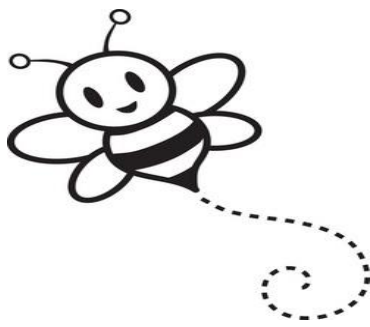


Brandi's



BUZZ

Good news and information for our friends and family

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is coming up for the Swartz Creek Schools and many area school districts. Below is information from the Swartz Creek Community Schools Website:

It is that time again to start planning for kindergarten registration. Please note the new requirements and changes that are in effect for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. The new age requirement for the 2015-2016 kindergarten class will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2015. However, if your child will be five years of age on or before December 1, 2015 and you would still like to register for kindergarten, please plan on registering early and completing a waiver.

Beginning January 1, 2015, the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Department of Education announced important information regarding changes to school immunization requirements. If you are waiving immunizations, please review the new requirements regarding waivers. Information from the Health Department has been posted online at www.swartzcreek.org under parent links/student registration. Questions regarding these changes should be directed to your local Health Department.

We have posted the dates and other information on our parent board in the hallway. Children that will be 5 years old by September 1st can register for kindergarten this fall.

Please let the front desk know if you have any questions regarding kindergarten registration. We will be happy to help you in any way.

It's National Reading Month!!!



March 2015

Monthly Quote

"You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus."

—Mark Twain

Monthly Events



- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mar 2 nd | Dr. Seuss bday
Special Treat |
| Mar 3 rd | National Anthem
Day – We will be
singing the
National Anthem
today |
| Mar 8 th | Daylight Savings
Time |
| Mar 17 th | St. Patrick's Day
Fun Day Today |
| Mar 20 th | 1 st Day of Spring |
| Mar 25 th | Pancakes 1 st made
in 1882 – we are
celebrating by
having pancakes
for lunch today! |
| Mar 29 th | Palm Sunday |

March Birthdays Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Mar 4 th | Ronan B. |
| Mar 10 th | Nathan G. |
| Mar 12 th | Kennedy D. |
| Mar 12 th | Miss. Brittney K. |
| Mar 13 th | Mackenzey R. |
| Mar 16 th | Landon C. |
| Mar 20 th | Ethan P. |
| Mar 21 st | Olivia L. |
| Mar 22 nd | Ruari B. |
| Mar 24 th | Jacob L. |
| Mar 29 th | Miss. Hollie |
| Mar 31 st | Rylee P. |

Important Information:

To keep everyone safe, we are asking that children do not go in and out of classrooms when picking up or dropping off. If your family does not have a child in a particular room we are asking that you do not go into that room to keep everyone safe. We don't want children getting fingers pinched in the doors or being hit with the door when it opens. At no time should the children be opening and closing the doors by themselves. We encourage children to look in the windows and wave. This will also keep the germs from spreading from room to room.

Due to licensing and health department regulations; we are asking that parents and children do not go into the kitchen during breakfast and lunchtimes. For the safety of everyone, children should not be in the kitchen without a teacher. These floors can be slippery at times.

Please make sure that your child has a blanket for naptime. We understand that parents may forget from time to time. When this happens, please see the front desk so that we can get your child a blanket for the day. Parents will need to bring a blanket for the next day. Unfortunately we do not have enough blankets for everyone, the blanket that your child uses for that particular day will come down after nap to be washed and placed back at the front desk.

If your family needs a form signed or a written request, please make sure that you see the front desk. Directors are the only ones that may sign a medical request or have any authorized letters sent out. Please make sure that all parties are notified as well. Directors, teachers and parents should all be on the same page so that we may care for your child in the best way possible.

Get Your Irish On For Saint Patrick's Day Celebrations

Even if you aren't of Irish heritage this is a wonderful day to celebrate and learn about the culture. For families St. Patrick's Day offers a wide range of different options that can easily be adapted for kids of all ages from toddlers through to teens.

Of course, green is an essential element of this day, so designing a family T-shirt that is green in color and features different St. Patrick's Day symbols such as shamrocks, leprechauns, pots of gold or even those magical rainbows is a fun activity before the event.



Going online and looking up Irish symbols and learning their meaning is a great task for older children and they can share the information with the rest of the family. With online t-shirt printing available you can easily scan and upload your design and surprise the family with custom shirts to wear all day.

A Treasure Hunt

Kids of all ages love to look for treasure, so why save this activity just for Easter? Moms and Dads can hide gold wrapped chocolate coins around the house and yard and let the children go searching for treasure.

If chocolate isn't a good option for your family consider buying gold gift wrap or foil and individually wrapping healthy snacks for the kids to find. You can also buy some plastic coins and spray paint them gold for a real treasure hunt.

Gold coins can then be traded in for special prizes that are, of course, located in Mom and Dad lucky pot of treasures. You can include coupons for Mom and Dad to do special activities for the kids such as cook a favorite meal together or have Mom or Dad clean the kid's rooms for a day.

Make an Irish Meal

Food is always a great way to celebrate a culture and there are a lot of iconic foods associated with the Irish culture. You may want to prepare a traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage or put together a hearty beef or lamb and vegetable stew matched with Irish soda bread.

