



Dates to Remember

- Friday, July 3: WDS closed in observance of Independence Day
- Monday, August 17: Last day of summer session
- Tuesday, August 18—Friday, August 21: WDS closed for in-service
- Monday, August 24: First day of fall session

Weekday School Earns Three Star Rating

In February 2009, the WDS hosted three assessors from the State of Tennessee, Department of Health. They observed three different classrooms and then graded our preschool. We recently received a summary of their visit.

The Belmont Weekday School voluntarily participates in the Star Quality Program and recently received their Three Star rating. This is the highest rating a preschool can receive from the state. The Environment Rating Scales assess in detail physical environment, basic care, curriculum, interaction, schedule and program structure and parent and staff education. Each participating facility receives an overall rating, ranging from no stars at the lowest to three at the highest.



A report card is required to be posted in the facility—ours is in a framed poster which is located in the hallway outside of Ms. Jean’s office.

Our staff has worked very hard and spent a lot of time and effort these past few months in order to achieve this quality rating. We really appreciate all of your support!

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Director’s Corner

Welcome to Belmont WDS! We are so excited to have 22 new families with us this summer. What a joy to have so many new faces at the preschool.

As always you are welcome to come by my office, call me, or email me with concerns, questions, comments, or suggestions about your child’s preschool experience. My door is open.

I wanted to give everyone a fundraising update. The money raised from the Spring Auction has helped to purchase 300 new books for the library. Wow. Our Wish Tree located in the hallway near my office has been successful as well. We have had 13 items from that tree purchased and given to the preschool for the children to enjoy. Thank you.

One last thing, it is important to get siblings on our waiting list asap. We will not assume that your child’s sibling will attend the preschool. Call or come by the office to give us your child’s information and we will be happy to assist you.

— Ms. Jean

Summer Heat is Here!



As the weather continues to warm up, please remember to apply sunscreen to your child **PRIOR** to arriving to school. It takes 30 minutes for the sunscreen to penetrate the skin and be effective!

Remember that we spend a great deal of time outdoors, so it is also important to dress your child in cool, comfortable clothing. Don't forget to also have a change of clothes stored in your child's classroom in case they are needed.

To beat the heat, water play will continue throughout the summer session at varying times. Just be sure to send your child to school in his/her bathing suit on these days. Don't forget a towel and a complete change of clothes (including preschool appropriate shoes) for more fun after water play is over!

Summer Needs for the Preschool



Each month the WDS has a different "need of the month". We ask each family to bring these items in to your child's teachers. Since we are only publishing one newsletter this summer we are including all of our summertime needs. You may bring your donated items to Ms. Jean or Ms. Laura. Thank you in advance for your participation.

June: Summertime means lots of outdoor themed crafts. June's need is **Construction Paper and Glue sticks**

July: Playground time sure is fun, but let's keep all those bugs outside. July's need is **Liquid Hand Sanitizer and Clorox Wipes**.

August: Back to school! Ready to start the new year? Parent's, let's help get your class started right. August's need is **Pencils and Crayons**. (Infant and Toddler Parents choose the 8 pack jumbo crayons.)

Do You Have?

The WDS is currently in need of baby food jars with lids. These jars may be glass or plastic, but please include the lids. Our classes do a lot of painting and the jars help us to conserve our paint.

If you have any please bring them to Ms. Jean's office or Ms. Laura's office. Thank you very much!



Classroom News: Infants



Summer semester is well underway and all of us in the Infant Room have been enjoying getting to know each other. We are adjusting well with each other and our classroom. The babies and teachers are adjusting to each others schedules too!

We have had lots of laughs and smiles in and out of the classroom. Indoors, we are learning new signs as part of our baby sign language activities. We sing songs together and play with puppets, as well as trying out different art projects. Outdoors, we have been going on several strolls around Vanderbilt in the “bye bye buggy”. People always stop and smile and wave at us, and we see so many interesting things. We also love to play in the sandbox on the playground.

Water play will be on Tuesdays and Fridays in July. The babies will need a little swimmer or swimming diaper during water play. More information will be sent home before water play begins.

