

Pembroke News

March 2015

Miss Andrea

We are done with winter! Spring is coming!

The first few weeks of March we will be learning about Japanese customs. Specifically, we will learn about *Hina Matsuri*, "Girls' Day." Our Japanese families have prepared a special snack and created origami treat boxes. There will be foods to try like rice balls and seaweed. Some of our students may even wear a Kimono to school. Stay tuned - Boys' Day is celebrated in May.

Jungle Terry visited recently to culminate a unit several classes studied on jungle and rain forest animals. Jungle Terry has patience and enthusiasm to handle the whole school petting almost all his animals. No one minded not being able to pet the alligator!

I would like to thank all the parents who took the time to complete the Teaching Strategies Gold questionnaire. As you know, this year is the inaugural year for this assessment and progress report. We had 55 responses, and most were positive. We especially appreciated the additional comments many parents made. These comments delve into the heart of the program and will help us tweak our use and delivery of information to you as parents and end users. Stop by the office if you would like to review the comments.

March is a long month with many fun activities. We have Donuts with Dad on Tuesday, March 10th, or Wednesday, March 11th. This will include a fun project for dads or special friends to complete with their child. Dads are welcome to use their phones to take pictures, but we ask that you devote your full attention to your child.

Math Night has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 25th, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Spring will have already arrived, so weather should not be a concern. There will be fun activities in all classrooms. Save the date! Remember, Hobbes will somehow be involved!

We have one more Open House scheduled for Saturday, March 21st, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Tell your friends to stop by and bring their children.

Like us on Facebook –
www.Facebook.com/pembroke.kids

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Keep thinking spring! Our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program is starting in a few months! This program will run for 18 weeks and is a great way to provide your family with fresh organic produce.

Jim Patterson, our CSA farmer, visited Pembroke on February 26th. He shared numerous photos of his farm including heated hoop houses where he is beginning to grow cool weather crops such as spinach, lettuce, and other greens. We hope to have Jim back for another visit before the program begins.

Miss Sue and Miss Rebecca

Our children had a "roaring" good time this month looking at, discussing, drawing, painting, and sorting animals. Our hallway is a jungle! Watch out for the hanging snakes!

It has been fascinating to watch the children decide the sorting categories: land or water, stripes or spots (pattern), size, color, beginning letters, and what they eat.

In March, we are starting off with activities about Japan. We have several Japanese students at Pembroke this year, and their families have offered to share some of their traditions with our school. They will be showing us how to make rice balls, folding paper (origami), painting, singing, and even some Japanese words. We are very excited!

We are looking forward to seeing all our dads and special friends on the 10th and 11th for Donuts with Dad.

"Sayonara" (goodbye) for now.

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Miss Theresa and Miss Kathy

In February, we brought the wonder of African animals to life in our classroom – lions, tigers, and snakes, oh my!

We talked about where the various African wild animals live – in the jungle and others in the open plains of the Serengeti. Looking at a map of Africa, we pointed out where different types of landscapes are located. We also noticed that Africa is shaped like an elephant's ear.

The children thoroughly enjoyed using puppets to act out the finger play "Monkeys Swinging in a Tree." Afterwards, each child chose their favorite animal and, through pantomime, performed for their classmates to guess what their favorite animal was.

The highlight of the unit was a visit from Jungle Terry. We enjoyed seeing and hearing about all the animals he brought to us.

For the month of March, we will have the unique opportunity to learn about "Girl's Day" or "Doll's Day." This is a special day in Japan celebrated every year on March 3rd. The children will learn about the traditions of the holiday and more.

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Miss Carrie and Miss Kelly

We cannot believe it is March! The time is just zooming by. We have noticed our students growing socially, cognitively and physically. Since conferences, we have been implementing more fine motor and math into our classroom activities. For example, to encourage pre-writing skills, we have used dry erase makers and trace cards to draw airplanes and jungle animals. Some of the math activities we introduced are lion-size sorting cards, graphing our favorite jungle animals, counting jungle animals, and number recognition with dice and paper hearts. We also counted and sorted candy hearts and cars by color.

Some fine motor activities to do at home could be stickers, eyedroppers and paper tearing. Any activities that require children use their pincher grasp (index finger and thumb) are good fine motor activities. Some basic math could be sorting and counting. You could use Cheerios, Froot Loops, pompoms, colored circle stickers, colored marshmallows, etc. The children really like the scale in our math/science center. They place small objects from the classroom on both sides to experiment with weight. We hope everyone can attend Math Night on Wednesday, March 25th.

Moving forward, we will continue to review colors, numbers and letters. Differentiating numbers and letters is significant in a child's development. Themes coming up are dinosaurs, Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss and spring. We continue to encourage self-help skills, model behavior and even use puppets to role play social situations. Remember that maintaining consistency in your child's life can make a big difference. Children can grow and gain confidence when they feel safe and secure. Thank you to all the parents who helped with our Valentine's party. We appreciate your help!

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Miss Molly

Thank you to all the parents who came in for our Valentine's party in February! Let's hope March comes in roaring like a lion with warmth! Our students are really coming out of their shells. They are excited to share things not only with Miss Molly, but their friends, too.

In March, we will learn about Japan, Saint Patrick's Day, animals, and the first day of spring! On Saint Patrick's Day, we will be on the lookout for Leprechauns. While learning about Japan, the students will focus on the flag, art, and food. We are lucky to have several Japanese families in our school who are so willing to share their customs and traditions with us!

Donuts with Dad is quickly arriving! If you have not seen your child's invitation, be sure to check their backpack. There are two dates, Tuesday, March 10th, and Wednesday, March 11th, at 11:15 am. We look forward to seeing our dads or special friends.

