

# March 2018



*The KinderPlus class is joining the residents of Nine Mile Senior Living for a six part intergenerational poetry class. Check out our blog for more pictures of this event soon!*

## **Box Tops Challenge**

We collected 1,946 Box Tops during our February Box Tops Challenge. Though we did not meet our goal of 2,500 Box Tops, we still earned \$195. Thank you to everyone who brought in Box Tops. Please remember this is an on-going fundraiser, so please keep clipping and bringing in your Box Tops!

## **Flower Fundraiser**

With all of this snow on the ground, its hard to believe Spring is just around the corner! But it is and it's time for our annual Flower Sale Fundraiser! An information packet will go out March 7. Flower orders will be due Monday, March 26, and flowers will be available for pick up at TLC ELC on Thursday, May 17th. The money raised this year will be going towards the playground update. This fundraiser is one of our most successful of the year, we encourage you to ask family, friends and co workers to order.....

## **Kids' Stuff Sale**

For all of the families that participated in the Kids' Stuff Sale in past years we want to thank you. We will not be having a sale this year. St. Stephen has decided not to be involved. Our sales have been successful with their location on France, without that as an option we have decided not to have the sale. We will be evaluating if we will go forward in the future with this event, or if it's time has come and there won't be any future sales. We appreciate your input on this.

## **Good Friday Service**

Each year TLC ELC participates in the Children's Good Friday service at Transfiguration Lutheran Church. We invite all families and friends to join us for this service. ELC children will be singing a few songs in the service, then we will have treats in all of the rooms for everyone afterwards. Please let the teachers know if you will be taking your child with you after the service, or not.

The service begins at 10am on Friday, March 30th. We hope to see you all there.

## **Safety**

Please drive carefully through our parking lot. Children are breaking away from their parents and may not be seen. Parents also need to be careful to watch their children outside. Children have been told never to leave the building without their parents, but it still happens. When you are going out to your car please make sure all of your children are with you. We appreciate your help in enforcing this very important rule.

## **KinderPlus Swimming Lessons**

TLC ELC's KinderPlus class has begun taking their spring swimming lessons at Atlantis Swim School in Burnsville. The Kinders attend a half hour lesson each Tuesday. We feel swimming lessons are extremely important for every child. The kids are having a blast learning new swimming skills and water safety.

### **SCRIP Saves the Day!**

Recently an ELC family was out to eat at TGI Friday's. When it came time to pay the bill, it was discovered their wallet had been left at home...Not to worry, the parent simply ordered a SCRIP NOW gift card to TGI Friday's for the amount of the bill and it was delivered to their phone within 2 minutes. The bill was paid and all ended well! Take a moment to enroll in our Presto Pay SCRIP gift card program. Once you are enrolled you have the ability to order physical and electronic gift cards right from your phone at any time! And don't forget, the money TLC ELC earns through this fundraiser is split with YOU! You can use the money you earn to help pay for tuition, field trips or use it to purchase more gift cards. For more information or if you have questions, please see Renee Gilmore or Katie Zobel.

### **Tax Information**

If you need documentation of your 2017 childcare expenses for your taxes, stop by the office and ask or email Barb at [bwigstadt@yahoo.com](mailto:bwigstadt@yahoo.com) and request your tax information.

### **ELC Board of Directors:**

This year's ELC Board of Directors is made up of the following parents:

Ann Johnson Nolan/Mason (TAC), Jocelyn (DT)  
Ann LaPorteFrankie (Chips)  
Amy LefebvreHelena (Penguins)  
Sarah LoganJoanna (AA), Kaleb (DT)  
along with Renee Jefferson (Church Staff member);  
Kelli Harris (ELC Staff representative) and Barb Wigstadt (ELC Director)

We need one to two more parents to join this year's board. If you are interested at all please see Barb to find out what it involves.

Bath time is perfect for exploring math with your young child! Not only do you have each other's full attention, but the learning can be hands on, playful, and messy.