Reminders:

- Label everything: food, wipes, diapers, sunscreen, bibs, etc.
- Pack sunscreen and/or sun hats (We can only apply sunscreen or insect repellent if you have given the WDS permission to do so. Forms are located in Ms. Laura’s office. The sunscreen must be labeled and kept in the locked classroom cabinet.)
- Cut ALL food into small pieces (grapes into fourths...Etc.)

We are so glad to have your baby in our class and we are having the best time loving on them and learning with them.

Thanks, Ms. Jade and Ms. Ashlee

Preserved Children

Take 1 large field, half a dozen children, 2 or 3 small dogs, a pinch of brook and some pebbles. Mix the children and dogs well together; put them on the field, stirring constantly. Pour the brook over the pebbles; sprinkle the field with flowers; spread over all a deep blue sky and bake in the sun. When brown, set away to cool in the bathtub.

— Derek Kaeb

Classroom News: Toddlers

Welcome to the Toddlers Class. It is a very exciting new beginning. We are off to a good start. Many thanks to our parents for helping us make this an easy and comfortable transition. Thanks for being on time. School begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Being prompt helps us stick to our schedule.

Toddlers are curious about the world and need freedom to explore it. We will provide many opportunities for the children to explore materials and concepts. Free choice time is a period during which children can move freely and choose activities that they are interested in. Activities are built around the children’s interests.

This summer we will learn about ocean life. We will also talk about summer as a season and the changes in the environment that it will bring us. Art related projects are scheduled every week. On Mondays and Tuesdays we will visit our library. Music class is held every Wednesday and Thursday. Sensory play is scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Water play days are scheduled for the 2009 summer session. They will commence during the month of July on every Monday and Tuesday at 9:00 am. Water play will take place on the playground. Apply sunscreen before arrival each day. Insect repellent also needs to be considered.

Please remember to always label your child’s items. Please check your child’s folder daily. Also, sign your child in and out everyday. As always we welcome any questions from parents and sharing of information.

Love,

Ms. Karina, Ms. Kim, and Ms. Meaghan



Classroom News: Twos

Wow! What a great start to summer we have had. We have had a blast getting to know your children and have enjoyed seeing each of their personalities grow each day.

Your children have had a delightful time making different art projects—whether it be painting or drawing with crayons. We have more exciting things to come for the next two months.

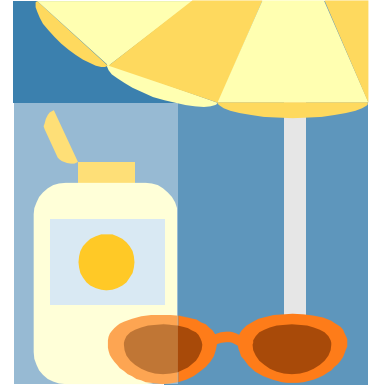
We will continue to have music with Ms. Sheila each Wednesday and Thursday in June. In July, we will begin our month with some fun Fourth of July activities. We will also start water play in July.

We look forward to the rest of this summer with your children.

Thanks for all of your help.

Love,

Ms. Lauren and Ms. Rachel



Classroom News: Nearly Threes

The first few weeks of summer session have been filled with exciting experiences. Most of the children have already become accustomed with the classroom and are enjoying themselves. During the first couple weeks of June we learned about all kinds of different bugs, we enjoy singing in music with Ms. Sheila, and playing on the "big playground". We have loved reading Eric Carle books, such as The Grouchy Ladybug and The Very Clumsy Click Beetle. We will continue the rest of June with units based on the books by Denise Fleming: In The Tall Tall Grass and In A Small Small Pond.

** Please note Miss Kelly and Miss Claire will be on vacation June 29th - July 2nd (School is closed July 3rd!). **

In the month of July, we will start with 4th of July art projects like spirit sticks and firework pictures! After the 4th of July, we will begin our "trip to the beach!" We have some cool art projects planned, such as paper bag octopi, paper bag whales, paper plate crabs, and paper plate turtles! We will read Eric Carle's book A House For Hermit Crab, Raffi's book Baby Beluga, Gene Zion's book Harry By The Sea, Karen Roosa's book Beach Day, and a book called Lottie's Beach Towel (a book about a rather funny hen and her trip to the beach).

