BERKLEY BUILDING BLOCKS

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berkley building blocks

BERKLEY SCHOOLS

April, 2017

This Issue at a Glance

Screen Time	**page 2**
Picasa Photo Website	**page 2**
Classroom Highlights	**page 3**
BSD Bond Updates	**page 3**
Screen Time cont.	**page 4**
Need to Know Information	**page 4**

Supervisor's Corner

Dear Families,

Happy April! I hope that this month sparks warm days, more sunshine, and an abundance of time spent with family and friends. Here at Building Blocks, spring in general, is busy for us.

This month brings to us Spring Break, our April Parent Café focused on Literacy in Early Childhood, our Book Fair and a PTA meeting! Please feel free to join us on Tuesday, April 25th at 4:30 p.m. for this. Anyone is welcome, and we would love to see you there.

Soon, I will be meeting with lead teachers to start planning for the 2017/2018 school year. During those meetings, our goal will be to place your child in a classroom environment where he or she will be most successful for the next school year. During the placement process, we take in to consideration many factors. These factors include each child's individual development, children's learning styles, parent input, and overall balance of each classroom. As we approach the summer months, more definitive information about next year's placements will be communicated with you. We appreciate your support throughout the transitioning process. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Until next month… ☺

Warm Regards,
Jen Kidd

Spring Pictures are next Month!

Calling all smiles and "cheese" faces!

Don't forget that spring pictures are right around the corner. On May 2nd and 3rd photographers will be at Tyndall Center snapping portraits of our Building Blocks students. They will make their appearance at Avery on May 9th and 10th. Please look for your child's individual classroom picture date on the Parent Board in his/her room or on the classroom Shutterfly account. We are using Lifetouch Preschool Portraits this year. You will receive same-day picture proofs from your child's photograph session and can make a decision about ordering afterwards. Every child will have the opportunity to be photographed. We can't wait!

We are ready for picture day! Check out our smiles below.

The mission of the Berkley School District Early Childhood program is to enhance the quality of early childhood programs by offering highest quality curriculum and materials, strong parent partnerships, and ongoing staff development.

Assumptions about Screen Time

(Adapted from NAEYC, 2013, Lisa Guernsey)

Video, TV, interactive books, screen-based games: Young children today are practically bathed in this stuff as young as toddlerhood. What is the impact? Here are five common assumptions that the research does not necessarily support.

Assumption 1: As long as the content is "educational," it's good for children.

What the research shows: Children don't always learn what the program creators intend; sometimes they actually learn the opposite.

We sometimes wrongly assume that children will automatically understand what is happening on screen. But the way information is presented can support or get in the way of a child's ability to comprehend. Simply having characters utter nice new words, for example, doesn't mean that toddlers or preschoolers will learn what those words mean.

Assumption 2: The TV may be on in the background, but my children aren't affected.

What the research shows: The TV shows in the background may be impacting your child more than you think.

Nearly 40 percent of families with children up to 4 years old have the television on most or all of the time (Rideout, Hamel, & the Kaiser Family Foundation). Some of the most potent research on background TV comes from a series of experiments in a lab at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (Schmidt et al.). The lab was set up to look like a living room, with toys, a TV, a couch, a coffee table, and some magazines. Mothers brought their 1-, 2- and 3-year-old children to that room, where for 30 minutes of their visit the TV was on. For another 30 minutes, it was off.

Careful observation of the children in these experiments showed a significant difference between the way children played with their toys in each condition. When the TV was on, children bopped from toy to toy, spending significantly less time with one toy than when the TV was off. Even when they weren't looking at the TV, and most children in this study weren't, it seemed as if something was distracting them. The background TV, whether it was the noise or the flash of images, was interfering with their play.

Assumption 3: All media for children under age 2 is damaging.

What the research shows: If parents use media with children under 2, they should make sure that screen time leads to social interactions with their babies and toddlers, instead of replacing those interactions. Media time should be kept brief. Parents will also want to avoid exposing their very young children to adult-directed programming.

As parents, we could do the most good for our children by focusing on the three C's-content, context, and the individual child.

Continued on pg. 4

Reducing screen time has a rippling effect!

Did you know that our district's communications office takes pictures of all of our early childhood events? These include our evening and weekend family events, field trips, etc. You can even order copies of the photographs from the website.

Check out all of our district's albums at:

https://picasaweb.google.com/100816275528881588772

In-House Program Highlights

Last month, Goldfish Swim School, Representative Wittenberg and Marygrove College visited us!

(Photos are courtesy of our district's Picasa website!)

BSD Bond Updates

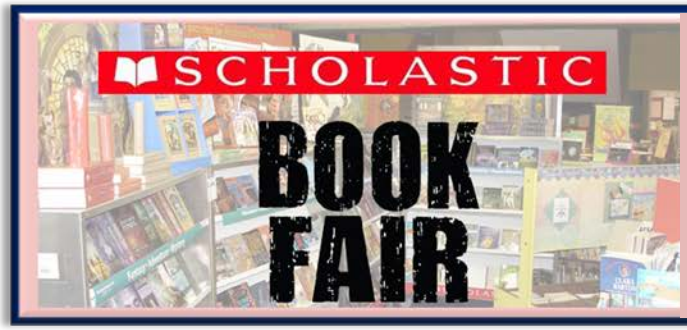
As you may know, the Berkley School District has been renovating all of our schools as part of the 2015 Bond Initiative. This summer, Phase II schools (Rogers, Burton, Anderson and the second half of Berkley High School) will be completed. Phase III will begin in the summer of 2018. At that time, both Tyndall and Avery will be worked on. We have already started to think about and plan for this. As part of our planning process, we have thought through many options. One option gives us the opportunity to combine all of our Early Childhood classrooms into one building. With this scenario, our district's central office administrative staff would move to Tyndall, and all of our Building Blocks programs, resources, and children would be under one roof at Avery.

