

February Newsletter



Come join us for our...

Annual Sweetheart Dance

Friday, February 5th
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

*Light refreshments.

*A rockin' D.J.

*Win FREE
registration or other
great prizes in a raffle!



Fox Creek Elementary. 6585 Collegiate Dr. Highlands Ranch. 80130



Questions or concerns? Please contact us!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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Bryne H 2/4
Sam H 2/6
Ms. Amanda 2/9
Gabriel A 2/18
Hudson L 2/20
Christopher H 2/26
Miriam B 2/27
Marek P H 2/28
Bella H 2/28



Merryhill School

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Www.merryhillschool.com



Links to Learning

Nobel Learning Preschool Curriculum

DID YOU KNOW..? SUPERBOWL 2016

The age difference between Peyton Manning (39) and Cam Newton (26) is the largest between starting quarterbacks in Super Bowl history. The difference is 13 years and 48 days, beating the previous high of 12 years and 250 days when Manning faced Russell Wilson in 2013.

Both of these teams made the Super Bowl with the coach they hired after firing John Fox. Carolina with Ron Rivera and Denver with Gary Kubiak.

Peyton Manning is tied with Brett Favre with 199 career wins (regular season and postseason combined). If he wins the Super Bowl he can hold the all-time record.

GO BRONCOS!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/2 Groundhog Day

2/5 Sweetheart Dance at Fox Creek Elementary 7-8:30pm

2/7 SUPER BOWL!!!!

2/8 Chinese New Year

2/9 Mardi Gras

2/10 Ash Wednesday

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/15 President's Day (We are open!)

2/16 Tooth Fairy visits

2/25—2/26 Lifetouch Pictures

We are here for
you

If you have any
questions or
concerns, or
simply want to
share an idea with
us, we are
available for you.
Pop in the office,
call or drop an
email. We love to
hear from you!

During the month of February we will be focusing on fine motor skills in the classrooms. Our teachers will be training via Lauren Starnes' webinars and then putting their learning into action in the classrooms. Look for an emphasis on fine motor skills in your child's classroom

What are fine motor skills?

- Using the hands and fingers in coordination to perform tasks and activities
- Continue to develop from birth through elementary school
- Require gross motor skill development to develop

How do fine motor skills develop overall?

- Large to Small
- Palm to Finger
- Hands Together to Hands Separate

Amplifying Fine Motor Skills in our Intermediate Preschool Classroom

- Stamps and stamp pads
- Pages of stickers
- Magnets
- Pasta necklaces
- Pipe cleaners in colanders
- Window clings
- Gluing beans or seeds
- Knobbed puzzles
- Peg boards

Amplifying Fine Motor Skills in our Pre-K and Pre-K 2 Classrooms

- Broken crayons
- Golf pencils
- Small bead/ tile mosaics
- Basters and eye droppers
- Painting with small sponges
- Origami paper folding
- Cutting tasks, such as snowflakes
- Coin sorting
- Dot-to-dot puzzles

Age	Fine Motor Benchmarks
Infant (0-12 mo.)	•Controlled grab and release •Picks up small objects with pincer grasp •Transfers objects hand to hand •Puts objects to mouth •Drops & picks up toys
Toddler (12-24 mo.)	•Turns pages 2-3 at a time •Stacks 3 small blocks •Brings spoon to mouth •Drinks from open cup •Scribbles •Places 5 pegs on a peg board •Turns knobs

Age	Fine Motor Benchmarks
Beginner (2 years)	•Turns single pages •Strings 4 large beads •Makes circles and lines •Thumb/ forefinger grip •Snips with scissors •Favors one hand •Manipulates & rolls playdough
Intermediate (3 years)	•Uses non-dominant hand to assist •Makes continuous scissor snips •Makes "x"s •Copies shape forms •Coordinates hands to brush teeth and hair •Hand-eye coordination increase

Age	Fine Motor Benchmarks
PreK (4 years)	•Writes name •Copies letters and numerals •Handedness established •Pencil grip emerges •Buttons, snaps, and zips without assistance •Opens zip lock bags and lunch containers •Designs own Duplo models
PreK2/ Kinder. (5 years)	•Holds pencil correctly and with control •Copies words •Ties shoes •Colors within lines •Drawing is more identifiable •Opens and closes bottles with varying lid size •Uses knife and fork to cut soft foods •Can assemble jigsaw puzzle

Helping Your Preschooler Develop Positive Friendship Skills

Are you puzzled by some of your child's social behaviors? Have you noticed that your toddler doesn't interact with other children very often? Does your three-year-old get frustrated when a classmate won't play with him? Will your four-year-old only play with her best friend?

These are all normal social behaviors for preschoolers. Learning how to develop friendships is a lifelong process. Children's social behaviors evolve from smiling and cooing at others, to engaging in parallel play, to eventually forming friendships and playing together.

Below are ways we help develop friendships in the classroom, as well as ideas for you and your child to do at home.

INFANTS:

In the classroom: Before they can communicate verbally, infants build connections by smiling, cooing and crying. By two months old, they might turn toward other infants, and by twelve months, they begin to imitate their peers. Teachers help facilitate this relationship by sitting infants near each other during activities such as story time and tummy time.

At home: Even though infants don't really play with one another, they still benefit from "play dates" with other infants. Sit your infant face-to-face with another infant or in close proximity to an older sibling, and provide each child separate toys. Note when your infant watches the other child and what captures his attention.

Recommended reading: *Friends* by Helen Oxenbury and *Let's Play* by Leo Lionni

TODDLERS (ages 1-2):

In the classroom: Many young children tend to engage in "parallel play." They play near other children, but each child is doing something different. This is a natural phase of development. As children get older, they begin to enjoy more shared activities with their peers. For example, they might enjoy splashing their hands at the water table with others, looking at books while sitting close to a friend, and dancing to music with their classmates.

At home: Invite another parent and child to your home for a play date. Blocks, balls, dress up clothes and toy kitchen sets are great toys for children at this age. Don't force them to play with each other. Instead, let the children decide on the level of interaction.

Recommended reading: *Do You Want to be My Friend?* by Eric Carle and *I Can Share* by Karen Katz

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: In the Beginner classroom, teachers refer to classmates as "friends."

Students learn about personal space and begin to practice good manners by saying please and thank you.

