



April 2008

# Karen's Chronicle

Karen's Kozy Korner



Volume 1 Issue 7

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## Greetings Parents!

Buds are sprouting, flowers are pushing their way through, and we can see bare ground! Spring is here whether old man winter likes it or not! We can't wait to be outdoors more than indoors. All the students and teachers here have endured a longer

and tougher winter than usual. There hasn't been a week in a public school or private program where someone hasn't been under the weather. Enough, we say!

Lets remember, especially for the after-schoolers, it may appear warmer than usual with the sun up higher, but we need to still be



*"emphasizing the importance of good hand washing..."*

dressed appropriately. Jackets are still a must!

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## April Birthdays

Ryan will be 3 years old! We look forward to celebrating with him on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

As always, parents may bring cupcakes which we will serve at lunch; our allergy free recipe is here on file! Please choose a recipe

from our allergy free cookbook, if you would like to bring a treat for your child to celebrate his/her birthday with us!



## School Reminders

Ellis School: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Early Release - Professional  
Development Day  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 - May 2nd 2008  
Spring Break

Brentwood Swasey: April  
28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - May 2nd, 2008  
Spring Break

## April Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

*"April 14--18 is the  
Week of the Young  
Child! Be sure to do  
something special  
with your son(s) or  
daughter(s)."*

## April Themes

Letters: V, W, X ~ Number: 17 - 18  
~ Shape: Oval ~ Color: Yellow

**Springtime Sparkles** - April showers bring rainy days, but all that rain helps to make the world sparkle with the colors of spring! Flowers, baby birds, and gardening will be explored as the children welcome spring.

**Hats Off To You** - This new

theme includes fun activities and information about all kinds of head coverings, from cowboy hats to baseball caps!

**Wiggle Worms** - Worms do important underground work that helps plants grow. Join the fun as the children wiggle and squiggle their way through this theme. Information about both Earth Day and Arbor Day are also included.



## Miss Karen's Korner

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, this has been a difficult winter for illness, and both students, teachers, and parents have had to take an exceptional amount of time off to stay home with an ill child. Let's hope the worst is over. I can't stress enough how important it is to wash hands properly; if the children are not close by to a sink, when they do need to wipe their little noses, try to have some antibacterial water free soap nearby. This is the single most way germs are spread; at school, in the bank, at the supermarket...

When your child does become ill, we will do our best to keep them comfortable and away from the other students until you arrive to pick them up. If we feel that the symptoms are not contagious, or require a doctor's visit, we will do our best to keep your child here until normal pickup time. Very often, someone is simply overtired, or in need of some extra TLC.

While sitting in on Miss Nicole's class last week, I was pleased to hear one student tell the class what the project was for the day; in fact we later found out that Mom and him discuss the curriculum for the day, each morning when they get into the car, where Mom keeps it handy! That is probably one of the biggest compliments that a teacher can receive, knowing that a child looks forward to coming to school.

Miss Karen's Korner cont.

We think it's a great idea, and we encourage everyone to try to take a few minutes out of our very hectic schedules and talk to your child/children about what they have to look forward to when they come here. It truly makes for a healthy mind and attitude!

Thank-you everyone for donating for a radio. And thank-you to Damien and Kaleb for the Boom Box they donated. We are using it and loving it!

## Miss Beccy's Korner

Hello Parents!

I have recently observed that some of the students are having a more difficult time than usual transitioning in the morning and very often this follows them throughout the remainder of the day. We all know that whether we mean to or not, we are rushing in the morning; I am a parent myself and know how difficult it is to get Ari and Kiersten going in the morning! Most households have two parents working, thus two parents rushing, and generally one parent left to do it all because of scheduling. Our time is limited in the evening...eating, bathing, bedtime.

To ease the stress in the morning, here are some suggestions: Have the children pick their clothes out the night before. Whether they match or not, doesn't matter, it makes a child proud to know that they can do this, and its one less thing to worry about in the morning. Wake up time should be the same time every day. Even one half hour can be a drastic change to a child. Keep items in the same spot, i.e. jackets, shoes, backpacks, lunches, etc..Create some rules that you know you will follow thru with such as no breakfast until you are fully dressed. Don't break the policy for any reason; remember, these kids thrive on consistency; no matter how frustrating the whining! We serve breakfast here each and every day, as you all know. Coming here dressed and hungry makes more sense, than arriving late because no one could get dressed but everyone ate! Remember these kids have as much to do as the adults...dress, bathroom, brush teeth, and comb their hair. The more you rush, the more you get frustrated and the more you tend to raise your voice. If you stay on schedule, you will be surprised how much extra time there will be for a book, or just snuggle time.

If your child procrastinates, gently remind them that they will miss breakfast or that ten minutes of playtime; but follow thru with the consequences! Don't lecture, or talk on and on; these are children, and you most likely lost them ten words ago; keep it short and simple, and don't threaten. Mean what you say and say what you mean! We are with these children all day, and see the results of how they arrive each and every day. They are entitled to have a bad morning.

Remember a happy child, makes for a happy day.

Spring is here; please check the children's clothing drawers, cubbies, etc. and make sure we have one set of a change of clothing..including socks and underwear.

## Miss Nicole's Korner

I begin my second class at Granite State College this month for Child Development; I am extremely excited and eager to learn more about the children I spend so much of my time with .I look forward to taking the tools given to me in this class and using them each and every day.

I am proud to announce my first **STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Aidan Doyle**. I couldn't be more proud when Aidan announces to his classmates what the class calendar has in store for us each day. All my students are great, so this was a difficult choice.

To parents of children still in diapers or pull-ups...recently we have been receiving the type that you cannot reattach, thus the child must get completely undressed, shoes, pants, the works. This is particularly tough for potty training! We realize that there may be a cost savings as diapers are expensive, however for us, we have several children waiting in line for potty/changing and there is nothing more frustrating that a three and a half year old having to completely undress; every minute we have is five minutes at home! Thank you for your cooperation and for understanding.

We have noticed recently that a lot of artwork and projects on display are not going home. Please feel free to take them with you when you leave; we do like to display them, as we are proud of the kids accomplishments, but they are your treasures to keep.