

Early Childhood Center Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

February 2024



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Black History Month provides meaningful opportunities for all students to celebrate the rich traditions of African Americans and recognize their contributions and achievements throughout our nation's history. At ECC, we value all types of diversity and are dedicated to creating a community enriched by young girls and boys of diverse backgrounds. Diverse perspectives and experiences broaden understanding of ourselves and our world. Through children's books and classroom activities, we celebrate and learn about African American influencers and contributors. Essentially, we are educating kids who will one day grow up and contribute to our society in a positive way. By teaching them to respect the history, culture, and accomplishments of others, they will be more aware and ultimately more tolerant of everyone within our highly diverse country. February 28th will come and go; however, I encourage families to look for opportunities to include stories about their own and other cultures throughout the year. I am proud of the many ways our students are beginning to understand and appreciate different ideas and different perspectives. Your sons and daughters are well on their way to becoming leaders able to discern, articulate and promote justice for all. "There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history", and "no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering". They must be able to draw from a wide variety of experiences and perspectives to foster a community marked by hope and love.

Your partner in education,

Angel Powell-Muldrow

Principal
Early Childhood Center at Harriet Tubman School

Calendar of Events

Friday 2/2/24

Students Dismissed @ 12 p.m.
HALF DAY (SIP Day)

Thursday 2/15/24

Preschool Screenings @ ECC
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Friday 2/16/24

Students Dismissed @ 12 p.m.
HALF DAY (SIP Day)

Monday 2/19/24

President's Day
NO School

Tuesday 2/27/24

Board Meeting
@ 6:00 p.m.



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 2



Mrs. Falls & Mrs. Usher – Room 101 (Butterflies)

New Study: Music

Many of us have fond memories that involve music. What special music do you associate with important celebrations? What kind of beat can you not help but tap your feet to when it comes on the radio? Have you noticed your child tapping along with you? What songs from your childhood do you and your child enjoy singing together? Music has a wonderful way of translating across many generations, cultures, languages, and communication styles. We are excited to begin a study of music making in our class that will engage and build on children's curiosity around music, sound, and performance.

A friendly reminder:

Check your child's backpack every day. Please return forms back immediately

Please work with your child on letter recognition.

Happening Born Days

To everyone born in February



Ms. Rountree, Ms. Lechuga & Ms. India - Room 104 (Shining Stars)

This month of the year we will be learning about music making. Do you know anyone who plays an instrument? Let us know and they can show us and play some music. We will be making different types of instruments from household items and listening to the different sounds. We will also be going to a play about Pete the Cat and one of his famous books. We will include learning in the different areas of literacy, math, social emotional, science, social studies, and the arts. Thanks.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 3



Ms. McGrew & Ms. Walker – Room 106 (Crayon's)

Preschoolers are excited when they recognize numbers in their environment and enjoy counting during daily activities such as going up or down stairs or putting away toys. A simple way to practice counting is through number songs. Just as the alphabet song helps kids learn their letters, number songs can help them memorize numbers in order.

Songs like "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" or the The Ants Go Marching teach counting up, and songs such as "Five Little Monkeys" can introduce counting down. You can even make up your own! And you can practice singing numbers 1 to 10 anywhere — in the car, at the park or before bedtime.

When families help kids explore everyday math — at home, at the store, in the park and at play — we help our children begin to think like creative, curious mathematicians.



Ms. Ruffin & Mrs. Thomas – Room 107 (Busy Bees)

Our study for this month will be Music. We will explore the different types of instruments, how do we play instruments, who works with music, different styles of music and much more! In addition to the theme/study, we will continue to work on writing our names, identifying letters and letter sounds (Ww-Zz), counting (1-40) and identifying and writing numerals (1-25), one-to-one correspondence, rhyming (deciding if two words rhyme, producing two rhyming words), syllables, simple addition/subtraction, and 2D/3D shapes and their characteristics. Parents, please ensure you are checking Class Dojo daily for important information and special activities.



