

Pembroke News

October 2013

Miss Andrea

Exciting News! We've added a star! Pembroke Kids is now a 4 Star rated early childhood program! For the past three years Pembroke Kids has been a 3 Star rated program, the highest rating awarded by Step Up to Quality (SUTQ). Effective Oct. 1st, the SUTQ program has been expanded from 3 Stars to 5 Stars.

This new 5 Star program focuses on children ages 0 to 5 years old to reflect the comprehensive development of children beginning at birth through entry into kindergarten. There are new core standards being implemented. Their purpose is to support the development and well-being of young children and to foster their learning. The standards promote the understanding of early learning and development, provide a comprehensive and coherent set of expectations for children's development and learning, and guide the design and implementation of curriculum, assessment and instructional practices with young children. There are different levels of achievement and excellence and Pembroke is one of only four 4 Star programs in Lorain County and the only one in the Avon/Avon Lake area! If you are interested in learning more about the process and the standards, visit www.earlychildhoodohio.org.

We just finished our week of taking individual and class pictures. The children enjoyed having their pictures taken and we enjoyed seeing them all dressed up! You should have their proofs and order forms in about two weeks.

Jessica Parker, our Digital Discovery Coordinator, Librarian, and Spanish teacher, left Pembroke Kids for a fulltime position with the Family Life Center in Lakewood. We are sad to see her go and we wish her well. Fortunately, our transition has been smooth. Carrie Byrd, a teacher who worked at Pembroke this past summer and is one of our substitutes, has been named our new DDC Coordinator. Pembroke teacher, Elena Sayers, will be teaching our Spanish classes. Pembroke parent, Anne Marie Brooks, is our new Librarian.

Unattended Children in Cars

It has come to our attention that several families with younger siblings are leaving children in the car while they enter school to either drop off or pick up children. **Please, please do not leave children unattended in cars.** We are more than willing to walk students both in and out of the building. If you prefer, we will be happy to watch your car while you drop off or pick up children. Just call us from the parking lot and we'll come out. Allow us to help keep your children safe!

Miss Sue and Miss Sara

Fall is definitely in the air! It's time to think of apples and pumpkins. Our class will be starting our two-week theme, "All About Apples!" This is always a popular theme among the children since we taste-test and make all sorts of yummy apple recipes. We will bring apples into many aspects of our day for example: art, math, exploration/discovery, language arts, etc.

Look on our bulletin board for upcoming donations we will need, like apples and fall leaves, for classroom projects.

The children have been getting in the routine of printing their names each day and getting a fun job each time. Also, we are working on letter sounds. A fun game you can play at home is pick a consonant letter like "B" and go on a scavenger hunt with your child to find things around the house that start with that sound (ball, blanket, banana). Then go on to another letter.

Fall will be a very fun and busy time in our classroom! Thank you for sharing your children with us. We have definitely enjoyed getting to know all of them.

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Miss Theresa and Miss Cecilia

As expected, September has been a busy month in our classroom. It was wonderful to see our returning students quickly remember the rules and routines in our room and even more exciting to see how they welcomed our new friends, helping them to learn the ropes. After just a week of school, the children were ready to begin writing their names and choosing a classroom job. Some friends already have a favorite job, like weather helper or line leader, and others like trying a new job every day. Our class pet gecko, Sparkle, is enjoying all the extra attention as the children watch him eat every day, and our two class plants are looking robust.

Feeling comfortable with our rules, routines and transitions at school, we moved on to a week filled with nursery rhymes and songs. Early in the week, the children enjoyed placing main characters from our rhymes into a rice-filled discovery tube. They shook, spun and rolled the tube all week searching for Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty, the Cat and a Fiddle, and Little Miss Muffet's spider. The highlight of the week was when the children acted out Little Miss Muffet. It was interesting to see who wanted to be Miss Muffet and who wanted to be the spider that scared her away. We

discovered that we have several budding actors in our class this year!

After a week of learning new rhymes and songs, we moved our focus to Me and My Friends. Using our Handwriting Without Tears materials, we introduced and built Mat Man as we worked on our self-portraits and talked about drawing details like eyes, ears, nose as well as arms (that are attached to the body), hands and feet. We played games that review our shapes and colors and sang songs that reinforce counting and letter sounds. The class loves to play "Little Mouse, Little Mouse, are you in -----'s house?" The children cover their eyes as the teacher hides the mouse behind a house with a shape on the door and the children take turns guessing which house the mouse is in. We graphed our favorite colors, and to no one's surprise, pink won! We measured and recorded our heights and wonder whether we will be a little taller at the end of the year. We found similarities and differences amongst our classmates and discovered that we have a lot in common with our friends, but it is okay to be different too.

