

Registration for Extra Care during Spring Recess is due by March 7, 2019 in the EC office.

Kids' Club Spring Recess Extra Care will be held at Ridge Wood & Thornton Creek Elementaries. Full-Day Pre-K will be open at Thornton Creek, OVS & Ridge Wood. Children who typically attend Full-Day Pre-K at Winchester will attend at Old Village School.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Conferences will be offered in April and May in all Pre-K classrooms. Opportunities to observe your child's classroom prior to your conference are also available. Check with your child's teacher for more details. Conferences provide an opportunity for teachers and parents to come together to discuss children's progress, accomplishments & experiences at home & school. We track children's progress for a variety of reasons: to be assured that learning & development are taking place, to make children's progress is visible to parents, & to make adjustments in our teaching strategies

## **Club Mid Program . . .**

A reminder for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents – as your student moves on to Middle School they are eligible to enroll in our Extended Day Program called **Club Mid**. This program is operated at Meads Mill only. A shuttle bus is available to transport students from Hillside to Meads Mill after school to attend Club Mid.

## **Annual Children's Exhibit . .**

### Save the Date

## **Children's Exhibit . . .**

Our Annual Children's Exhibit returns to the Northville Square Building! The Exhibit will be housed in the upstairs mall area at the Northville Square building which is located at 133 West Main Street at the corners of Main Street and Wing.

**Opening Night Celebration**  
Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30 pm  
**Exhibit Open: April 11 – 29**



## **“Early Entry” Update . . .**

Our Preschool programs align with Michigan Law, Preschool placement for 3, 4 and 5 year old children will follow the same process as outlined for Kindergarten entry. This assures that children participating in an Early Childhood Preschool program are aligned with the age eligibility requirements for Kindergarten entry.

## **Inclement Weather Day Credits . . .**

Many families are due credits on their bills due to the number of school closings we have had recently due to the weather. All credits will be issued after April 15<sup>th</sup> when, we hope, the threat of closings due to weather is over. Thanks for your patience as we work through this process.

## **NAEYC Technology Tips for Parents of Preschoolers . . .**

Parents today are making decisions about technology that didn't even exist when they were young. Parents make creative decisions daily using their best instincts. Here are 10 tips that might help when making technology decisions for your child.

### **1. Use technology for communication.**

FaceTime or Skype with Grandma. Read a bedtime story together from afar. Email family and friends so children can know and communicate with extended family.

### **2. Model using technology as a tool.**

Take photos with your smartphone or iPad. Watch a short video of a volcano erupting, if your child shows an interest. Use the calculator to add. Use the magnifying app to examine nature. Listen to music on an iPod. Use the online dictionary to spell or find the meaning of words. Technology is an everyday tool.

### **3. Be involved.**

Resist the temptation to routinely use technology as a babysitter, and instead use it as a way to connect with your child. If you are reading a book on an e-reader, read together. Write emails together. Play games together. Look at science video clips together. Engage together.

### **4. Make sure your child is getting hands-on play experiences daily.**

Before you buy an iPad or other technology for your 3- to 5-year-old make sure he already enjoys building with blocks, creating artwork, reading books, engaging in dramatic play, and playing board games. And remember to provide plenty of playtime outside. Make real-world experiences the priority.

## **5. Create boundaries.**

Like a previous generation's creation of boundaries around watching television, you need to decide what is desirable for your child in terms of screen time, whether television, movies, computer, tablet, or cell phone. Is it 30 minutes a day? Is it when you need focused time to pay bills? Is it not interrupting their creative engagement? Establish your family's technology boundaries.

## **6. Be a critic for your child's sake.**

Pay attention to G ratings, but remember that the raters don't know your child—you do! If you decide on screen time, preview what they view and watch with your child to help her process what she sees. And consider the value of the apps you choose—are they active and do they promote creativity, innovation, and problem solving? Use the apps together so you can make a good decision. Make intentional choices.

## **7. Don't let technology get in the way.**

Family meals are a great time for conversation, catching up on the day, and developing relationships. Car rides are a great time for talking, singing, and playing games like I Spy. Cooking together not only supports relationships but also engages your child in using math and literacy skills. Consider whether technology is getting in the way of precious family time together.

## **8. Model healthy behaviors yourself.**

It's time to look in the mirror. Do you watch hours of television or movies each night? Is the television on in the background, even when no one is watching? Do you have your cell phone at the dinner table? Do you play games online in the middle of the night? Consider what your technology use models for your child. Your child learns from you.

## **9. It's okay to say no.**

There are plenty of families who live their lives without smartphones, cable, televisions, or computers. Follow your instincts for your family, and remember, technology companies market to you as a consumer, so be smart. Be intentional about your decision to add technology to your child's day—or not.

## **10. Be smart; be safe.**

Pay attention to your privacy settings. Share your rules about posting on social media with your friends and families. Make sure your early childhood program asks your permission before posting images of your child on Facebook or a website.

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