Ms. Neely, Ms. McClain, Mrs. Collier – Room 109 (Garden Room)

Hi Garden Room parents! We have been having lots of fun learning about different clothes. But for the month of February, we will be studying music. During this study we will be talking about different kinds of music, what instruments are played in the music and much more. Please make sure you are checking the students' communication folders and that you send them back every day. Also, parents please make sure you check Class Dojo daily for important information and activities going on in the classroom.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 4

Mrs. Baker, Ms. Cobbs –Room 111 (Diamonds)

Parent/Teacher: Team Work, Communication
Review: (1-11) (Aa-Nn), Colors, Shapes
Numbers: (12-15) / Counting, How many, Identify
Study: Music
Letters: (Ll-Oo) Identify/Sounds/Naming objects
Writing: Names, Words
Story Time: Daily read, ask questions, draw pictures
Discussions: Sharing, Taking Turns,
Rules: Safety/Routines @Home & School
Reminders: Complete Change of clothes (2-sets)



Thank you! & Shine Bright 😊



Mrs. Wordlaw & Mrs. Donegan–Room 112 (Rockets)

Music Study – Drawing to Music

Music is an important part of Pre-K. We sing our letters, letter sounds, and learn our phonics through song. Throughout this study we will learn about various instruments, different genres of music, and even create music of our own.

A great activity to do at home is to draw to music. What you can do with your scholar is get some paper, crayons or markers, and play music of your choice. While the music is playing, you and your scholar can discuss, describe, and draw to the music. Talk about how the music makes you feel and draw what that feeling looks like.



Mrs. Miles & Ms. Porter – Room 113 (The Bears)

Goals and objectives for this month include:

- This month's theme will be music.
- The monthly field trip will be centered around music.
- Students are always excited about field trips and riding the school bus.
- Students enjoy the weekly activities in the flying classroom.
- Students begin to learn how to build their friendship skills.
- Students learn to use those friendship skills to enjoy fun with friends and how to initiate play.
- Students will create artwork to display on our classroom door.
- Students demonstrate good behavior when walking in the hallway.



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 5



Mrs. Roudez – Room 114 (The Aquarium Room)

Hello Families:

Hello from the Aquarium. The theme for the month of February will be Music. With music, we will discuss different types of music, musical instruments, voice as music, dancing to music and we also get a chance to make musical instruments and go on a field trip concentrating on topics dealing with music. We all love music in some form and we look forward to enjoying music.



Mrs. Hogan, Ms. Goldman & Ms. Brown – Room 115 (Cool Cats)

Happy February Pre-K Parents!

Love is in the air, and we are excited to start a new month. Our Pre-K children are making great progress, it is so exciting to see their growth. This month we will be exploring the theme of Music and have an in-house field trip. Children will be able to look at and handle different instruments. Did you know that music reactivates areas of the brain associated with memory, reasoning, speech, and emotions? It is important that pre-k children hear music every day and engage in songs and rhymes. If you have any ideas of how we can use music in our classroom or know of someone who plays a musical instrument, please let us know. As always, thank you for your support of your child's education. Questions or concerns please contact the Cool Cat team.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 6



District 148 –Early Learning Satellite Site

Ms. Carter & Mrs. Brown – Cuddle Care (Pre-K Expansion)

Cuddle Care Butterflies will be focusing on friendship with friends; with our study being Music Making. As we study music making, we learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also develop thinking skills as we observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.



District 148 –Early Learning Satellite Site

Mrs. Williams-Sargent & Ms. Liggett – Under Carrey's Care (Pre-K Expansion)

Dear Super Parents

During last month's lesson, we discussed clothes. In a YouTube video, we learned how to make sweaters from sheep wool. Additionally, we designed aprons for the ECC fashion show, which took place on January 28.

Our focus in February will be on music and movement. In the Superstars classroom, we sing a variety of songs. Hip-Hop Freeze also inspires us to move creatively. In addition to expressing themselves and learning new skills, music allows children to hear and appreciate different kinds of music. Each day, the children sing together, and music helps them learn rules and procedures (e.g., walking downstairs or singing the days of the week). To encourage children to enjoy music and movement, here are some ways I do so.

- We listen to different kinds and tempos of music.
- We make our own instruments.
- We move to music and dance to different rhythms.

By the end of the month, we are going to feel the beat all the way to our feet.

Early Childhood Center & School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 7

Screening Corner

Thanks to all the families for your support! We are constantly growing and that would not be possible without you. **Screenings will take place Thursday February 15th, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** If you are interested in preschool for children ages 3-5, please contact our school at (708) 849-9848. Thank you for your cooperation.

Why do we screen?

Developmental screening is designed to identify problems or delays during normal childhood development. When properly applied, screening tests for developmental or behavioral problems in preschool children allow improved outcomes due to early implementation of treatment.