We quickly noticed that this class loves dramatic play. The housekeeping area in our room has been full of students since the first day of school! The boys and girls play house, puppies, and restaurant. In response to their interest, we expanded their play space and added more dolls, accessories and clothes. Dramatic play is the type of play where children accept and assign roles and then act them out. This kind of social play is important because children learn to compromise, negotiate, share, and show empathy as they create and foster friendships. Pretend play also encourages language development because it promotes listening and speaking. It is often within dramatic play that shy children first begin to express themselves through language. We've never been so happy to have so much "drama" in our room!

Our next theme is Fall. We will spend a couple of weeks discovering the changes that go along with this new season. Leaves and weather change as we begin to enjoy fall activities like apple and pumpkin picking. Our field trip to the apple orchard will be one of the highlights of this theme. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

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Miss Elena and Miss Katie

We're off to a great start this school year! The children have settled in to their daily routine very nicely. We started the year by learning about our families and our friends. We have been able to share the children's All About Me books during our meeting time. We have also learned the importance of sharing and using our words. We are working on getting the students to be confident and independent and to use their words with their friends

whether they are asking for a toy, a turn, or just wanting a friend to join a game.

This past month our theme has been food and farms. We started the month looking at a variety of fruits and vegetables. We discussed how important it is to eat these foods so we can have energy. We sorted pictures of food into healthy and unhealthy food. The children in the mixed-aged class were able to break a watermelon open by using hammers. They enjoyed it so much! After they broke it open, they used their hands to gut it out. They found that after the juice dried, their hands became sticky and so did our floor. The young 3's class went into the school garden and investigated the vegetables that are growing.

We then moved on to the theme of farming. Farmers grow many of the fruits and vegetables that the children eat. We will begin to discuss and explore apples and apple orchards as we get closer to going on our field trip. After our trip, we will do several activities involving apples – making applesauce, painting with apples, etc.

Our goal for the month of October for the mixed aged class is for the children to do their morning routine on their own. The children know what to do and we would like for them to show you that they can do it independently.

Follow our pre-K blog at:

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Miss Krista - Kindergarten

September has been an exciting month in kindergarten. As we work to lay the foundation for an amazing school year, the children are really adjusting to the schedule and routines. As part of our daily schedule, we have writer's workshop. This is a writing curriculum designed by Lucy Calkins of Teacher's College at Columbia University. During writer's workshop, the children have been learning how to be authors and illustrators of their own lives! They are writing simple stories right now about their own experiences. These stories may come from an adventure at the park or a trip to the store with grandma.

Writing every day for about 15-20 minutes has already shown to be beneficial for all students. While most children began the school year by just drawing a picture, now they are all writing! Some children may only write a few letters for the beginning sounds of their words, while others are writing simple sentences. While they are writing, I rotate around the classroom to give each child individual attention. I listen to their stories and help them sound out words when needed. The students are

continuing to expand their letter-sound knowledge. It will be time to publish our first round of stories soon!

Upcoming in October: We will begin our theme all about animals! We will be going on a field trip to Paws by the Lake and having a variety of pets visit the school. We will be setting up a vet's office in dramatic play.

To see regular updates of the classroom, please visit my blog:

kristaskindergarten.blogspot.com

Miss Clare - 1st and 2nd Grade

This year has gotten off to a great start! The students have been working to meet my expectations. They continue to raise the bar of what I know they can do. Our theme of Me and My City has been a true learning experience. The students learned not just about Cleveland and Avon Lake, but the entire metropolitan area. We have discussed real places and people from Cleveland.

In our math curriculum, we have been working on place value, even and odd numbers, and modeling addition problems. In Reader's Workshop, the students are working on asking and answering questions about what they are reading. The students are also expanding their writing skills by building on what they learned during Writer's Workshop last year.

Our focus this year has been on responsibility. The students are focusing on being in charge of their actions, supplies, and behavior. We are learning that it is important to take responsibility for our own actions. I am very proud of the students, and I am excited to learn more with them during the next month!

Check my blog to see classroom news:

missclareclassroom.blogspot.com

Mrs. Stoll - Art - K, 1st and 2nd

Cleveland, Avon Lake, My Family, and Self-Portraits: We're focusing on awareness of our surroundings as well as strengthening fine-motor skills.

Students are preparing for their Lolly the Trolley tour, so they've looked at architecture, photos, maps, and city-scape paintings by Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keefe, and Edward Hopper.

Thanks for sending art shirts with your child and encouraging creative explorations.

