Principally Speaking:

The 2019 - 2020 school year is progressing smoothly. We are very excited about all the fun special events and educational activities occurring in our classes, as you will read in the articles in this newsletter.

With the weather beginning to change and getting colder, please let me remind everyone that the only official closing notification is by calling (440) 350-5299. Please listen carefully regarding whether the program is closed or if the school is open with no morning transportation. In that event, no transportation will be provided in the morning, school will still be open and transportation will be provided home from school. Parents can then bring their children to school, based on their own discretion.

I want to wish all staff, students and their families the very best during the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Sheryl Kline

Nursing Department: Nurse Jenny’s Blog

It is time again to get a flu shot for yourself and your kids. Remember to wash your hands often to prevent the spread of illness.
Early Intervention Program:  
What Can I Do to Make My Baby/Toddler Talk?

While you cannot make a baby/toddler talk, there are some things you can do to lay the foundation for him/her to begin using words:

- Pay attention when your child makes sounds or uses gestures. Your child may be attempting to communicate with you. When you respond to your child’s attempts at communication, it shows your child that communication is important and helps to obtain his/her wants and needs.

- Imitate your child’s vocalizations, facial expressions, and gestures, then wait for a response. This shows your child that what he/she is communicating is important and means something to you. It also teaches him/her the back-and-forth pattern of communication.

- Play and interact with your child. When you play with your child, model language for him/her. The more you interact with your child and model language for him/her, the more he/she will learn about words, their meaning, communication and language.

- Give your child opportunities for communication. While it may be easier to anticipate your child’s needs and give them what you think they will want, encourage your child to make attempts to request what he/she wants. Reward any attempt your child makes to show him/her the effectiveness of communication.

Early Intervention
Family Interactions are one of the keys to development in Early Intervention.

EMPOWER individuals with developmental disabilities to ENGAGE in activities that ENRICH their lives and contribute to their community. #EmpowerEngageEnrich
Preschool Program:
Curricular Themes and Activities

We have had a very busy start to the school year. Planning our classroom activities around our curricular themes of back to school, all about me, my family, apples, fall and dinosaurs have been especially fun for our students.

Ms. Lindsey & Ms. Cathy’s class made giant paper people for the preschool students to dress in an outfit of their choice. They even added hair and eyes to make them look unique to each child. The students enjoyed reading “10 Apples Up On Top” and “Orange Pear Apple Bear” during circle time; however, the classrooms favorite activity was shopping in the pretend apple store.

Ms. Stephanie & Ms. Ashley’s class used dye to make apple volcanos for science. It was so cool to watch them explode on the table! Students read “I Like Me” and “Autumn Leaves.” The classroom’s favorite art project was making leaf men which they proudly displayed in the hallway.

Ms. Melissa and Ms. Deb’s class made apple sauce during their cooking time. The end result provided a tasty treat for everyone! The students created a family poster with their parents. It was so much fun to share the information about their family with their friends. The posters are now hung on the “Family and Friends” wall in the classroom. The students were proud to have written their own books, entitled “Our Favorite Colors” and “Our Families.” The student’s favorite book so far has been “The Run Away Pumpkin.”

Ms. Mandi and Ms. Traci’s class loved making apple sauce and singing apple-themed songs. Some of Ms. Mandi’s students favorite activities were question of the day, completing art projects, keeping track of how big Ms. Mandi’s baby is growing, and coming up with names for the baby. Favorite books have included “10 Apples Up On Top” and “That’s Not My Monster” which culminated in a monster hunt around the school to find the missing monster!

Our Featured Preschool Student: Andrew

Andrew has made tremendous progress since the beginning of the school year. He has learned his peers’ names and loves engaging in classroom activities. He has made the transition from half-day classes to full-day classes flawlessly and loves being here all day to play with his friends. Andrew knows and follows his classroom routines and loves playtime and answering the “Question of the Day.”
Classroom Events to Spotlight:

During the busy start to our school year, the students and their families joined us for our annual Preschool Picnic at Garfield Park where students were able to participate in fishing, playing on the playground, getting their faces painted and blowing bubbles. We had over 150 family members attend. We were extremely fortunate and grateful to have 60 students from Chardon High School join our students and their families for a fun-filled day.

During our annual Open House, parents were given the opportunity to visit the classrooms, including the gym. The Scholastic Book Fair also happened during this time and many students took this opportunity to add to their home libraries.

The full-day classes went to Patterson Family Fall Fest where many parents were able to join us for the fun on a cool, fall day exploring the apple orchards, tasting apples and apple cider and playing on the converted farm equipment.

Preschoolers also participated in the school-wide Halloween Parade showing off their unique costumes and getting treats from our adult day program, Broadening Abilities.

Home and Community Connections:

Ms. Lindsey and Ms. Stephanie’s class both completed All About Me Pennants which were proudly displayed in the classroom. Ms. Lindsey’s students and parents work hard to complete their monthly reading logs. Ms. Stephanie’s students and their parents decorated their own personal leaf to create a beautiful fall tree displayed in the classroom. They also love to participate in weekly show and tell activities.

Try this activity!

Putting objects into and taking them out of containers helps your child build thinking skills and hand-eye coordination.

Fun combinations:
- Metal bowls with balls or blocks
- Empty food containers with clothespins
- Paper bags with outdoor finds like acorns and leaves

Loving, playful interactions are the building blocks to strong social emotional development. These playful moments strengthen skill sets that aid our little ones in developing happy, healthy friendships throughout their lives.