** Please note that we have "Water Play" every Tuesday and Friday beginning July 7th and ending Friday, July 31st. Every child needs to bring a change of clothes, a towel, large resealable bag (for wet clothes and towel), and flip flops or water shoes (The mulch on the playground is sharp on bare feet). **

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to teach your children. We are very excited to have such a fun group this summer and we know they will have a blast!!

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Claire

Watermelon Popsicles

2 cups watermelon cubed with seeds removed

1 cup apple juice

Blend in blender until smooth. Pour into popsicle molds and freeze.

Enjoy with your children!



Classroom News: Younger Threes



Summer started with our new class of friends and a transition to the “big” playground. After our getting acquainted time we learned about manner and feelings. We made a manners chart with a positive and negative side. The children enjoyed sharing during circle time which actions they thought belonged on either side. We celebrated Flag Day, Father’s Day and “being special” to end the month of June.

In July, we will start water play on Mondays and Tuesdays. The 4th of July brings colorful crafts and flags. July is dairy month, so we will be learning all about dairy foods. We will also read and learn about ocean life and summer insects.

August is a short month. We will make a farewell t-shirt the first week and cover zoo animals the second week.

Happy Birthday! Our summer birthdays include Laila Sadlow 6/24 and Ms. Diane 7/15

Have a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely, Ms. Diane, Ms. Lee, and Ms. Katie

Classroom News: Older Threes

Kid’s Playdough

2 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup salt

3T cooking oil

2 cups boiling water

**2 small pkgs unsweetened
Kool-Aid**

Mix dry ingredients. In a pot over medium heat, add oil and water. Stir quickly, mixing well until dough forms into a ball. When cool, mix with hands.

We have had a fantastic start to the summer! We have a great group of children and we are looking forward to the next few months. During the month of June, we studied the beach, ocean life and summer safety. The children enjoyed creating an ocean scene with various art materials. We have also been exploring different art media and helping the children to express their ideas through drawings, paintings, and collages. We are providing the children with open-ended process oriented art and encouraging the children to experiment with the materials. After creating a picture or finishing a project, we ask the children to tell us what they have drawn so we can label their art and even write their dictated story. This helps the children realize that their art has meaning and is the first step in developing pre-writing skills.

During circle time, we are focusing on helping the children recognize their names and the names of children in our classroom. We identify the first letters in their names, count the letters, and are beginning to introduce the letter sounds. We will follow these lessons with activities to help them practice this skill in the writing center and at the manipulative table. We are also reading theme-related stories to the children. After reading the book to the children, we follow with questions about the story and relate the story back to our lives. This helps the children build their comprehension and listening skills.

We have a lot of summer birthdays and if you would like to bring an afternoon snack you are welcome to. If you chose to, we ask that you bring a healthy snack or small sweet treat. Water play will be every Friday for the rest of the summer. Children come to school wearing their swim clothes and sunscreen. You may want to send them in water shoes if you have them. We will change their clothes after swimming. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to let us know. We love spending our days with your children!

~Ms. Liz, Ms. Maria, and Ms. Molly



Classroom News: Fours

It's summer time and it is going to be busy in the fours class! With twenty-six children, it is going to be an exciting time. Our hope is that this summer is also engaging, interesting, and fun! We have many things planned for our class. We will have reading visits from Ms. Emily (from the Nashville Public Library) and Ms. Shelia will come sing with us on Wednesday. This summer we will also have water play, giving the kids some extra time to play outside. Mostly we want this summer to be relaxed and enjoyable for everyone.

In June we talking about water and the animals that live there. Thank you for allowing your child to find an item around the house to share. In July we will start talking about the weather. We would also love to have any items your children want to share this month as well.

We have a few birthdays to celebrate this summer. Alex Owings on the 25th of May, Tomo Shiratori on the 17th of June, Ruby Plume on the 7th of July, and Rosemary Bonadies on the 4th of August.

We enjoyed the opportunity to wish all the dads, grandfathers, or uncles that help out a happy Father's Day on the 21st and we hope that everyone has a safe fourth of July!

