



We're dedicated to helping you be happy, healthy and successful in your journey of being a parent!

Monthly Quote

“I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.”

—Pablo Picasso

March Events

- Mar 3rd Dr. Seuss Treat
- Mar 9th Daylight Savings Begins
- Mar 14th PJ - Read In Day
- Mar 14th Fundraiser Packets Due Back
- Mar 17th St. Patrick's Day Party
- Mar 20th 1st Day of Spring
- Mar 21st Door Contest Winner Announced
- Mar 25th Pancake Day - Pancakes for lunch
- Mar 28th PJ - Read In Day

March Birthdays Happy Birthday!

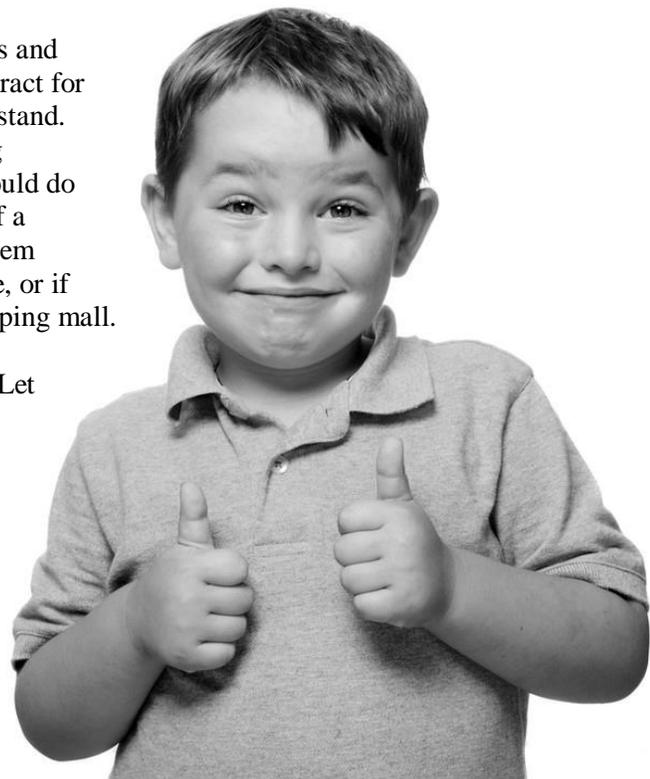
- Mar 3rd Logan M.
- Mar 4th Ronan B.
- Mar 9th Miss. Kristen
- Mar 12th Kennedy D.
- Mar 12th Mackenzey R.
- Mar 12th Miss. Brittney
- Mar 13th Brayden G.
- Mar 16th Landon C.
- Mar 17th Tyler L.
- Mar 19th Owen H.
- Mar 19th Miss. Jill
- Mar 20th Ethan P.
- Mar 21st Olivia L.
- Mar 22nd Jeremy H.
- Mar 22nd Ruari B.
- Mar 24th Jacob O.
- Mar 29th Miss. Hollie

Teach Your Children to be Safe at Any Age

Parents worry about their children; it's a fact of life. Teaching them to be safe as they grow and explore is one of your most important jobs. But, with so many potential threats to worry about, the task can seem overwhelming.

Here are a few basics to concentrate on:

- **Discuss safety calmly.** You want your children to be careful, not terrified. When you talk about safety matters, emphasize that your main concern is their welfare. Listen to their concerns and answer their questions as clearly and honestly as you can.
- **Highlight important information.** Be sure your younger children know their home phone number and address as well as contact information for another relative or trusted adult.
- **Don't just talk about strangers.** Attacks or abductions by total strangers are (thankfully) very rare. Let children know they should tell you anytime they're made uncomfortable by someone's behavior, even if they know the person well.
- **Play "what if?"** Rules and advice can be too abstract for young minds to understand. Make it real by asking children what they would do in certain situations: If a stranger tried to get them into a car, for example, or if they got lost in a shopping mall.
- **Discuss body issues.** Let your children know that no one should be allowed to touch them in personal areas. Teach them what areas you're talking about, with the proper names, so they can tell you accurately if something happens.



Congratulations to Our Winners!

We would like to congratulate our 5 families that received a credit on their account for finding our hidden message within last month's newsletter. Please read your newsletter in full detail and watch for more fun games in the future.

March Calendar

Our March Calendar is out and we have many fun things planned. March is National Reading Month and we will be celebrating in several different ways. Below are just a few things that we will be doing throughout the month for reading...