Curriculum Coordinator – Ms. Walton (Townsend)

Pyramid Tip

What You Need to Know About Our Program Behavior Management



The District 148 Early Childhood Center (ECC) Program provides opportunities for children to develop positive social interactions, develop friendships and learn new communication skills. We focus on the use of positive intervention methods that are respectful of the child and are individualized according to the unique situation of the child. If your child misbehaves, the school staff will adhere to a process that takes reasonable and appropriate steps to provide for the safety of all children and to correct challenging behaviors to ensure that students learn from their misbehaviors and to protect the quality and safety of the District 148 ECC learning environments for all members of the preschool community.

In accordance with the philosophy of the ECC staff, as well as the laws of the State of Illinois, there will be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. Physical punishment, threats, or derogatory marks will not be used. Psychological abuse, coercion or withholding food is never allowed as a form of discipline.

For the safety of the children, however, some form of discipline or managing the children's behavior is occasionally necessary. This is done primarily through keeping the children engaged in a wide variety of stimulating activities. Teachers only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction. Methods may include using praise and encouragement of positive behavior expectations, redirecting behavior using positive statements. Teachers are encouraged to make expectations clear and age appropriate, modeling the District 148 ECC Program-Wide Expectations.

Our District 148 ECC Program has adopted "The Pyramid Model" that promotes Social and Emotional Competence and Addressing Challenging Behaviors.

Key Social Emotional Skills Children Need as They Enter School

- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Capacity to develop relationships with peers and adults
- ✓ Concentration and persistence on challenging tasks
- ✓ Ability to effectively communicate emotions
- ✓ Ability to listen to instructions and be attentive
- ✓ Ability to solve social problems



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 8

Parent Coordinator – Ms. Haggie & Parent Educator – Ms. Bishop

The Benefits of Parent Involvement

Some of a child's most important cognitive development happens during their preschool years. By taking an active role in the early childhood education process, parents can help ensure that their child has all the support they need to develop to their full potential.

Parent/Family Involvement helps extend teaching outside the classroom, creates a more positive experience for children and helps children perform better when they are in school.

It is essential for parents to support the learning that happens in preschool settings at home as well. Parents who are in tune with what is happening in their child's preschool classroom are better able to establish a connection between what is learned at school and what takes place in the home. This connection is a key component of a child's development and supporting further learning.

Not only does family or parental involvement help extend teaching outside the classroom; it creates a more positive experience for children and helps children perform better when they are in school.

Administrative Assistants – Mrs. Harris & Mrs. Robinson

Please keep your contact information updated. The contact information you gave during registration is what the district and school sites have on file for your student. These are the phone number(s) that will be called to notify parents/guardians of school-hour and non-school-hour emergencies, weather-related announcements and school closings, absence notifications, school/district announcements, reminders and much more.

Contact information for OFFICE STAFF

CALL: (708) 849-9848 | **FAX:** (708) 201-6233 | **EMAIL:** harrisa@district148.net



Call **Alltown Bus Company at (708) 333-7663** with any **BUS Related Issues**

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 9

Support Programs – Therapy Team:

- Occupational Therapy, OT

-Speech Therapy, ST

-Physical Therapy, PT

Speech Development Milestones

When it comes to determining whether your child has a speech or language delay, watch to see if they are hitting certain milestones based on their age. Remember, though, specific speech and language skills develop within a range of time rather than at exact ages.

So, even if your child is slightly outside of the timeframe provided, their development could still be normal. These milestones are only meant to be guidelines for when the majority of children develop certain language skills.

In fact, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, these milestones were developed to help doctors and other healthcare workers determine if a child is on track or if they might need extra help.

Here's an overview of the milestones a child should reach between the ages of 2 and 5.

Speech Milestones

Ages 2 to 3 Years

- Uses k, g, f, t, d, and n sounds
- Speaks in a way that is understood by family and friends
- Has a word for almost everything
- Asks for objects by name or to bring attention to them

Ages 3 to 4 years

- Answers simple "Who?" "What?" "Where?" and "Why?" questions
- Hears the TV at the same level as the rest of the family
- Forms sentences with four or more words
- Speaks easily and doesn't need to repeat syllables.
- Hears you when you call from another room.

Ages 4 to 5 years

- Pays attention to a story and answers questions about it.
- Names some letters and numbers.
- Uses rhyming words and adult grammar.
- Communicates easily with other children and adults.
- Says most sounds correctly.
- Uses sentences that provide details.
- Tells stories and stays on topic.
- Hears and understands what is said in school and by others.