Mommy and Me - Friday Morning

We have room for a couple more toddlers in our Friday morning Mommy and Me class. This is a fun time for parents/caregivers and toddlers (18-24 mos.) to interact. Our focus is on gross motor activities and hands-on exploration. Please stop by the Wiggle Room any Friday morning at 9:00 am to see what it's all about.

Time to Refresh Clothing Boxes

Now that the weather is changing and fall is here, all preschool parents should check their child's extra clothing box in their classroom to make sure they have weather appropriate clothing. Time to exchange the shorts and short-sleeved shirts for long pants and warmer tops and socks.

Box Tops for Education



You've noticed our "Batty for Box Tops" display on the wall across from the office. Pembroke parent, Heather Eadeh, has volunteered to coordinate this project. Our goal is to earn \$1,000 towards our outdoor playhouse.

Box Tops for Education helps schools nationwide earn money and it's so easy!

Simply clip the Box Tops emblem found on hundreds of products and bring them into your child's classroom. You can also earn eBox Tops for our school. Check out BTF.com/marketplace before you shop online.

We are very excited about this project and have a friendly competition between our classrooms. The classroom collecting the most Box Tops in October will earn a donut and cider party.

Keep an eye on the bats to see your classroom's progress!

Pembroke Store

The weather is cooler and autumn is officially here! Time to check out our Pembroke Kids' school store. We have special "Hobbes Logo" tee shirts for the students in an array of colors. With the cooler weather upon us, a long sleeved tee shirt, a fleece vest, or a zippered fleece jacket is just the thing to keep us warm. The Pembroke staff has been wearing the entire logo wear line and we are very happy with the quality! Ask any of the teachers for their opinion. The clothing is hanging in the hallway near the office.

Think about the holidays and give a wonderful surprise!

Check your child's backpack!

Be sure to check your child's backpack every day. Besides the beautiful artwork our students bring home, we send home timely information you need to know about upcoming events as well as permission slips and our monthly newsletter.

Book Fair is almost here - Oct. 7 - 11

Our Scholastic Book Fair starts Mon., Oct. 7th and runs through Fri., Oct. 11th. We hope you'll stop in the Wiggle Room when you drop off or pick up your child to browse through our selections. This is a great opportunity to add to your home library or start your Christmas shopping.

This program benefits our listening centers, classrooms, and library. We appreciate your support!

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to straighten books, keep inventory, and collect money. It's not too late to volunteer. We particularly need help on the following days:

Wed., Oct. 9 11:30-1:00 shift
Fri., Oct. 11 All shifts

Stop in the office or call us (440-933-3782) if you are able to help.

No School - Friday, Oct. 18

Please note that Pembroke will be CLOSED on Friday, Oct. 18th for NEOEA Day. School will resume on Monday, Oct. 21st. We are OPEN on Monday, Oct. 14th, Columbus Day.

Halloween Party - Oct. 25, 5 - 7 pm

For those new to Pembroke, our Halloween celebration is a family event! We welcome students, parents, and siblings to dress up, trick or treat through our decorated halls, and stop in the Wiggle Room for some Halloween refreshments.

We will send home more information as we get closer to the date.

NOTE: We encourage students attending school on Thursday, October 31st, to wear orange and black, but no costumes, please. Our classrooms will have special Halloween activities and refreshments that day.

Pembroke Tutoring

Pembroke offers one-to-one and group tutoring for pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Each student's program is built around his/her personal needs.

If you know of a friend or neighbor that could benefit from our services, please tell them about us.

Before and After School Care

Do you have to leave for work before the school day begins or do you need a safe place for your child after school? Consider Pembroke's Before & After Care Program. Designed for students in kindergarten through 6th grade, we can provide a safe, supportive environment guided by experienced teachers. Call the office for more information.

School Absences

We appreciate a phone call when your child is absent due to illness or other reasons. Please call the office as soon as you know your child will not be attending school – 440-933-3782.

Communication Survey

Thank you to those of you who filled out our annual communication survey. As in past years, most Pembroke parents head first to the Internet to get information. Facebook is very popular, but so is email. And, the preferred way for Pembroke to communicate with parents? Send it home in backpacks!

For more results, see the responses on the bulletin board across from the office.

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 7-11 Book Fair
- Oct. 10 K-2 Field Trip: Paws by the Lake
- Oct. 18 No School – NEOEA Day
- Oct. 25 Halloween Party: 5 – 7 pm
- Nov. 1, 4 K-2 Conferences
- Nov. 11 K-2 Field Trip: Giant Eagle
- Nov. 12 Literacy Night – 5-7 pm
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving break starts

Keep up to date with school activities by checking our school calendar in the Parent section of our website: www.pembrokekids.com.

Like us on Facebook – pembroke.kids