

Jack and Jill Jottings for:



The preschool term is just flying by! I can't believe that we are already in April. The children have grown so much since September, and they are doing such amazing and wonderful things as they develop their skills.



This month we will learn more about our friends: **Mallory, Connor and Jimmy** when they bring their **All About Me** posters to school and share some things about themselves with their friends.

There is so much going on in April, and I have sent many different pieces of information home with the children, I'll try to compile everything into one page with this newsletter.



On **Monday, April 3rd**, the **pre-kindergarteners have been invited** by the residents of the Leighton High Rise to an **Easter egg hunt in the Leighton park**. A note with Easter egg border was sent home with specific information about this event.

The really important points are that: *This will be a combined class event. It will take place at 11:00 at the park. Drop off and pick up are at the park. Jack and Jill will have bags for the children to put their eggs in when they hunt. We need parent volunteers to help with the hunt. Everything else about the event is included in the note. If you misplaced your note, a copy of it is posted on the preschool's bulletin board, and is also available on the preschool's website.*



Wednesday, April 5th is our **pre-kindergarten school picture day**. Your order forms from PSP went home this week. Please review them and decide what poses and background you would like for your child's school picture. A group picture of your child's entire class will also be taken at that time.

Please be sure to bring your child to preschool on time on picture day, and have them ready for pictures. If you want to send a comb to school for last minute touch ups, please mark it with your child's name and put it in your child's backpack. The teachers will do their best to keep everyone ready for pictures. Be sure to complete the order envelope with all the information, include the correct payment, and send it to school on picture day. The envelopes go directly to the photographer who checks the envelopes to be sure everything is in order. The teachers do not handle anything about the picture ordering process.



The **pre-k classes will have their Easter parties on Wednesday, April 12**. The sign up sheet for party snacks will go on the porch bulletin board on Tuesday, April 4th. Thank you in advance for any treats that you are sending in order to make your child's party a fun filled event. Party day will include a lot of fun Easter activities, including another Easter egg hunt! Remember, Jack and Jill will be closed on Monday, April 17 for the last day of Easter vacation.



Going home along with this newsletter packet is a **Parent-Teacher conference** note. During **the week of April 24th**, we will be setting aside time after classes have ended for the day for Parent-Teacher conferences. Conferences are not mandatory, so each family can choose if they want to have a conference. Whether or not you choose to have a conference, please return the form to the preschool no later than Tuesday, April 11th. If you request a conference, you will be given a conference appointment time. The note has all the information about Parent-Teacher conferences, and if you misplace yours, copies are

available online at the preschool's website, or you can request a new copy from the teachers.



For many years, Jack and Jill has participated in a fun program sponsored by the PA Game Commission called 'Seedlings for Schools'. The game commission provides tree seedlings to children in schools in order to promote awareness of our environment. When the seedlings are delivered, we will have a lesson plan about how to care for our baby trees.

Notes from behind the teacher's desk:

No matter what school district your child will be attending in the fall, kindergarten registration and assessing are a part of the process. Students who will be attending kindergarten in the Lehigh School District were given a testing date when they registered last month. If your child will be attending a district different from Lehigh, I suggest you contact your school district office to learn what procedure they follow to enroll children into kindergarten next fall.

The question that I get from many families this time of year is, 'Is my child ready for kindergarten?' My answer is that children are different, they mature and learn at different rates and in different ways. The skills that may come easily to some children, like coloring, writing their name, doing puzzles, etc. may not be the same skills that another child finds easy. Other children might be amazing at their ability to memorize and learn the letters of the alphabet or their number skills in counting or using numbers. Still others are able to do physical activities with ease. They are the ones who can run, jump, climb, and catch and throw balls like a pro. Whatever your child's strength, know that they are learning and growing in their own way.

During the past term at preschool, the children have been introduced to many of the skills that they will need to use in kindergarten. The classroom worksheets, activity papers, homework, in-class games, envelope games, take-home activity suggestions and classroom routines and expectations have all been designed to help them get ready for the next big step of kindergarten. If you have chosen to follow along with the papers that were sent home, you have also been an important part in helping your child to have a smooth and less stressful transition to being ready for kindergarten.

In preschool we often introduce a skill or topic in several different forms. We read a book about it, we do some songs or rhymes about it, we play a game using manipulatives where each child keeps track of their supplies while playing the game, in the 'star room' the resources reflect the topic being taught, and at playtime our group games use the topic that is being taught. We do all of these things to help each child learn in the style that is best for them. Our hope and goal is to reach each of the students in a way that is meaningful to them that helps them to grasp the topic.

One of the most important skills that I strongly suggest each family work with their children at this time is to master reciting their full name, parent's names, address and phone number. We all look out for our children and we want their world to be as safe and secure as possible, yet there is always the possibility that they may need to know this vital information at some time. We may not like to think about it, but please, honestly consider, does your child know the information that would help them if they ever were separated from you? If for some reason they are away from either you or a trusted adult who knows them, what information could your child give to someone who was trying to help them get in touch with you?

Work with your children so that they can recite their full name, your full name (at least one if not both parents or a guardians name), the physical address where they primarily live, and at least one parent or guardian's phone number (and the name of the person whose phone it is). I know that as adults, we rely on our phone's memory to provide the numbers of family and friends whom we call, but think about where you would be if you didn't have that help. Your children do not have access to a phone's memory to find the numbers that they would need. Believe me, this will be time well spent.