Thank you and, as always, please feel free to email me.

molly@pembrokekids.com

Miss Molly and Miss Carrie – Pre-K

The Pre-K class is roaring into March with many new words. We have officially begun a "word wall." The students are working to recognize the words: you, to, in, is, my, me, the, and are. We will be learning many more new words in the weeks to come. These words will be reviewed weekly.

As we begin to recognize some words, we are also reviewing beginning and ending sounds and vowels. During journal time, we have been putting all of our alphabetic knowledge together!

In math, we have been focusing on connecting numbers with their quantities and one-to-one correspondence. Recently, we played a game called "Adding Fun" in which the students had to place the correct number of balls down the shoot! The students are excited for more practice activities like these.

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Miss Stefanie

Thankfully "Frozen February" is behind us! It was cold outside, but also cold on the inside! We have been learning all about the Arctic and the animals that live there. We learned some "cool" facts about whales, seals, the Arctic fox and penguins. The sensory table was filled with Arctic animals and igloos for the students to explore.

We also celebrated the 100th Day of School in February! The children each made a project using 100 items. Check out the hallway to see how creative they were. The 100th day was filled with all things 100! We made a Froot Loop Necklace out of 100 Froot Loops. We wrote about what we would do if we had \$100, made groups of 10 with stickers to get us to 100, and had a fun 100th day snack. (Thanks, Illeana!)

As we move into March, we will be focusing on reading and writing and begin reading groups and weekly spelling lists. In math, we will focus on measuring and addition/subtraction story problems.

We have some field trips planned in March and April. This month, we are attending *Curious George* at the Stocker Arts Center of LCCC. In April, we will travel to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center for a program.

Hopefully, we will be turning the corner with winter and spring will start to make an appearance!!

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Sign Up for Summer Camp at Pembroke!

Our 8-week Summer Camp schedule is posted on our website and we have begun taking registrations! We will also be sending home our Summer Camp brochure to all our current families.

Pembroke's Summer Camp is an opportunity for your child to kick back, meet new friends, and enjoy the summer. Each week is a new theme and, this year, we have invited a special visitor each week – Jungle Terry, Mr. Bubbles, and a magician – to name a few.

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, so tell your friends! Registration takes place on a first-come-first-served basis. Before and after care is available.

Don't get shut out of the session you want! Sign up right away!

Check out our schedule at www.pembrokekids.com.

Donuts with Dad – March 10th – 11th

Donuts with Dad is coming up Tuesday, March 10th, and Wednesday, March 11th. This is a special time for dads or a special friend to spend time with our students. Besides donuts and cider, dads and special friends will do a fun project with their child. Check with your teacher if you are unsure of which day you should attend.

Open House – March 21st

Our next open house is Sat., March 21st, from 9 AM – Noon. If you know of anyone considering preschool or kindergarten for their child in the fall, please let them know about us! We encourage visitors to bring their children to our open houses.

Math Night – March 25th, 5 – 6:30 PM

Between school closings and the Arctic Plunge we experienced the last weeks of February, we decided to postpone Math Night. The new date is Wednesday, March 25th, from 5 – 6:30 PM (It will officially be spring by then!). Our theme is "Putting All the Pieces Together." Every child who completes the "puzzle" will have their picture taken with Hobbes!

This is a hands-on event for the whole family. We invite you to learn more about our math curriculum and explore our math games in each of our classrooms. You may even be inspired to make your own games at home!

Spring Break – April 3rd – 10th

We will be closed for spring break April 3rd through the 10th. Classes will resume on Monday, April 13th.

Muffins with Mom – April 21st and 22nd

Save the Date! 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 in April.

Snow Pants, Boots, Gloves, and Hats

We make every effort to provide our students outdoor playtime on a daily basis, so please make sure you send your child to school with appropriate outerwear. Besides a warm winter coat, snow pants, boots, gloves and hats are a must!

Inclement Weather School Closing

Pembroke's school closing policy follows the Avon Lake Public Schools. If Avon Lake Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Pembroke will also be closed. There are many sources you can use to find out this information. Besides TV and the internet, we will post school closings on our Home Page by 7:00 AM at: www.pembrokekids.com. You can also call the school office (440-933-3782). We will change our main greeting by 7 AM.

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

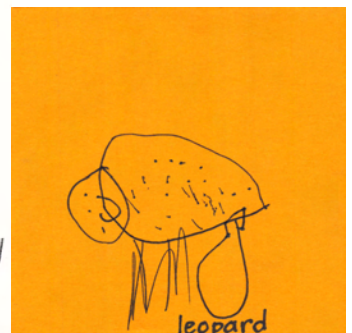
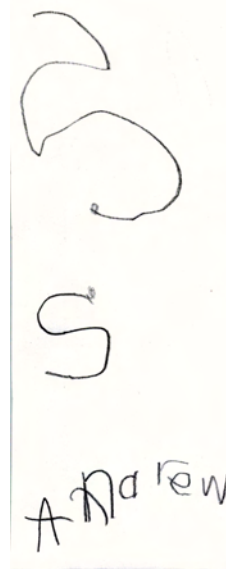
We appreciate a phone call when your child is absent due to illness or other reasons. Please call the office as soon as you know your child will not be attending school – 440-933-3782.

Dates to Remember

- Mar 5 K Field Trip – Curious George
- Mar 10-11 Donuts with Dad
- Mar 21 Open House – 9 – Noon
- Mar 25 Math Night, 5 – 6:30 PM
- Apr 3-10 Spring Break
- Apr 13 Classes resume
- Apr 21-22 Muffins with Mom

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

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Helen

Our artwork this month was inspired by our week of African animals and our visit from Jungle Terry. Thanks to artists Lauren, Iris, Andrew, Emerson, Savannah, Bianca and Helen.