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Ms. Melissa’s class has been participating in their monthly home activity challenge and completing their home to school bulletin board project, including All About My Summer, Family & Friends Posters, and creating Jack-O-Lantern. Students are also completing an alphabet book with a new letter each week.

Ms. Mandi’s class created popsicles for their All About Me bulletin board. Students are earning their favorite stickers and stamps by completing their monthly reading logs and completing homework activities. Students are working on their Thankful Leaves for the Fall bulletin board. The students in Ms. Mandi’s class love creating books for each letter they learn. Learning to read can be so much fun!

School Age Program:

Curricular Themes and Corresponding Activities:

In the month of October, School Age students focused on matter and energy. Students learned about a variety of museums they could visit to explore matter. They created fossils in School Age I and III. In School Age II, students visually represented matter using buttons to show how molecules move. School Age II welcomed Cleveland State University Music Therapy Practicum Student named Adrianne for a weekly music session. School Age III welcomed back South High School TEACH student, Bridget, for the first semester. School Age students also kicked off the 100 Mile Walking Club.

In November, students will be learning about Earth and Space Sciences. Students will learn about holidays around the world, social skills and manners in the month of December.

Featured Student:

School Age III student Tyler is our featured student. Tyler works hard to complete his work tasks and follow directions. He enjoys listening to music, swimming and riding the bike. He is a very kind, gentle and happy young man.

Classroom Events to Spotlight:

In October, School Age kicked off their basketball season. They are currently undefeated! On October 25th, School Age students had their Homecoming Game vs. Mentor with a dance that followed. School Age students have also warmly welcomed Kathy and Sadie and Joe and Abby back again for another fun-filled year of Partners With Paw Pet Therapy.

Home and Community Connections:

You can help from home by focusing on some of these skills along with us...
- Completing daily hygiene (teeth brushing, hair brushing, showering, applying deodorant)
- Folding laundry
- Wiping tables
- Assist with daily dressing
**Featured Student:**

Seth is new to LEEP this year and has made a smooth transition into the vocational work force. Seth enjoys exploring different job sites and learning new job skills. He is able to communicate using his talker with eye gaze and enjoys working with his peers. Seth has a contagious laugh and loves to make others smile. Congratulations Seth!

**LEEP Program (Lake Employment Experience Program):**

LEEP students are learning how to take care of yourself when you are sick and how to dress and present yourself when you apply for a job.

Curricular focus is on using good manners and getting along with people at work and out in the community. Students completed activities, such as identifying good vs. bad manners, discussing how to be a good friend and how to get along with coworkers in a work setting.

LEEP Students have spent time working on self-regulation techniques and identifying their emotions. We have identified ways to regulate our bodies to keep ourselves and others around us safe.

Colors identified with self-regulation are:

- Blue- feeling sad, sick, tired, bored
- Green- feeling calm, happy, focused, ready to learn
- Yellow- silly, nervous, confused, excited
- Red- feeling angry, mad, scared or upset

Different strategies we have learned include; getting fresh air or taking a break when feeling blue, focusing on strengths and reading a book when feeling green, asking for a break or using a fidget toy when feeling yellow and meditation or talking to a trusted adult when feeling red. The children have identified who their support systems are at school and at home and how to appropriately ask for help they need.

**Classroom Events to Spotlight:**

- We had another wonderful experience with our volunteer Deb! She helped us learn to make home-made pizza, and a fall snack mix. In October, as an added surprise, Chef Ben came in to show us how to toss the dough and spread the sauce. All students had an opportunity to participate in cooking and eating ~YUM!

- LEEP also had a successful Apple Fritter sale to support our Student Advocacy Group, SAFE (Student Advocacy for Everyone).

**Home and Community Connections:**

- Discuss and demonstrate with your child how to notice when you are ill and what to do if you cannot go to school or work.
Practice using good manners in the community and home setting in order to generalize skills being taught at school.

Ask your child what color they are feeling? Then, help them identify their emotion. Helping students to identify their emotions and respond appropriately will decrease unwanted behaviors.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

LEEP is lucky to have volunteers to help us make Gingerbread Houses to help get us ready for the season. Parent, Lisa Kovach makes gingerbread house cookie parts and brings a kit for each student. She comes in and helps us assemble unique, edible and beautiful gingerbread homes to share with our families.

Our volunteer Deb will come in to help us make a 2 foot tall gingerbread house to display in the Broadmoor Lobby that will then be donate to a deserving home.

From our LEEP Job Trainer - Laura Kuenzig:

Several LEEP students attended a Store presentation provided by the Target HR Department. The students had each expressed an interest in stocking jobs following graduation. Students were given a tour of the Mentor Target’s warehouse. The numerous steps involved in stocking for a large, busy store amazed the students.

Employees assigned to this area took time to explain their job duties that enabled products to be unloaded, organized and distributed on the sales floor efficiently. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore potential community jobs. LEEP students are very appreciative of the Target employees support of our program.

Contact Us

Please reach out to us for more information about our programs and services.

Broadmoor School
8090 Broadmoor Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 602-1000

Elfreide Roman, Superintendent
Sheryl Kline, Director of Children Services, Principal
Linda DeRosa, Early Childhood Supervisor
Mary Elshaw, School Age Supervisor
Joan Pollard, Secretary
Kitty Vogel, Secretary


For more of our story, follow us on social media @DeepwoodLakeDD