



Merryhill Newsletter

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From the Principal's Office



Dear Merryhill Families,

Wow! April was a blur; however, we had such a great time! Week of the Young Child was a blast! Thank you to all the families who helped us out throughout the week and came to our school carnival.

Earth day was exciting also! We planted beautiful flower boxes and released over 8,500 ladybugs.

We have some great events coming up this month! We look forward to celebrating our moms on Thursday, May 7th. Please come join us for tea and cookies at 3:30 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated from May 11th to the 15th. This year we will have themed days and you can give small gifts-related to the theme-throughout the week, if you choose to. The themes and gift ideas are listed in calendar events and I will attach a copy to everyone's sign in/out book. This year we will be having a pot luck for the teachers on Friday, May 15th. If you would like to bring something yummy for the teachers to enjoy please let Ms. Jande or myself know.

Graduation for our Pre K class is right around the corner. This year has gone by way too fast!

I am working on the class list and hope to have them finalized by the end of this week. If you have any questions, please stop in and speak to me.

We are looking forward to a Marvelous May!

Blanca Prieto-Preschool Principal

Calendar of Events

May 5th- Happy Cinco de Mayo

May 7th- Mother's Day Tea Party at 3:30 p.m.-- Moms, Aunts or Grandmas please come and join us for tea & cookies



May 11th -15th - Teacher Appreciation Week

Monday: *Together We Make Our School Shine* - candles

Tuesday: *Thank You For Your Sweet Inspiration*-candy bar, chocolates, gift card for ice cream, or anything sweet-baskets will be on front counter

Wednesday: *Thank You For Helping Young Minds Grow*- have your child bring a flower for their teacher-vases will be on front counter

Thursday: *You Have the 'Write' Stuff* -personal appreciation note from the family or picture drawn by your child-mailboxes for each teacher on front counter-gift ideas: post-its, note cards, cute stationary, etc...

Friday: *Thank you for feeding our children*- Pot luck for the staff. Please let the office know if you would like to participate in the pot luck!

May 13th- Art Show at Panda Express from 5:00-8:00. Mention our school name and they will donate 20% to our school.

May 21st - Open House 6-7:30 p.m. For new start parents-send your friends and neighbors to check out our school

May 25th - School Closed- In observance of Memorial Day

Inside this issue....

Developing Writing Skills in Young Children

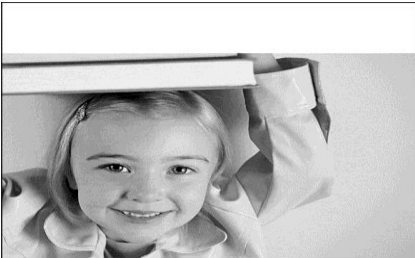
Parents and Teachers

Coming up...

Our Staff Members

Teacher meet and greet will be on May 21st at 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher for the new school year.



Share our story.

Bring a friend to our Open House and share our school's success story. It's a great opportunity to meet our principal, tour our school, and see firsthand how we make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

OPEN HOUSE

May 21st

6 p.m. to 7:30p.m.

June 12th – Pajama Day– wear your pajamas to school

June 18th - Father's Day Floats at **3:30 p.m.**
Dad's make sure to have pick up duty so you can enjoy Ice Cream floats and snacks with your child. You will also pick up your Father's Day gift

June 19th - **School Closed-** Teacher In-Service Day

Fri. June 19th - **Pre-K Preschool Graduation**
10:30 a.m. at Merryhill School



Congratulations!

June 22nd - First Day of 15-16 School Year- New Rates go into effect

June 26^h- Wear Your Favorite Color To School Day

July 2nd- Bingo Bonanza, family pot luck and Soda Fireworks. 6:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m. Bring the whole family!

For Parents



Merryhill School has a family referral plan.

By referring a family to any of our Merryhill schools you are eligible for a free week of tuition. To learn more please see the office staff.

Campelli's Pizza -7480 Foothills Blvd

Every Tuesday 20% of pizza sales comes back to us. Simply order dine-in, pick-up or delivery and mention our school.

From the Education Department

Developing Writing Skills in Young Children

- From Crayons to Concepts -

In the early preschool years, writing starts with practicing fine motor skills and progresses to include concepts such as vocabulary, sentence structure and inventive spelling. Our curriculum builds the foundation for writing beginning with our infants. Our teachers not only instruct students how to write, but they also help instill a love of writing and self-expression.

Below are activities we implement in our classrooms to get children excited about writing, as well as fun activities to try with your child at home.

INFANTS/TODDLERS

In the classroom: Our infants and toddlers practice picking up and placing objects into containers, building hand strength and coordination.

At-home activity: Give your child plastic cooking utensils, such as spoons and spatulas, along with a large bowl. Place appropriate finger foods in the bowl, and encourage your baby to pick up the utensils and use them to move the food around. Choose utensils with different sized handles so your baby learns how to grasp and hold objects in various ways.

BEGINNERS (Ages 2-3)

In the classroom: During imaginative play, teachers provide pens, markers and crayons to encourage students to practice writing. For instance, they pretend to own a restaurant and write food orders, and pretend to be doctors and take notes about the condition of their stuffed animals.

At-home activity: Incorporate writing activities during playtime. Bring sidewalk chalk outdoors and ask your child to write what they see. Don't correct spelling or proper letter formations. Show enthusiasm in any efforts he makes, as this is how children learn that words are powerful and have meaning.

INTERMEDIATES (Ages 3-4)

In the classroom: Different writing tools and surfaces make writing more interesting for children. Our Intermediates use chalk on a chalkboard, form letters using modeling clay, and finger paint on canvas.

At-home activity: Three year olds enjoy mimicking adults in their daily activities. Allow your child to engage in a new writing activity with you, such as writing a grocery list or a thank you card. Explain to him what you are writing and the purpose it serves.

PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (Ages 4-5)

In the classroom: Teachers make writing fun for our older preschoolers by creating a classroom post office and asking the children to write and mail letters to each other. Through this activity, students practice communicating thoughts and ideas on paper, using proper grip, writing first and last names in correct case, and writing words independently by using inventive spelling. Inventive spelling encourages a love for writing and reinforces phonics. Traditional spelling is encouraged as students move into more formal writing in early elementary grades.

At-home activity: After a family outing, invite your child to write about his day in a journal. Encourage him to use uppercase and lowercase letters. If he asks for help writing more challenging words, have him attempt to spell them by sounding out the word and writing the letters that make that sound. Invite him to read his journal entry to you.

We provide many opportunities for our preschoolers to develop and practice their writing skills. By setting this foundation, they will be better prepared to communicate thoughts and ideas through writing in elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD- Director of Early Childhood Education