These explorations can also be done at a water table, sink, pool, or even a puddle! No matter what water spot you use, safety must be your main focus. Never ever leave your child alone, even for a minute! This is an activity that needs your complete attention.

Make sure that any toys or containers dry out completely between uses, and disinfect toys if several children will use them. Be sure to check toys for mold and replace them when needed. More detailed water safety tips can be found on the [Red Cross's website](#).

## Infants and Toddlers

The very youngest mathematicians are learning what numbers are and that they mean something. Children are also learning to compare the shapes, colors and patterns they see.

## Comparing and contrasting

Comparing and contrasting what is happening in the bathtub is a great place to start. It builds children's math vocabulary and draws attention to what you're doing. "Your arm is dry. Now I'll pour some water on it and your arm is wet!" "This cup is floating on the water. When we fill it up, it sinks to the bottom!" With these statements, you give your child a way to describe and compare those different states and shown them the step by step process for how it happened!

"I'm going to take the red square washcloth and dip it in the water. Now it is all wet so I can wash you!" By mentioning that the washcloth is square and red, your child sees two more ways to categorize it!

## Counting

Count as you wash each part of your child's body. "One arm, two arms! You have two arms!" Count their fingers and toes, gently wash each ear. This repeated, concrete exposure to numbers will help her understand the concept of counting.

## Exploring

Toddlers who are able to sit up and grasp objects can do some hands-on math learning as well! Offer different sized containers and encourage your child to use them to dump and pour water. "Now there is a lot of water in the red cup! The yellow cup has less water!" Your child is building her awareness of volume, while also strengthening her fingers and hands.

When you ask her to hand you something, describe the item. "Please hand me the hard, little, cup." You can also ask your child to wash different parts of her body and help you count as she goes.

Without a lot of extra equipment or time, you're showing your infant or toddler that math is useful and fun to explore.

# Preschool

As children grow to preschool age, they build up their understanding of numbers. They are measuring, finding shapes and patterns, and even beginning to explore the concept of time. They're also continuing to use math terms as they talk and categorize objects by different characteristics like shape, size and color.

A lot of the math play previously described for infants and toddlers is still great for preschoolers.

Give your child the washcloth and ask him to wash and count his body parts. Not only is he counting, but he's also using one-to-one correspondence, matching one object to another object, to make sure he washes all of his fingers and toes. Give your child containers of all shapes and sizes and let him pour, drip and measure. Ask him to describe what he's doing, the types of containers he has, and which ones have more or less water. You can even start to help him understand that if you pour water from a wide container into a skinny one . . . the amount of water doesn't change! This is an idea that may be hard for young children to understand, so don't worry if they don't quite believe you.

At this age, children are more comfortable with the idea of measuring, so you can go farther with it. Give your child an old ruler so he can see how deep the water is. Discuss temperature and whether the water feels hot or cold. Have him see how many rubber ducks it would take to go across the whole tub.

Bath toys can be sorted or put into patterns. They can also be props in math games. For example, line up several rubber ducks and reenact the "Five Little Ducks" song:

*Five little ducks went out one day, over the hills and far away*

*Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack"*

*But only four little ducks came back . . . (Keep the song going until you reach zero ducks)*

Math in the bath (don't you like how that sounds?) is a chance for your child to play with math concepts and ideas. It also shows them what math can look like in the real world and how they might use it. And as an added bonus? They are squeaky clean by the end of the lesson!

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Sarah Erdman is a mom, museum professional and early childhood educator. She teaches at FB Meekins Cooperative Preschool and is the founder of Cabinet of Curiosities LLC. Her research and professional practice explores how museums and educators can connect to make meaningful experiences for young children. She writes at [cabinetofcuriositiesva.com/blog](http://cabinetofcuriositiesva.com/blog) and tweets from [@CabinetofCurios](https://twitter.com/CabinetofCurios)