

Pembroke News

April 2014

Miss Andrea

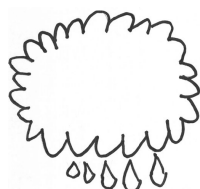
Happy Spring! I'm sure the very LAST snow of the 2013-2014 winter season was Saturday, March 29! There are more sunny days with moderate temperatures. Moderate temperatures lead to ground thawing. One thing leads to another and softer ground means MUD!

Please, please pay attention to the daily weather reports. Dress your children appropriately for the temperature of the day. Rain boots are highly recommended. Children still need gloves/mittens and hats because our play area is quite windy. Our grassy area in the enclosed play yard is very muddy from snowmelt and higher than normal water table. We are all very happy to be outdoors!

We are also in the process of prepping the garden. In fact, Miss Theresa planted peas April 1st. More peas and lettuce to be planted shortly. We are optimistic!

Our class portrait shirts are done. Miss Jane assembled them by class and Mr. Steve has scanned the images and arranged them in digital files ready to be sent to the printer. Don't miss out! The shirts are a fun memento for an awesome school year.

Remember, Monday, April 21st, Pembroke will have school. Avon Lake Board of Education has chosen that day as a make-up "calamity day."



Miss Sue and Miss Sara

We would like to thank all of our dads and special friends that visited us during Donuts with Dad (and the make-up day). The children really enjoy when visitors come into the room. We hope you enjoyed the special craft we made, too.

We had lots of fun during our dinosaur themed weeks. We made many crafts and did several measuring activities. We counted out the tiles in the hallway to measure the length of some dinosaurs!

Green week was also fun with lots of color mixing, crafts and enjoying green sherbet parfaits!

We have just started two weeks of our popular cooking week. We will make and eat things like pizza, pretzels,

s'mores, and many other goodies. We will talk about the food pyramid and making healthy food choices. We will also talk about where some of our foods come from.

Look for Muffins with Mom invitations coming home soon. The celebrations will take place on Tuesday, April 29 and Wednesday, April 30.

On a sad note, our beloved hamster Sunny passed away during spring break. She was a great classroom pet and will be missed. We will have a new pet in time for our fall school year.

Enjoy the warmer weather!!!!

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Miss Theresa and Miss Cecilia

March was "out of this world!" As our study of dinosaurs culminated with the museum in the hallway, we turned our focus to space and planets. The children had fun decorating the solar system mural, and their rocket ship was a big hit. Our favorite part was watching them dress as astronauts with the helmets, booties, and jet packs. With the excitement of Donuts with Dad, Show and Share, and the anticipation of spring break, the month was busy and flew by!

This month, we began using more technology in the classroom. In preparation for a new online assessment system that we will be introducing in the fall, each preschool classroom now has access to an iPad Mini (two were generously donated). We have been taking lots of photos and videos of our classroom in action. The iPad also lets us enjoy music like *Let It Go*, videos about planets and space, and games such as Wet Dry Try. This app helps children learn and practice correct letter and number formation. Appropriate use of technology in the classroom can expand, enrich, and extend the curriculum and increase knowledge, long-term memory, verbal skills, problem-solving, and manual dexterity. Of course, we have been keeping "screen time" to a minimum but the limited exposure has been extremely positive so far. Please let us know if there are apps or sites that might help enrich our classroom learning.

theresa@pembrokekids.com or cecilia@pembrokekids.com

Miss Katie and Miss Elena

Early in March we had a visit from Lorain County Metro Parks and we built a stegosaurus replica. All of the children had a chance to put a piece onto the dinosaur. There is a picture outside our classroom if you have not had a chance to see it.

We also did a week of learning about weather. The children told us what they knew about weather in our web chart. We created a storm cloud by filling a large vase with water and topping it with shaving cream. We put blue food coloring on the shaving cream and watched it seep through the "clouds" to create "rain" inside of the water. The children enjoyed the experiment so much!!

We shifted our focus to the upcoming season of spring. The children were able to look through a prism when the sun shone through to see a rainbow. The mixed-age created a "Spring is..." poem. They included their ideas as to what they thought was included in spring. The children also did some beautiful spring related artwork. Feel free to look around our classroom and find your child's work.

We want to send a huge thank you to all the dads and special friends who stopped by our room for Donuts with Dad. Thank you also for being so flexible with the snow day that put a delay in our mixed-aged class. We hope you had fun and we look forward to seeing our moms at the end of this month!

Our goal for mixed-age this month (especially for our kindergarten-bound friends) is a completely independent morning routine. We would like our children to feel confident about themselves and strengthen their problem-solving skills. Please help us foster this independence by allowing your child to complete these steps without your assistance.

