



Preschool at Antelope Trails Newsletter

January 2018

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Paraprofessionals: Lauren Gearhart and
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Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a new year in preschool! I hope that the time you spent over break with your kiddos was fun. This semester will be a busy one for preschool children here at Antelope Trails Preschool! The spring brings preschool continuation to Kindergarten for some. Please feel free to approach me with questions you have about this transition and I will do my best to answer those and point you in the right direction during this exciting time. Preschoolers, who are of age to stay in preschool, will have an opportunity to continue at Antelope Trails for next year. If you received continuing preschool application for next year, please note that these are due **FRIDAY, JANUARY 12th**. These **MUST** be turned in on time to the district because they will open preschool enrollment to the public after this date.



We are learning...

This month we will continue with practice review for letters (and numbers) including naming, phonemic awareness and recognition. We typically learn vowels toward the end of the year, as they have multiple sounds. We call these our “hardest workers.” We have already learned the following letters: B, C/K, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, and P. Before introducing new letters, we will be practicing the letter names and sounds of those we already know.

In exploring letters and letter sounds, we will be practicing rhyming and multi-syllabic words, as well as continuing to tap out the syllables in words. We will be reviewing number recognition, specifically 1-20, and naming numbers through our calendar practice. We will also continue patterning on our calendar in upcoming months. Our curriculum for IB planners and We Can will be on units including “winter” (as one of the 4 seasons), “Animals” and the ever popular... DINOSAURS!

***Important skills that will be emphasized in both classes, but specific to the afternoon class, we start to include more of our skills for Kindergarten readiness. We will also help them in being more independent in taking care of their own personal items.**



Home Connection: At home you can help your children in independent skills of daily living, by letting them learn how to put on their own jacket and try to zip it. You can practice routines with more independence by breaking down the steps, and giving them smaller chunks to work on. For example: putting their own toothpaste on their tooth brush and filling their bathroom cup of water, following a hand washing picture schedule where they start with a few of the steps and you help with the rest, help children by making towels and Kleenex accessible at their level. You can also help children in their routine by choosing a place where their backpack and coat go each time you get home from school, where they take those items to each day when they come in.

When you think about your child in Kindergarten, think about a few things they can practice to become independent:

- **Opening their own food/snack items independently.** (We have your children already practicing this in our classroom at snack time).
- **Eating in a short amount of time trying to ignore distraction** (most school lunch times are about 20 minutes).
- **Choosing to wear their own hats and mittens when it is cold, and putting coats on independently** (some kindergarten teachers will not be able to remember/help 20+ children with this prior to their recess time.)
- **Tying shoes and practicing with getting dressed/undressed, especially for bathrooming.** In our classroom, we help children be as independent as possible with buttons, zippers, and snaps by using modeling and verbal cues.



Clothing and Playground:

We are going to our playground on winter days when there still may be snow on the ground. Please remember to send a coat and other warm winter clothes for your child and we will help bundle them before we go out! Thanks!



Snow Days and Late Start:

Just a reminder that when there is a 2-hour delay across District 20 due to weather, there is NO AM PRESCHOOL. AM preschool is cancelled when there are 2-hour delays. Obviously if there is a cancellation for the district, there is also NO PRESCHOOL.



Contact Info:

Phone Numbers:

- Main Attendance line ATE: 234-4100
- Preschool Classroom: 234-4155
- Mrs. Meghan's Voicemail: 234-6516
- Preschool Secretary (at EAC): 234-1750
- Email: meghan.novak@asd20.org



Kindergarten Registration and continued preschool registration:

Please make sure you check the district website for information about further preschool and Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year. You can also call the main preschool office about PRESCHOOL applications at 234-1750 in January. Preschool students going to Kindergarten next year should NOT have to reregister in the district for Kindergarten. You will just need to choose your school and full or half day! The Choice Window will begin JANUARY 5th. If you have a son or daughter who will be attending kindergarten next year, please check out the district website (www.asd20.org) for policy information for transportation, residency, admission, school assignment, open enrollment, and attendance before starting the process. School Choice nights will also be held in January!



Thursday, January 4th – Students Return

Friday, January 5th- Choice Window opens for District 20

Monday, January 15th- NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, January 18th- Scholastic Book Order due for January

Friday, February 9th- POPs preschool event to be held at the main Briargate District preschool, more information to come...