Colcannon, a vegetable casserole that features potatoes, cabbage, parsnips and leeks is a wonderful side dish or perfect for a vegetarian main course. Finish off the meal with the classic Irish apple cake that is not too sweet and you have the perfect ending to a wonderful day.

Shopping Healthier

Grocery shopping can be a tricky business, especially for those who are trying to shop healthier. However you can make smarter decisions when shopping by making use of a few tried and tested techniques.



One of the best suggestions is to make out a list of the healthy foods you want to purchase before you enter the store and to know where these kinds of foods are located and head straight to that section.

This will both help you to save time shopping and also cut down on the temptation to purchase less healthy items.

It is also a good idea to avoid going shopping when you are feeling hungry as the amount of impulse buys you pick up can end up being more than you wanted going in.

The produce department also needs to be made more use of. Vegetables should actually take up almost fifty percent of all the food you eat.

Dr. Seuss Birthday & National Reading Month

March is National Reading month! Each year we do a door decorating contest, the teachers pick a book that they decorate their door with. The doors must be creative and have items that the children created. The kids love doing this and walking down the hallway to see all the different doors.

We also celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday the first week in March. Each day is a different theme according to a Dr. Seuss book as well as a special treat. Below is a list of the days:

- Monday – Cat in the Hat – Wear Stripes Today
Special Treat – Cat in the Hat Kabobs
(Strawberry and Bananas on a stick)
- Tuesday - Fox in Socks – Wear Crazy Socks Today
Special Treat – Thing 1 and Thing 2 Jello
- Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday – Wear your wacky clothing
Special Treat – Barbaloot Snacks (from the Lorax)
Teddy Grahams and mini marshmallows
- Thursday - The 500 hats of Bartholomew Cubbins – Wear your hat today
Special Treat – Green Eggs and Ham
Green Pudding and a vanilla wafer
- Friday - Sleep Book – Wear your PJ's Today
Special Treat – Horton Cupcakes

We will also be doing other fun things throughout the month to celebrate National Reading Month. Don't forget to take a little time and read to your little ones. We promise you will love to read the Dr. Seuss' books just as much as they love to hear you read the books to them.

Important Information Continued...

Children should not be climbing on the table where the car seats are stored or the chairs in the front lobby. We've had to repair the chairs recently from children jumping on them. Please keep in mind that people do sit in these and we would like to keep them clean from snow and dirt. This is also a safety hazard for children to be climbing on chairs and tables.

Many of you have asked about our air purifier/diffuser up front. We have this going throughout the day as an all natural way to help purify the air and help keep the germs away. We have a fun light on it for the enjoyment of everyone, however please do not touch this or allow your children to touch this. It does have water in it and will spill.

Girl Scout cookies are for sale up front if anyone is interested. These are \$4 per box and must be paid by cash only as this is separate from Brandi's Place. Cookies are being sold for the Morrish 2nd grade brownie troop. They appreciate all of your support.



**March Employee of the Month
Congratulations Ms Nina!!!**

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day falls on a Tuesday this year. We don't generally have a large event and usually just have a fun treat along with some fun games in the classroom. If we have a sign up sheet there will only be a few things on there. We are hoping to make Lucky Charms Bars (like rice krispy treats) along with some green juice and maybe a few other fun things that we are still working on. We have some fun games that we play each year for St. Patrick's Day and everyone knows that this is Ms. Nina's favorite holiday. The leprechaun visits her room and others in center... the children love this! I am sure you will hear all about it from your children... stay tuned to see what the leprechaun does!



First day of Spring is March 20th!!! It's right around the corner!

Kindergarten Testing

Our Young 5's class is beginning their Kindergarten Testing and will continue this throughout the month of March. If your child is in our Young 5's class they will be tested this month. Parents will receive a copy of this test once your child has completed theirs. Children will begin to have more one on one help in the areas that they may need help in. We will test again at the end of the program (just before Summer).

We are proud of all of our children in this program. They are learning to add, subtract and even read! They have been working hard all year and it shows!

Children going into our young 5's class for the fall will receive their packets in the early summer so that parents are aware of what they will be working on during the upcoming year.



From the front desk...

Hello! We are pleased to send you this monthly issue of *Brandi's Buzz*. It is our way saying that you are important to us and we truly value your family. We want to keep you up to date with upcoming events as well as some parenting tips, communication and a little bit of humor. Enjoy!

Don't forget to put your name into the drawing for March! Two drawings will be done this month.

Teen Communication Tips

It can be hard to communicate with teenagers sometimes, but parents still need to do just that and there are some ways to make it easier on all concerned.



One important thing to remember is to listen as well as speak. It is particularly important to spend more time listening than speaking when it comes to teenagers, who may have more to say than some parents might think if they would only give them the time and the chance to do so.

Privacy is important. All teenagers need to be able to have their own space, and it is a good idea to knock before entering their bedroom.

At the same time parents should also still spend some time with their teenage children and set aside time to do things together. Offering lifts also extends further opportunities for communication, as do family mealtimes.

Take an interest in their interests. Be it the sport they play, or the TV shows or music they are interested in, taking a continued active interest in the things that matter to them will help to bridge the generation gap.