If you find that your child is not meeting these milestones, talk to your pediatrician, classroom teacher, or school personnel about what you're witnessing at home. They can conduct an evaluation and refer you to a specialist for more in-depth testing if needed.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 10



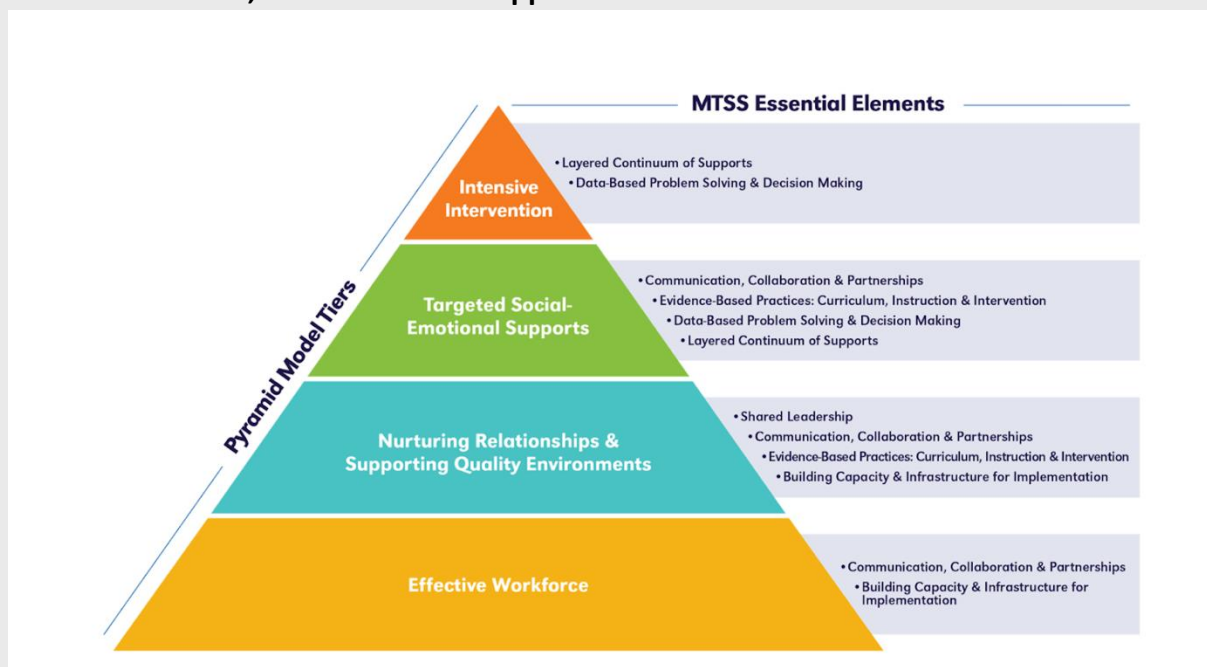
Resource Teachers – Mrs. Slager & Mrs. Wasik

Winter is in full swing! That may mean more time inside with family. It is a great time to help your child develop social and emotional skills at home. Strategies to help develop these skills may include:

1. Thinking out loud- when your child hears your thinking process, it helps him/her understand how to cope with frustration and solve problems.
2. Read stories with your child- this is a perfect time to talk about feelings. Discuss the characters and events in the story by asking questions to see what your child feels about what was read.
3. Do a job together-you can fold laundry, set the table, or make a meal together.
4. Play games together- this is where children learn to take turns, cooperate, and handle frustration.
5. Use stuffed animals or toys to talk with your child about feelings and conflicts and even think of solutions to those conflicts.

MTSS Facilitator – Mrs. Freeman

At ECC, we use MTSS to support academic and behavior needs.



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 11



Nurse's Corner – Ms. Forte

February is National Children's Dental Health Month! Did you know that reports show that American students miss **51 million hours** of school every year because of oral health problems? And students who are absent miss critical instruction time—especially in early grades where reading skills are an important focus and the building blocks of future learning.

For Children

- Brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- Help your child brush their teeth until they have good brushing skills.
If your child is younger than 6, watch them brush. Make sure they use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste and always spit it out rather than swallow.
- Ask your child's dentist to apply dental sealants when appropriate.
- Drink tap water that contains fluoride.