<http://katieandelenaprek.blogspot.com/>

Miss Krista

The children are very excited that it is finally spring! We are beginning the month of April focusing on fictional writing. In writer's workshop, the children are writing their own "Don't Let the Pigeon _____" stories. We will be editing our stories and publishing them for a mid-April writer's celebration. During this celebration, we are inviting family members in to be the audience. Each child will take a turn reading their "published" story to the parents. Then they will be able to take their books home. After everyone reads their story aloud, we will have some desserts and juice. Having a writer's celebration is a great way to reward the children for their hard work every day with their writing.

We will be learning about farm animals through a variety of classroom activities. For example, each child will be selecting an animal to study. They will be doing research in the classroom as well as some enrichment work with their families at home. We will be learning about the habitats, size, food, life span, and habits of these interesting animals. At the end of the month, we will bring it all together with a visit to Fisherman's Folly Farm. We will be bringing back fertilized eggs to incubate in the classroom. (They will either be duck or

turkey eggs.) We will continue to learn about the birds as we wait for the eggs to hatch.

At the end of April, we will be taking a Kindergarten only field trip to Cleveland Hopkins Airport for a private tour. This will kick off a classroom theme all about transportation!

kristaskindergarten.blogspot.com

Miss Clare

The students are really blooming as we head into the spring. We are going to learn about water in the month of April. We are starting out the month by learning about the water cycle. This will be followed by a study of different bodies of water. We will go out into the community to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and learn about water and take a hike.

We are also in the process of learning how to write friendly letters. The students are able to write to a celebrity, family members, and friends. We will go through the writing process and present our letters at the Writer's Celebration on April 10th.

The students are also working with graphs and learning the names of various types of graphs such as pictographs, bar graphs, and line graphs. They are also working on adding multiple addends in math problems.

Please remember to check the blog to find out daily information from our classroom.

missclareclassroom.blogspot.com

Mrs. Stoll - Art

Art students K-2, have been utilizing oil pastels, paint, and cut paper to explore repeating patterns and visual balance.

Looking at examples and creating their own quilt blocks, weavings (K), and ancient Egyptian funeral masks (1-2), students experimented with these materials to make unique works.

Miss Clare's class continued their look at America by reading *America the Beautiful* by Katherine Lee Bates and listening to Ray Charles' rendition of the song. Student illustrations are now combined to form a larger work on display in the hallway.

Coming next month: mixed media collages!

Summer Camp at Pembroke

Summer Camp registration is well underway. In fact, several of our classes are almost full. If you are considering signing your child up for a session, we urge

you to do so as soon as possible and tell your friends about us!

We have weekly sessions for preschool children ages 3 to 5 and school-age children entering kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall. Our camp is open to the public and registration takes place on a first-come-first-served basis. Before and after school care is available.

Don't get shut out of the session you want! Register now!

Check out our schedule at www.pembroke/kids.com.

Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education

In addition to Box Tops for Education, we are now collecting Labels for Education. As usual, the collection containers for Box Tops are in each classroom.

Please put your Labels for Education in the red box currently sitting in the wagon outside the office. The attached information sheet identifies the products that participate in this program

Class T-Shirts Order Deadline - April 11th

Have you had a chance to see the class t-shirts we have hanging in the halls from previous years? These t-shirts are adorable and are treasured by our students! Each child draws a picture of themselves which we transfer to the t-shirts along with their classmates and teacher. Our students love to find their own drawing and those of classmates.

The cost for each t-shirt is \$15. The color of this year's shirt is aquatic blue. We have a small color swatch in the office if you'd like to see it.

Orders are due by April 11th.

Easter Break - April 18th

Due to an excess of calamity days this year, the Avon Lake Schools have scheduled a make-up day on April 21st, thus reducing the Easter break originally scheduled.

We will be closed Friday, April 18th. School resumes on Monday, April 21st.

Muffins with Mom - April 29th or 30th

Coming up at the end of April is our special day for moms or special friends to spend some time in their child's classroom. You will also enjoy a treat with your child and work on a fun project together.

Invitations will be coming home next week.

Botanical Gardens Field Trip - May 28th

Mark your calendar for this ALL-SCHOOL event on May 28th. We will give you more information as we get closer to the date.

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. We offer tutoring focused on new legislation relating to the "Third Grade Reading Guarantee."

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 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.

Dates to Remember

- Apr. 16 1-2 Gr. Field Trip to Lake Erie Nature and Science Center
- Apr. 18 Easter Break - NO SCHOOL
- Apr. 21 School Resumes
- Apr. 29-30 Muffins with Mom/Special Friend
- May 9 K Field Trip to Cleveland Hopkins Arpt.

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 - www.Facebook.com/pembroke.kids

April showers . . .



This month's great artwork was done by Heidi.