- Dr. Seuss special treat on Monday, March 3rd to celebrate his birthday
- March 14th - PJ & Read In Day
- March 21st - Door Decorating Contest Winner is Announced
- March 25th - PJ & Read In Day

We will also be having some special readers come in to read to the children throughout the month. Watch for more information to come regarding this.

The teachers will also have their doors decorated in a book theme. The books will be in the classrooms and children will be able to rotate throughout the month to go to the different rooms and hear the stories.

These are just a few of the fun things that we have planned. We are looking forward to having a fun filled month full of reading and learning!

St. Patrick's Day

We will be having a St. Patrick's Day party on Monday, March 17th. We will have sign up sheets for the party. Each classroom will have a game planned and other activity such as a story, art project, etc. They children will also be having a special treat during their party.

Monthly Celebrations and Causes

American Red Cross Month. Red Cross Month was launched in 1943 with the goal of collecting \$125 million in contributions; donations reached nearly \$146 million by June of that year. The Red Cross plays a vital role in saving the lives of thousands of people around the world.

Brain Injury Awareness Month. 1.7 million Americans (including 475,000 children) sustain a brain injury each year. Find out more about how to support the prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injury at www.biausa.org.

Women's History Month. Women's History Month highlights and celebrates the contributions of women throughout history.

National Consumer Protection Week, March 2-8. Encourages consumers to take full advantage of their consumer rights and make better-informed decisions.

National Ag Week, March 23-30. If you eat, drink, or wear clothing, thank a farmer this week (and throughout the rest of the year).

National Anthem Day, March 3. Celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner" as our national anthem.

Johnny Appleseed Day, March 11. Celebrating the life and work of John Chapman, who introduced the apple tree to large parts of the American Midwest.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Everyone is Irish on this day that honors the Irish missionary.

National Puppy Day, March 23. Celebrate the magic and unconditional love that puppies bring to our lives.



20 MINUTES A DAY

Read to your children
Twenty minutes a day;
You have the time,
And so do they.
Read while the laundry is in the machine;
Read while dinner cooks;
Tuck a child in the crook of your arm
And reach for the library books.
Hide the remote,
Let the computer games cool,
For one day your child will be off to school;
Remedial? Gifted? You have the choice.
Let them hear their first tales,
In the sound of your voice.
Read in the morning,
Read over noon,
Read by the light of
Goodnight Moon.
Turn the pages together,
Sitting close as you'll fit,
'Till a small voice beside you says,
"Hey, don't quit."

Author Unknown

Key Fobs are for Safety

Keep in mind that each family is required to have a key fob to enter the building. If your family has a regular person that drops off and picks up, they will need a key fob to enter the building. Parents may purchase one for them. If a person picks up or drops off on a regular occasion, a director will bill your account and give the parent a key fob to give for this person. This is for the safety of all our children and staff in the building. We must know who is entering the building at all times.



Transitions to New Classrooms

Transitioning to a new classroom can be fun and exciting but can also be very scary for little ones. Transition periods may take up to 2 to 4 weeks until a child feels comfortable. They are trying to get used to new teachers, friends, schedules, etc. If a child is having a hard time transitioning, we may ask the teacher that they are familiar with to come spend time in their "new" room with them. Also, remember that sending a simple picture of you/your family that your child can have during the day is a big help. With so many new things to explore, it may seem overwhelming at first but in no time they will fit right in. The other children in the room are very eager to help with any transitions.

If your child is moving to the 3, 4 or 5yr old rooms, they will have a later outside period. In the afternoons, you may find that they are still outside when you come to pick-up. Please remember that you still need to sign your child out and let the teacher know that you are taking them from the playground. If your child is in the meadow, your shoes must be removed if you are entering inside the room. This is a shoe free zone.

As it is with any room, you are more than welcome to leave any extra snacks/lunches for your child in their cubby. Please let their "new" teacher know of any later snack that you would like them to have and the specific time you would like them to have it.

Below are a few pointers you can do at home to help in aiding a smooth transition:

- Introduce the idea of transitioning ahead of time. (ie: "You are going to be going to a new girl/boy room very soon!" "You are going to meet some special new friends. How exciting!")
- On their first day in the new room, give them a picture of you/your family to keep with them. It will give them something to share with the class.
- Talk to your child about their day. Ask about new friends, toys, teacher, art, etc.
- Try to tell them that they are doing a great job being such a big boy/girl!
- Tell them that you are proud of how well they are doing.

Parents will receive a transition packet when it is time for the child to transition to the next classroom. Directors and teachers will determine when it is appropriate for a child to transition. Generally we use their age as a guide. Each classroom has a set of goals the children meet before they can move up to the next room.

If we make transitioning a group effort, it is sure to be a great success!