Ms. Lindsey, Ms. Liz, Ms. Michelle, and Ms. Val



Classroom News: Pre-K

Our first theme of the summer session was making new friends, which included Ms. Carol and Ms. Michelle. Ms. Elizabeth joined us at a later date. During our garden theme we made flower boxes for our classroom windows. From there we planted sunflower seeds in our class garden. We concluded our study with painting our favorite flowers. Our next study has been bugs! The children used their imaginations as we painted pebbles to resemble bees, ladybugs, stinkbugs, and dragonflies. After reading *The Very Ugly Bug* by Liz Pichon, the pre-k's painted some very ugly bugs. You can see them displayed in the hallway. Next, we will study birds. Watch the feathers fly as we find out why birds sing and how they fly. Our next topic will be the life cycle of the butterfly. We will be fluttering around the room learning new songs and skipping to the dance beat.

As July arrives we will parade our colors for the red, white, and blue before diving into a sea of learning about ocean life and various beach activities!

Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Carol are really enjoying meeting all our new friends and their families. Drop by and say Hello!. Enjoy these lazy, crazy days of summer fun.

Much love,

Ms. Carol, Ms. Elizabeth, and Ms. Michelle

Our Wish Tree Is Blooming Again!

Just in time for Summer, the Belmont Weekday School Wish tree is blooming again. We have several new wishes on the tree including lots of new books for the library! All wishes range in size and price and are a great way for a Sunday School class to make a group contribution to the church. All the items purchased for the Weekday School also benefit the children's Sunday School classes and Wednesday night activities.

The tree is located in the hallway near the 20th Avenue cul-de-sac. To purchase a wish pull a leaf from the tree and use the detailed ordering information on the leaf to purchase the item directly or you may write a check for the item payable to Belmont Weekday School Wish Tree and we can order it for you. You may leave the purchased item or the monetary donation at the Weekday School office.

Belmont Weekday School

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We're on the web!

www.belmontweekdayschool.com

Educating and nurturing children for
over 60 years



Attention Kroger Shoppers

We all buy groceries and Kroger has a wonderful program to assist Belmont Weekday School's Scholarship program. Just purchase your KROGER GIFT CARD from Ms. Jean or Ms. Laura for \$5.00 and each time you put additional dollars on your card, you earn money for the BELMONT WEEKDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

The \$5.00 purchase price can be used towards groceries the first time you use your card – simply add more to the card (before you have your first item rung up at the register or anytime at customer service) to increase your balance. Your card can be used time and time again! You can easily check the balance on your card by looking at the bottom of your receipt.

You can pay for the recharges with cash, credit, or debit card and BELMONT WEEKDAY SCHOOL will earn valuable dollars each time you swipe! When BWDS reaches \$5000 in recharges, we receive a check from Kroger for \$250!

Attention Harris Teeter Shoppers

Harris Teeter also has a great opportunity (called Together in Education, TIE) to give back to your child's school when you purchase groceries using your VIC card. Simply link your VIC card to Belmont Weekday School and Harris Teeter will donate a percentage of your purchases to the preschool. You must relink your card on or after August 1 to begin giving back for the upcoming school year.

All of the money that is "given back" to the preschool using the above mentioned programs benefit the Weekday School Scholarship program.

What is a Healthy Lunch?

At Belmont Weekday School, we have the opportunity to help our children develop healthy food habits that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. Not only does good nutrition foster healthful growth and development, it helps your child get the most out of their learning opportunities.

Every year, the Weekday School is assessed by ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales) and ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scales). The assessors rate our school on EVERYTHING, including the lunches that you send from home. A proper lunch should include: one grain, one protein, and two servings of fruits and/or vegetables. Your child's lunch should meet this criteria every day. We will begin sending home a note every time your child's lunch is missing a component of this criteria. Each classroom keeps crackers, fruit and cheese in the room during lunch in order to supplement any lunches that are lacking a component.

Please do not send raisins or craisins in your child's lunch. We will not serve them since they are deemed a choking hazard. If candy is sent, we will ask your child to leave it in his/her lunch box to take back home.

Please feel free to visit www.mypyramid.gov to find more nutrition information. We appreciate your support to help foster healthy eating habits for our children.

