
THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | April 2021

Mark your Calendars:

April 1 & 2: Spring Break
April 7: Parents' Council Meeting
April 12 & 13: Class Photos
April 19 & 20: Rain Dates for Class Photos
April 20: Virtual Silent Auction Begins

Looking ahead:

May 17-21: Spirit & Teacher Appreciation week
May 26: Last day of School

Dear Parents,

Spring is certainly a busy time at DMWS! Our annual Silent Auction will certainly be a highlight! Look for information about the virtual auction from our Parents' Council. April will also bring class photos (taken on the front lawn), butterfly releases, and units of study on plants and insects.

By the end of March, almost all of our staff will have received their second dose of a COVID vaccine. DMWS will continue to follow the guidelines from the NCDHHS Toolkit and make adjustments as these guidelines are updated. DMWS appreciates your cooperation this year as we have changed protocols regarding building entry and carpool drop-off. Our staff has worked hard to ensure a safe and engaging school experience for your children.

DMWS is fortunate to have a tuition assistance program. Applications for yearlong assistance are due by May 1 of each year while emergency applications can be submitted any time there is a need. Please contact the office if you would like to apply. All applications remain confidential.

Peace,
Julie Allen



DMWS Summer Camp 2021

DMWS Summer Camp has a few openings still available! This summer, 3 sessions of camp will be offered . Week 1 will be June 21-25. Week 2 will be July 12-16 and Week 3 will be August 2-6 from 9am-12:30pm. Children bring their own lunches and we will provide snack. Campers will enjoy a variety of activities including daily music and fitness opportunities. Tuition for camp is \$180 per week. Camp is open to rising 3's through rising first graders. Contact the office if you need a registration form.



Continuing Education for Teachers

DMWS staff stays abreast of best practices in Early Childhood Education by completing training experiences each year. On March 2, our Pre-K and K teachers gained knowledge about incorporating board games into the curriculum. Our 2's and 3's staff learned about science in the outdoor classroom. In addition to the workshops offered on the workday, some of the staff will be completing more virtual training this spring. Topics they will explore include: Environments for Learning: Blocks and Building, Environments for Learning: Art Studio, and Engaging Experiences: Heuristic Play. The staff looks forward to incorporating what they learn into the classroom to enhance the preschool experience for your children.

Quote of the Month:

Play is the highest form of research.

~ Albert Einstein

DID YOU KNOW?

- The DMWS Diversity Book Fund Drive has raised \$813 to purchase preschool level books representing the diversity of our world. You can still donate! Contact the DMWS office to find out more.
- For St Patrick's Day, some classes made Leprechaun traps out of recycled materials. While we did not catch any Leprechauns, we did enjoy trying!
- The monthly breakfasts sponsored by the Parents' Council make the staff feel so loved- many thanks to all the parents (and grandparents) who have sent in items.
- In April, each class will receive a container of caterpillars so they can observe the life cycle of Painted Lady Butterflies.



Stretch Your Child's Thinking

Ever wonder if there are easy ways to help your child develop problem solving skills? Here are some activities to do with your child to help stretch thinking skills.

- Play "What Doesn't Belong"-Look around the room and name any 4 objects (ex. book, shoe, t-shirt, necklace). Have your child decide which one does not belong and why. (ex. the book does not belong since you cannot wear it)
- Play "What Does Belong"- Look around the room and name any 3 objects. Ask your child to think of how they are related and then name a 4th object and explain how it is related.
- Play "Answers and Questions"- You give the answer and ask your child to come up with an associated question. (ex. The answer is a blanket. What is the question?). You can also take turns coming up with as many Questions as you can for a particular answer. (ex. What keeps you warm at night? What do we sit on when we have a picnic?)
- Puppet Problem Solving-Offer a pretend dilemma for puppets and assist your child in acting out the solution. (ex. Oh dear, I have too many books to carry. How can I get them home from the library? Solutions could be: put them in a bag, ask a friend to help carry them)

DMWS Silent Auction

Spring will come...and so will the virtual DMWS Silent Auction, in late April!

WHEN: From noon on Tuesday April 20th through noon on Sunday April 25th

WHERE: VIRTUAL! On an auction website. Links to be provided closer to event

WHY: This is the most profitable yearly fundraiser for our school. Funds raised by the Parents' Council directly enrich our children's experience at DMWS by funding classroom books, craft supplies, special items such as classroom furniture and the gathering drum and by providing tuition assistance.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!:

Parents' Council will seek donations, but our success would skyrocket if each family at our school would contact one business they love to request participation via a donation. In the past, some of our families have generously submitted donations from their own businesses. Although many local businesses have been challenged by the pandemic, they continue to rely on new patrons; our auction is a great opportunity for all of the families at our school to discover them! A modestly sized gift card/service/item donation is immensely helpful.

CONTACT:

Please email Holly O'Sullivan (auctionholly2021@gmail.com) with questions, or to let her know if you are able to help by requesting or providing a donation. Holly can provide a PDF letter customized a specific business.

Thank you for reading, and for your support of our school!

DMWS Parents' Council

Ideas for Auction Donation Requests

If you have a good relationship with the owners/staff at any businesses, consider requesting a donation of a gift card/service. Any donation is so helpful! Thank you!

- *Autoshops
- *Bakeries
- *Beer/wine bars or retail shops
- *Car wash/detailing
- *Coffee/tea shops
- *Dry Cleaning
- *Florist
- *Framing/Art Supply retailer
- *Garden Centers
- *Gift shops
- *House Cleaning services
- *Hotels/B&B's
- *Local Grocers/Food Co-ops
- *Party Supply/Decor
- *Personal training
- *Pet Grooming/Boarding
- *Photography
- *Playspaces (some are offering socially distanced options e.g. Notasium)
- *Restaurants
- *Salons (Hair, Nails)
- *Spa/Massage
- *Specialty Fitness classes (Yoga, Boot Camp, Pilates, Cycling, etc)
- *Toys (NEW and unopened only)