
THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | March 2022

Mark your Calendars:

Mar 1: Staff Development- no school for students

Mar 1: Playground playdate at Birch Avenue

Mar 2: Parents' Council Meeting

Mar 23 & 24: Y'all Need Cookies Pick up

March 28-April 1: SPRING BREAK

Mar 29: Playground Playdate at Birch Avenue

Looking ahead:

April 13 & 14: Class Photos

April 15: Good Friday- No School

Dear Parents,

Happy March! This month we will enjoy St. Patrick's Day festivities and many spring activities. We will have a tornado drill this month and a fire drill. The teachers make sure to prepare the children before we do emergency drills so they know what to expect.

Make plans for your children to attend summer camp. This year, we are planning 3 sessions of camp. Spaces fill on a first come, first served basis - so get those forms in early! Forms have been sent home in your child's folder. Cost is \$185 per week and includes time for lunch.

DMWS has a few spaces left in our program for next year. Please let your friends and neighbors know! We do keep a waiting list for classes that have filled in case children need to withdraw due to moving, etc.

DMWS continues to monitor the metrics and guidance for COVID in our area. The Durham County Health Department serves as a great resource for preschools in our area. As you are aware, the majority of our students are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. For families with older children who are vaccinated, you are likely navigating two sets of guidelines. DMWS appreciates your patience as we continue to work through this ever-changing situation.

Thank you for sharing your children with us,
Julie



DMWS Summer Camp 2022- Applications Available!

Mark your calendars for DMWS Summer Camp! This summer, DMWS will offer 3 weeks of camp. Week 1 will be June 20-24. Week 2 will be July 11-15 and Week 3 will be July 25-29 from 9am-12:30pm. Campers will enjoy a variety of activities including daily music and fitness opportunities. All campers bring a lunch and DMWS provides snack. Tuition for camp is \$185 per week. Camp is open to rising 3's through rising first graders. Applications have been distributed through your child's school folder.

DMWS Canned Food Drive

Many thanks for participating in our annual canned food drive. DMWS delivered 428 non-perishable items to Urban Ministries of Durham Food Pantry on Monday, February 18. Before the delivery, the children lined our hallway with cans. They counted, investigated weight, and compared sizes! Our kindergarten class did an estimation activity and then counted the items for us.

Tuition Assistance

DMWS is able to offer tuition assistance to families who demonstrate need. Yearlong assistance applications are due by May 1 of each school year while emergency assistance applications may be submitted as the need arises. Applicants may pick up applications in the school office. The DMWS Board of Directors determines recipients at the May board meeting. All applications/awards are kept confidential.

2022-2023 Openings

DMWS has completed enrollment of current students and their siblings for fall 2022. There is space available in our 2's, 3's, and pre-K programs. Our Kindergarten class has a short waiting list. Please let your friends and neighbors know we have openings. To schedule a virtual tour, interested families can contact DMWS at julieallen@dmws.org or 919-688-5130. Remember: one of the best forms of advertisement is "word of mouth"!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Several classes made Valentines to share with our neighbors at Hillcrest and Croasdaile Village.
 - Our canned food drive was a huge success! We collected 428 items!
 - Children will be making artwork to share with the nursing staff at Duke Regional Hospital to brighten patient rooms and encourage health care workers.
 - During Summer Camp Week 1, we will enjoy a special visit from a cow!
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EDUCATION RESEARCH- Quality Preschool Programs

For those of you who listen to NPR, you may have heard the broadcast about a recent early childhood education study regarding preschool education. The study followed children in Tennessee for a number of years and found that play based early childhood programs produced better outcomes for children than academic programs. To read the full article by Anya Kamenetz, use the link listed below.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/10/1079406041/researcher-says-rethink-prek-preschool-prekindergarten>

DMWS Silent Auction

WHEN: From noon on Tuesday, April 26th through noon on Sunday, May 1st

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 musical instruments, 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, and we welcome that. 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 Hannah Smith (hannah.mae.smith@gmail.com), Chapin Campbell (chapinc@gmail.com) or dmwsparentscouncil@gmail.com with questions, or to let them know if you are able to help by requesting or providing a donation. They can provide a PDF letter customized for a specific business.

THERE'S MORE!: Our class basket raffle will be happening concurrently with the auction. So look out for communication from your class representative on how you can help make your classroom basket the BEST! And then we will send out more details on entering the raffle for your chance to win. Thanks to Jessica Straehle

(jlstraehle@gmail.com) for her help with this part of our Spring Fundraiser

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

DMWS Parents' Council

Open Positions for Parents' Council Next Year

Looking ahead to the 2022-2023 school year, the Parents' Council has some vital positions to fill! Would you be interested in being our:

- President
- Vice President (serves as president the following school year)
- Social Media Coordinator

Please reach out to dmwsparentscouncil@gmail.com with any questions and we can go into more detail about what these positions entail. There may be more roles available in the fall, but these are the most important and time-sensitive. Many of the positions are ideal to share with a friend, so grab a buddy and join us March 2nd for this month's Parents' Council meeting, where you can learn more!!

Y'all Need Cookies

Spring Break will be here before we know it. Maybe you have plans to travel, maybe you are wondering what fun staycation plans you will dream up. We have a yummy activity for you! Y'all Need Cookies, a local cookier and a DMWS family alum, will be selling spring-themed cookie kits for our families to order, pick up in carline (March 23 and 24) and take home in time for Spring Break. Kits will come with cut-out sugar cookies, icing, and sprinkles for your DIY decorating pleasure! Be on the lookout for the order form!

Quote of the Month:

Play is the highest form of Research.
- Albert Einstein