

**WOODDALE COMMUNITY  
NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
May 2015**

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Since we're in our last two weeks of school, we want to thank everyone for help with everything from donating snacks to your time spent reading, supervising the workbench, or helping with science discoveries.

The children are busy and excited and have grown and changed so much since their first days of school in September. They have learned how to make new friends, share playthings, resolve conflicts, sing songs together, listen to stories, act out nursery rhymes and stories, follow directions, and of course delight in their newfound confidence and abilities. It has been such a great year – filled with learning, music, fun, friends and growth.

For those children moving on to new adventures in kindergarten, we wish them well and will miss them. For those returning to us in the fall, we look forward to watching their continued growth and the increased confidence that comes with their second year of preschool. We wish everyone a great summer of fun, family, and friends. Have fun with all the resources available in our communities, but remember that some of the best moments for you and your children come in unscheduled time just being together. Make sure your days are not TOO scheduled and have a happy summer!

**This Year's Tuition**

If you haven't yet finished paying for this year's tuition, please do so as soon as possible. If you have questions about your payments, please see Sylvia.

**Next School Year**

Letters confirming enrollment for the 2015-16 school year have gone out. **We would like your first month's tuition of \$225 by June 5<sup>th</sup> to hold your child's spot.** If you anticipate changes in your schedule, please let us know as soon as possible.

Thanks for spreading the word about our school! We appreciate all the referrals. This next school year will be the first time in five years that we'll be full in the afternoon as well as mornings.

**KinderKonzert – Orchestra Hall**

We had a really nice trip to Orchestra Hall. The children were introduced to a number of instruments by Minnesota Orchestra musicians and were able to try to play a violin and a snare drum. Watching the kids on the stage as they listened to the musicians play music to accompany the story *Perfect Square* was delightful. Exposing children to musical experiences like these is really great for them. Thanks to our parent chaperones!

**End of the Year Parties**

Our last day of **REGULAR** school will be Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. **On Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, our school year ends with a special gathering.** Children and parents should come at the same time – 10 a.m. for morning families or 1 p.m. for afternoon families – and join us for an informal social time followed by the children performing a review of some of the songs they've learned this year. The children will probably start singing about 15-20 minutes after they arrive.

**Morning Families – 10:00 a.m.  
Afternoon Families – 1:00 p.m.**

## **Transition to Kindergarten**

If your child will be making the transition to kindergarten this fall, here are some ideas for easing that transition.

\*Take your child to his or her new school playground during the summer so they have a chance to familiarize themselves with the school building grounds and the playground equipment.

\*Take advantage of any special pre-kindergarten open houses or “meet the teacher” events. Many schools invite families to visit the school and their child’s kindergarten teacher before the actual first day of school. These are important for both you and your child! Early conferences are important as well so you can tell the teacher about your child’s interests, “quirks,” anticipations, and any anxieties.

\*Take time to share your own kindergarten experiences with your child— it humanizes the experience for them.

\*Most kindergarteners start school a couple of days after the older children start. Take them to the bus stop so they can see how the bus stops and picks up the children. They will be more comfortable with the whole experience if they know what to expect.

\*Have your child follow a routine from the very beginning – don’t drive them! Don’t follow the bus to school if it will upset your child – make a good choice that will ease their transition. The sooner they get into a routine the sooner they will get over any anxieties.

\*Keep a positive attitude.

\*Don’t dwell on any negative experiences or feelings. Try to distinguish between the everyday troubles that children need to learn how to resolve and those things that might really need your intervention.

## **After kindergarten has started –**

\*Communicate with your child’s teacher.

\*Volunteer in the classroom.

\*Check your child’s backpack daily for communications from school and/or assignments.

\*Have a special place for their school library books – it will help them learn to keep track of them and become responsible for borrowed items.

\*Display their artwork!

\*Keep reading to your children – even after they become readers they love to share stories and “chapter books” with their parents!

\*Dress your child in appropriate clothing that they can take care of themselves – learning to put on a jacket or sweatshirt and zipping it up are important to their self-confidence. If they can’t get their pants or jacket buttoned, it may not be a good choice for them. Make sure they can get into and out of their backpack easily.

\*Ask your child very specific questions after their day. They often don’t want to talk about kindergarten right away when they get home. Follow their lead. Sometime after school or during the evening they will begin to tell you things and then you can ask more questions.

Keep in mind that schools often have parent volunteers helping on the school buses and at the school during that first week – to help ease your worries!

Most of all, enjoy the experience, get involved in your child’s school, and celebrate their growing independence!

### Summer Ideas

We want to remind you about Liz Heinecke's great website - the Kitchen Scientist. She visited us in April and has some really great ideas you could do this summer.

<http://kitchenpantryscientist.com>

It's a fabulous site – check it out! Liz has ideas for biology, chemistry, and physics experiments, ideas for food science and lots of information about science and the world around us. She makes science REALLY fun!

She also has written a book that is full of great ideas for experiments and learning: ***Kitchen Science Lab for Kids – 52 Family-Friendly Experiments from the Pantry.***

**Thanks again for sharing your  
delightful children with us!  
Have a wonderful summer!  
Beth, Sue, Sylvia, and Virginia**