As we work out the details and start to make decisions, you may continue to see architects or engineers walking through our buildings on occasion. You may see them measuring, looking into ceilings, and tweaking drawings. This ensures that we fully understand all of the options that we have in order to make the most of our space and to make operations as seamless as possible when the time comes. Soon, we will create design teams to work on specific plans and details of how the work will be completed. Those design teams will include staff and parents from each building, as well as central office administrators.

Moving forward, my goal is to continue to keep you updated in each month's newsletter and at our PTA meetings about the bond process. As always, thank you for your support and for your understanding as we begin this process. Please feel free to contact me should any questions, comments, or concerns arise.

–Jen Kidd, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education

BERKLEY SCHOOLS



Mark your calendars!

Coming Soon…

April 24th – 28th
Tyndall Center

Tyndall Early Childhood Center
14501 Talbot
Oak Park, MI 48237
248-837-8900

Hours of Operation:
7:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.
Office Hours:
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Avery Center
14700 W. Lincoln
Oak Park, MI 48327
248-837-8900

Screen Time continued…

from page 2

Assumption 4: Scary movies and TV shows just go over children's heads.

What the research shows: Scary programs influence children's sleep and more.

Research highlights one reason to pay attention to content: sleep schedules. Anyone with a young child understands how critical sleep can be-especially for parental sanity-so it's worth examining whether exposure to violent content could interfere with bedtime and naptime. In other words, the mechanism for reducing sleep problems was the reduction in exposure to violent TV.

Assumption 5: E-books are distracting to young children.

What the research shows: It's all about how they are used.

It's true that many e-books for children come with so many bells and whistles that children merely click around on the screen without paying much attention to the storyline. This is leading children to recall very little about what was read. A more positive approach to e-books, however, will require parents and educators to stress the importance of *content, context,* and the individual *child* in choosing media for our children.

At Building Blocks, we exercise, we explore outside, we engage in dramatic play and we conduct scientific experiments…these are great screen time alternatives.

April 25th at 4:30 p.m. (at Tyndall) Please join us!

Mark Your Calendars

April 3rd-7th: Spring Break for school year children

April 13th: Parent Café at Avery (5:00 p.m.)

April 14th: Good Friday-Entire district is closed

April 24th – 28th: Scholastic Book Fair at Tyndall

April 25th: PTA Meeting at Tyndall (4:30 p.m.)

April 26th: Parent Coffee Connections (8:30 a.m.)

Help Needed…

April 22nd is Earth Day. In observance, we are getting ready to start planning for our garden boxes. Soon, we will be asking for parent help with these. To give you a sneak peek, we'll be asking for:

- Garden/Compost Soil
- Gloves
- Strawberry/Tomato Plants
- Mint/Basil Seeds
- Cucumber/Radish Seeds
- Arugula
- Lettuce

Older toddlers and preschoolers are so excited for this project. They cannot wait for the responsibility of growing and taking care of their very own community gardens. Watch for more information to come about this exciting undertaking. Thank you so much in advance for your help with this.

Dom Geskey Alumni Basketball Game

April 13th

Alumni vs Berkley Boys Varsity

6pm start time

West Gym

At Berkley High School

$5 admission

Proceeds go to start a scholarship in Dominic Geskey's name and support students with autism at BHS

Silent Auction, Bounce House ($2) and Face Painting in East Gym
5pm to 7pm

Food Trucks in Circle Drive
5pm to 7pm

FOOD friends FUN

April 2017

Tyndall Center

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
10 Pancakes w/ T.Sausage Tater Tots Orange Juice 1% White Milk	**11** Beef Tacos Corn Fresh Banana 1% White Milk	**12** T.Corn Dog Fresh Broccoli Diced Peaches 1% White Milk	**13** Yogurt/String Cheese/Crackers Fresh Veggie Fresh Fruit 1% White Milk	**14** District Closed
17 Salisbury Steak /Bread Slice Mashed Potato Pineapple Tidbits 1% White Milk	**18** Chicken Tacos Corn Fresh Banana 1% White Milk	**19** Chef Salad w/ Roll Fresh Broccoli Diced Peaches 1% White Milk	**20** Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Carrot Sticks Applesauce 1% White Milk	**21** Penne w/ Spaghetti Sauce Green Beans Fresh Oranges 1% White Milk
24 Meatball Sub Tater Tots Pineapple Tidbits 1% White Milk	**25** Popcorn Chicken /Roll Sliced Carrots Mixed Fruit 1% White Milk	**26** Macaroni & Cheese/Roll Celery Sticks Diced Peaches 1% White Milk	**27** Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup Green Peas Fresh Apple 1% White Milk	**28** T.Hot Dog on a Bun Corn Orange Juice 1% White Milk

More Info...

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A healthy lunch helps you be ready to learn and play!

"In accordance with Federal law & U.S. Dept. of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sec, age or disability."

Cool Cafe Food...Fun...Friends

Menus are subject to change without notice.

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