Important Information:

- When the last child leaves for the day our classrooms are cleaned and the staff and directors leave for the day. Directors and staff are only here if children are here. This does not always mean that directors are here until 6:30pm. Tuition should be paid by 6pm to be safe. Credit Card payments may be phoned in if needed.
- As stated in our Parent Handbook, please remember that we have a no drop off time after 10am unless prearranged with a director (for appointments only). If your family does drop off after 10am and we can accommodate them, there will be a charge of \$1 per minute per child. There will also be a charge for any family that is still in the building after 6:30pm. This is also \$1 per minute, per child. These fees are due with your next tuition payment.
- Children **MUST** be within an arms length when entering and leaving the building. This is for the safety of all the children.
- Infants must bring in their own food and supplies. Bottles must be labelled with your child's name, date and number of ounces on the bottle. Jar food must have your child's name on them and the date if it has been opened. All bottles and opened food must go home at the end of the day. Food is **ONLY** provided when your child on table food all the time. If your child has allergies or cannot have any food that is served, parents will need to provide an alternative that we can give during those times.
- Brandi's Daisy (Girl Scouts) troop will be having a cookie booth at the center during in March during their meeting. If you are looking for cookies and will not be here when they have their booth, you can still purchase them at the front desk.
- We encourage children two years old and up to have a water bottle/straw cups instead of sippy cups. We are trying to get away with sippy cups as much as possible. If your child brings in a sippy cup, water bottle, etc they **MUST** be clearly labelled with their full name. The teachers are working very hard to teach each child to drink from a regular cup that is provided at meal and snack times. Water bottles may be used throughout the day and must be taken home at the end of the day to be washed. Cups cannot be left here at the center over night.

Door Decorating Contest

March is "National Reading Month" and to help celebrate we have several activities that are scheduled throughout the month. Every year the teachers decorate their classroom doors in the theme of a book and the classroom wins an award for the best decorated door. This year we are going to do things a little different. The teachers will still be decorating the doors and our parents will be the judges. The rules are as follows:

- Doors must be decorated in the theme of a book (example: Lorax, Cat in the Hat, Brown Bear Brown Bear, etc)
- Windows cannot be completely covered
- Children must have a part in decorating the (such as using their art projects, hand cut outs, etc)
- Be creative

Doors will be completed by March 14th and judging will begin on Monday, March 17th and will end on Thursday, March 20th. Our winners will be announced on Friday, March 21st. Only one vote can be done per family.

The winning classroom will receive an Ice Cream Party in their classroom.

Don't forget to change your clocks on March 9th

Breakfast: It Really Is for Champions

People who skip breakfast tend to struggle more with weight problems and low energy all day. Why? While sleeping, the body still needs fuel to keep your body in working order. That fuel comes from glucose stored in the blood, liver, and muscles. By morning, the glucose is depleted. "Breakfast skippers" can feel fine and full of energy in the first few hours after waking up because the body and mind are refreshed after a night's sleep. But, that energy fades as the demands of the day add stress to a body running low on fuel. By lunchtime, even if you eat a healthy meal, regaining the energy that you would have had if you had eaten breakfast is close to impossible. Mom was right! Be sure you and your family get a good breakfast every morning.



From the Front Desk...

Hi Parents,

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Happy Parent™.

It is our goal here at Brandi's Place Early Learning & Child Care Center to help you be happy, healthy and successful in your journey of being a parent.

It is our pleasure to bring you this monthly publication filled with a little bit of humor as well as communication and parenting tips. Enjoy!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Frankenmuth Fundraiser

Our Frankenmuth Fundraiser packet went out during the first week in March. These packets are due by Friday, March 14th. Our fundraisers are never mandatory; however every order helps us no matter how big or small.

100% of the funds earned goes directly to our "Activities Fund." ALL of our activity funds go directly to the classroom and children. This fund is used for activities such as Summer Activities, Picnics, Outdoor Activities (sidewalk chalk, bubbles, etc), Santa Claus visiting, Parent Christmas gifts, Easter Egg hunts, Mother and Father's Day gifts, Pumpkins for decorating in the classroom, etc. Payments from Frankenmuth Fundraiser must be turned at the same time the order is turned in. Only one check or money order will be accepted and it must be from the family that is enrolled at the center.

Top winners will receive:

- #1 – Will receive 3 days of FREE childcare
- #2 – Will receive 2 days of FREE childcare
- #3 – Will receive 1 day of FREE childcare

The awards will be credited to your account.

We would like to thank all of those that participate and help us to grow our activities fund. We look forward to another fun year full of activities.