



Preschool at Antelope Trails Newsletter

Teacher: Meghan Novak

Paraprofessionals: Lauren Gearhart and Jessica Rutledge

May 2018



A Heartfelt Thank You:

Parents and guardians... I am going to miss this group of kiddos so much! A sincere thank you for your partnership with us in your child's early education throughout this year. You have all contributed SO much to our room this year and we are truly grateful. Thank you for the energy you put into raising amazing kids! We appreciate you.

What a wonderful and exciting year we have had. It has been a pleasure getting to know you, your families, and your preschoolers this year. We will truly miss those that are transitioning on to Kindergarten and to other schools, but they are welcome to visit any time. Miss Lauren and Mrs. Jessica are looking forward to seeing those kiddos coming back into preschool next year! Miss Lauren is excited to have her new adventure as the new preschool early childhood special educator at Antelope Trails with your kiddos next year.

I hope that you will hold dear the many fun memories from this year. Your children have learned a lot, and their wonderful questions filled our days with things to explore. Many of your children are in the beginning stages of writing. They are making scribbles and glyphs that have meaning to them and will soon form letters and words. They know letters and sounds all throughout the alphabet. Your children have explored scientific properties including; what materials are made of, cause and effect, living and non-living, change, weather, the Earth, growth and life cycle. They have learned to take turns. They have learned to make friends. They have expressed

themselves as individuals in creative and important ways. We are very proud of them!

“Around here, we don’t look backwards for very long... We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things because we’re curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”
~Walt Disney

“For a small child there is no division between playing and learning; between the things he or she does ‘just for fun’ and things that are ‘educational.’ The child learns while living and any part of living that is enjoyable is also play.”
~Penelope Leach (psychologist, author)

“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning... They have to play with what they know to be true in order to find out more, and then they can use what they learn in new forms of play.”
~Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood)

“When kids play, they remember. They may not be aware they are learning, but they sure are aware they are having fun. When you have a good belly laugh with your siblings, parents, or friends that stays with you. And the great thing is that it comes so naturally...if we only let it.”
~Rebecca Krook, play facilitator for kids with disabilities



End of year curriculum:

We will be finishing the year by coming to a close with our IB and WE CAN unit about seeds, planting and bugs. We will be enjoying time together outside and visiting the school garden. We are also finishing our adventure with alphabet learning and letter sounds with vowels through the end of the year. “Y” is the final letter at the start of May, and beyond that we will be reviewing letters learned. Other end of the year topics will include; ABCs and 123s, as well as going to Kindergarten for those children eligible. Please see the May calendar for other special events to include an outdoor play-day (weather permitting) and other preschool activities, graduation/continuation for those going to Kindergarten, and celebrations!



Summer Home connection: *At home, over the summer, continue to make learning fun for preschoolers with family hikes, trips to the zoo, or explorations of museums and nearby parks. Preschoolers should continue to build skills in developmental areas over the summer through play. Here are some suggestions of areas and activities, including; gross motor (running, climbing, and using outdoor play equipment), fine motor (coloring and using sidewalk chalk at home), cognitive skills (counting flowers in the garden, practicing familiar rhymes, helping with money at the store), social (play groups, sibling job or chore charts, answering “20 questions” for a game), self-help (using utensils with foods, buttoning and snapping clothing, brushing their own teeth), and language (practicing alphabet sounds and naming new vocabulary). Also, always remember: “We learn best through play!”*



Upcoming Graduation!

Parents: we will have a **graduation/continuation ceremony** to celebrate those preschoolers that will be going to kindergarten next year! PLEASE JOIN US. You are welcome to invite family members and friends. This is your special day for you and your children, so we would love to have you here with us. We will be celebrating graduation on **Tuesday, May 15th starting at 12:45pm**. There will be a processional, a special performance by your children, and a small reception to follow. **THIS WILL ONLY BE FOR THOSE CHILDREN OF KINDERGARTEN AGE FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE AM CLASS AND GOING TO KINDERGARTEN. PLEASE JOIN US!**



A Friendly Reminder: Please remember some end of the year “housekeeping” things! Please take home your children’s art and extra clothes as we put these in the children’s cubbies. We will also be sending home all personal items we can identify as belonging to your child. Thanks!



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



Antelope Trails **Preschool Important Date Calendar MAY**

-Wednesday, May 2nd- LAST BOOK ORDER DUE TO ASSURE TIMELY DELIVERY

-Thursday, May 3rd - NO SCHOOL PRESCHOOL students, elementary testing day

-Friday, May 4th- ELEM Testing day

-Monday, May 14th- AM class party for end of preschool celebration, 11:00-11:45, parents welcome to join, (weather permitting we will also be spending lots of time outside this day, so please remember sunscreen on your child)

-Tuesday, May 15th- GRADUATION/CONTINUATION

- **PM class graduation/continuation ceremony (AM students who are going to Kindergarten next year are invited, with their families, to attend)**

PM-Ceremony: FOR ALL CHILDREN GOING TO KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR. Ceremony will begin on the lawn in front of Antelope Trails at 1:00pm. Children should arrive at *normal* time at the preschool class at 12:45, and parents will be shown to the front lawn. Guests are welcome! Following graduation there will be a short reception in the preschool classroom or library, and then children are released for the day, or may stay until the end of the preschool day.

****Weather permitting... Ceremony will be outside on the front lawn.**

-Wednesday, May 16th- LASY DAY OF PRESCHOOL FOR DISTRICT 20 PRESCHOOLS

-Wednesday, May 23rd- LAST day for ELEMENTARY STUDENTS