

# 'ROUND ABOUT SCHOOL CIRCLE CENTER NEWS



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April 2016

Dear Parents,

How did we get to April already? Wasn't it September yesterday?? We have accomplished much this year and will finish strong in the months to come. As we head into the last two months of school, please pay close attention to your calendar and notes, as they will be very full months.

Instead of our regular feature from the Illinois Early Learning Project we have included a "Checklist: Is Your Child's Life Balanced?" As parents, we all want our children to grow and develop normally and have the best chance possible to do well in school and in life. To do that, they need to have varied experiences while they are young. So many young children today spend a great deal of time in front of the TV or playing video and computer games. This can affect their normal growth and development. We feel this information may be helpful to parents of young children as you consider how your child spends his/her time each day.

We are currently in open enrollment for the fall and have openings in all classes (there are 2 - 3 day spots in room 2 left) please spread the word to friends and family. Over the years, we have learned that word of mouth is our best advertising.

We all really appreciate the support that each of you has shown us this year, as a center collectively and individually. Each of us loves where we are and you and your children make it that much better.

Your Director,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Mary King".

## This Month's Highlights

### April 4 - 8

Reminder: Monthly fees are due

### April 12 & 13

Library Days open 11am - 12pm

### April 7 & 8

Grandparents' Days at Circle Center. We welcome our Grandmas and Grandpas. We are also planning a **Hop-A-Thon** to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Grandparents' Days. Watch your child's folder for more information.



## Grandparent's Day

Each year we invite a grandparent or "older" friend to come spend the morning with our students. We welcome others who cannot make these days to come and visit on another morning; this can be set up with your child's teacher.

Grandparents are encouraged to spend the entire morning with us as we play and create with projects and activities planned with them in mind.

This year Grandparent's Days are Thursday and Friday April 7 & 8. Room 2 will be both days also. If you have any questions please feel free to ask Lisa or one of your child's teachers.

## Room 2 Books

We have been working on the concept of reading. If your child has a favorite book they can "read", please allow them to share it with the class. It can be a book with only a few sight words or a story that they can tell from memory, by looking at the pictures. We will also be sharing our favorite ABC books next month.

## Open Registration

We are currently working on enrollment for next school year. If you are planning on registering your child please let Lisa know as soon as possible. We also ask that you help us spread the word by giving flyers to friends and putting up posters in places you frequent. (both are available in the office) Thanks for supporting this program!

## Parent's Tea

We will hold **Parent's Tea on Friday, May 13**. This is a time when parents are invited to come and spend a special morning with their child, please save the date. **(Note that, as with fieldtrips, all children come on the same day)**

### **Clothes:**

With nicer weather coming we want to remind you to dress your child appropriately for outdoor play. We will be going outside whenever possible and a light jacket or sweater is usually needed on our breezy playground. Also, the children should wear play shoes that they can run and jump in and not risk injury. Please dress for messy work and play!!!

## Hop a Thon

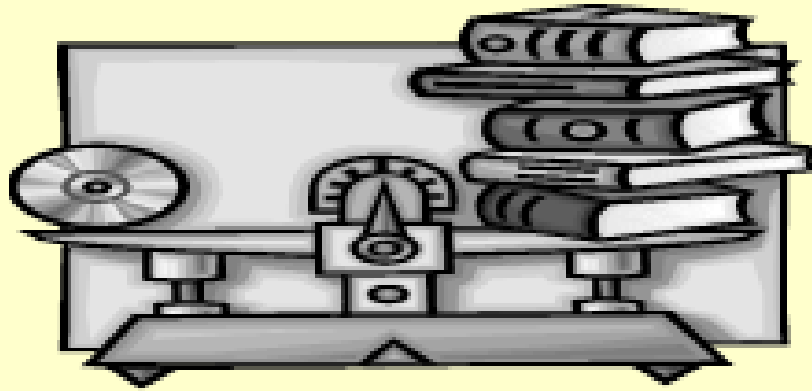
**"Everybody's different, nobody's perfect"** this is what our classes will be learning April 7 & 8. The MDA Hop-a-Thon is a disability awareness and educational program aimed at children that teaches them the three core values of Awareness, Acceptance and Assistance to others. The Hop-a-Thon lesson plans offer schools a great way to generate positive publicity about the school and community, and to educate the public on disability awareness and diversity. Pledging is now available on line at [mdahops.org](http://mdahops.org), please look at the website for more information on this important cause and please watch for pledge forms and other material, they were sent home before spring break.

**Be sure to send in the forms, even if you choose to not request donations. All children must have a signed form to participate.**

## Library Days

Have you stopped in to see what there is to offer in the church's library? Each month we offer the opportunity for you and your family to benefit from the materials available. There is a wide variety of children's books and videos as well as great fiction and nonfiction for adults and teens. This is a hidden treasure just waiting to be found. Stop up and see if there is anything for you.

This month the library will be **open** on the **12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 12pm.**



*Checklist: Is Your Child's Life Balanced?*

- Does your child spend sufficient time outdoors, running, climbing, jumping and crawling through and under?
- Does your child have markers, crayons, child-sized scissors and blank paper readily available, along with small muscle manipulative toys such as legos, puzzles, stringing beads, and playdoh?
- Do you read for at least thirty minutes to your child each day?
- Do you plan a time each day when you and your child can talk without being interrupted?
- Does your child do creative activities such as cooking, making up stories, or pretending every day?
- Does your child regularly spend time playing with other children and have special time with adult relatives and friends?
- Does your child go with you on trips to the library, a concert, swimming, roller skating, or the park on a regular basis?
- Does your child spend most of his/her day playing?
- Does your child spend 10 hours, or less, per week in front of the home screen, watching TV or playing video or computer games?
- *Media Smarts 4 Young Folks/A Merrie Way Manual* by Gloria DeGaetano and Maureen Arnold