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# THE PARENTS' PRESS

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Duke Memorial Weekday School | May 2025

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## Mark your Calendars:

May 1: Visit by Durham  
Ballet Theatre  
May 7: Parents' Council  
Meeting  
May 16: Board of Directors  
Meeting  
May 19: Field Day for K/pre-K  
May 20: Water Day for K/pre-K

## Looking ahead: Summer Camp Weeks:

June 9-13  
June 23-27  
July 7-11  
July 21-25

Sept 2: Parent Orientation  
at noon  
Sept 3: First Day of School  
for Students  
Sept 19: Health Forms Due

Dear DMWS Families,

May is an exciting time at DMWS! Classes are inviting families in for special events, our pre-K and K students have an in-house field trip with Durham Ballet Theatre, and we have fun activities planned for the front lawn. Thank you for sharing your sweet children with us this year. The DMWS staff has enjoyed watching your children learn and grow. We will certainly miss the children moving to other schools next year.

What a fun Carnival and Silent Auction/Raffle we had in April! Many thanks to our wonderful Parents' Council for their work in making this annual event such a terrific success. The items and raffle baskets were amazing! The monies raised by our Parents' Council support our Tuition Assistance Fund and enable us to make special purchases such as the caterpillars for each class, new toys, and special art supplies. Our Parents' Council also hosts hospitality event for the staff.

Please let your friends and neighbors know that DMWS continues to enroll children until classes are filled. We also keep a waiting list in case spots open during the summer. Word of mouth is the best form of advertisement!

A few Summer Camp spots are still available, so book your child's spot if you haven't already done so. More information on camp weeks is found later in this newsletter. Contact the school office if you need a registration form.

Next year marks our 75th year as a preschool. Be on the lookout for information about activities to mark this very special milestone.

Enjoy your summer!  
Julie



## 2025-2026 Openings

DMWS has limited space available in our program for next year. For classes that are currently full, DMWS keeps a waiting list. Please let your friends and neighbors know we have openings. To schedule a person tour, interested families can contact DMWS at [julieallen@dmws.org](mailto:julieallen@dmws.org) or 919-688-5130. Remember: one of the best forms of advertisement is “word of mouth”!

## DMWS Summer Camp 2025

Calling all rising 3’s-rising 2nd graders! DMWS Summer Camp is almost here. Camp runs daily from 9-12:30 each week we are in session.

Themes for camp are as follows:

June 9-13	Under The Sea
June 23-27	Trip to the Zoo
July 7-11	The Great Outdoors
July 21-25	Creation Station



Limited space is still available. Contact the school office if you wish to add camp weeks for your child.

## Fun Facts from DWMS

- Dotty Ritchie taught 2 year olds from 1978-2008. She was a strong advocate for the value of outdoor play. Upon her retirement, the playground was named in her honor. Mrs. Ritchie still lives in Durham.
- Each year in May, the Kindergarten plants flowers around the school entrance. This year they will plant vinca and marigolds to brighten up the space.
- The school office has been in many locations over the years and will move across the hall to the workroom in order for the office to become a classroom.

## Want to Advertise?

If you have a business you want to promote to the school community, consider an advertisement in the monthly Parents’ Press. Quarter page ads are \$10/month.

Email [dmwsparentscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dmwsparentscouncil@gmail.com) for more information.

# Ideas for Activities with Your Children

*Play is the work of childhood. ~Jean Piaget*

Need some ideas for things to do with your children? Here are some fun activities to try this summer.

Activities:

- Toss balled up socks in laundry basket
- Go to YouTube to do Cosmic Kids Yoga
- Write movements on slips of paper. Have child draw them out of a basket and do the action Ex: 4 hops, 3 claps, 5 blinks, 2 toe touches, etc.
- Put painters tape on the floor as a balance beam
- Give your child a basket and have them go around the house and fill it with themed objects such as Red things, things that start with B, etc
- Hit balloon with flyswatter
- Cut pictures from catalogs and magazines. Glue to paper. Use themed ideas such as: Transportation, food, orange items, things that start with A, etc

Make Play-Dough:    2 cups flour                      2 cups salt    2 T cream of tartar    2 T vegetable oil  
                                 2 cups water                      Optional: food coloring

In a saucepan, mix all ingredients until smooth. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly until the mixture forms a ball and sticks to the spoon. After using, store in a plastic bag.

Make Puffy Paint: Flour, salt, water, Wilton's cake food coloring, squeeze bottles.

Measure equal parts flour, salt, and water. Put dry ingredients into a bowl. In another bowl, mix water and food coloring. Add colored water to dry ingredients and stir. Spoon mixture into squeeze bottles. As mixture dries on paper, it "puffs".

Make Solution for Giant Bubbles: Mix the following and let sit at least 4 hours:

6 cups water,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup corn syrup, 2 cups dishwashing liquid

Many authors have websites with activities centered around their books. Google your child's favorite author to see if they have good resources. Here are a few:

[www.janbrett.com](http://www.janbrett.com)

[www.eric-carle.com](http://www.eric-carle.com)

[www.mowillems.com](http://www.mowillems.com)

[www.kevinhenkes.com](http://www.kevinhenkes.com)