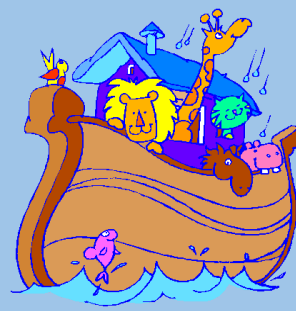


Noah's Ark News

August 2023



From The Office:

★ Reporting illness

- As a state licensed center we are required to post information to parents when certain illnesses are present in our building
- Please let the office know if your child has been diagnosed with any illness that requires a doctor's visit or medication
- Watch for illness notices in your child's classroom as well as the bulletin board by the drinking fountain

★ Vacations

- If you are taking time off this summer or any time,
- please be sure to turn in vouchers at least two weeks in advance
- Let your child's teachers know as well. This helps us plan our staffing.

★ Pirate's Party on the Pavement

- Mark your calendar for our end of the summer outdoor party, Wednesday August 9th.
- Pirate themed food and games starting at 5:30pm.
- Costumes welcome, Matey!
- ***Our fundraising silent auction will run with this event. Donations due by July 31st. Auction starts August 3rd.***
- ***Please RSVP by Friday August 4th***



★ Sussex United Methodist Golf Outing

- SUMC golf outing is Sunday August 20th. We would love to have a foursome from The Ark.
- We are golfing at Songbird Hills course
- Cost is \$50 per golfer and includes 9 holes with cart, drink tickets, dinner afterwards and raffle prizes
- See Debbie if you are interested. We can help you get paired up if you don't have a foursome.

★ Staffing

- We are looking to hire at least one full-time teacher with a start date of August 1st or later. If you know of anyone looking for a teaching position let us know. There is a \$500 referral bonus after the candidate completes 60 days of successful employment.

★ No room at The Ark

- The only openings we will have for fall are in the 4k and before/after school program
- **Currently the first infant opening we have is mid to late 2025**
 - Please see us in the office if you are thinking of adding to your family and thus The Ark family

★ 4k/school age days off school sign up

- **Clipboards for days off school will go up on Tuesday August 1st at 9am.**
- **The clipboards will include September 5th and 6th for all students returning for fall or who want to extend their summer enrollment for those two days. No one will be allowed to attend those days without signing up.**
- You may sign up for any or all of the days for the entire school year on the 1st. If you are new to the clipboard system please see Miss Debbie or Miss Terri so we can go over it with you.
- If you will be leaving us after the summer or coming back to us for fall please be sure we have those dates so billing is done correctly.
- School starts September 7th for 5k and up.
- School starts September 11th for 4k.



From Pastor Jim:

Perfected In Love

In the Bible, in first letter of John is written, "If we love one another, love is perfected in us." The first thing this says to me is that you and I will probably not be perfect anytime soon. Yet, in our culture of exceptionalism, imperfection is not really acceptable. As they say, "Second place is just first loser." As a consequence, we tend to have a lot of unrealistic expectations about ourselves and our families. Family gatherings and occasions with friends often leave us vaguely disappointed. The New Testament wants us to know we might be looking at the whole perfection-thing in the wrong way. We are "perfected," it says, when we "love one another." As I experience it, "love" contains an awful lot of "forgiveness." When we forgive someone, we don't forget about what they've done, we withhold judgment. Fully aware of an other's obvious imperfections, we do our best to love them anyway. And that sort of thing takes lots of practice and lots of patience. If we forgive others enough times, those others may just see the error of their ways, and learn to perfect themselves. When Peter asked Jesus how many times was he supposed to forgive his brother who'd sinned against him; "Seven times?" he asked. Jesus replied, " No, not just seven times, but seventy times seven." What he meant was that forgiving is a lifelong practice.

John Wesley used to talk a lot about Christian Perfection; it was about being "perfected in love." To the end of his days, he was earnestly striving after it. To the end of his days, he earnestly believed that we never quite get there. Because we're human beings, we're always going to be making mistakes, always in need of forgiveness, and always needing to forgive one another. But the good news is that practicing forgiveness gets easier with practice. This kind of practice may not make us perfect, but it will help us be more loving. I John says, "They who love are born of God and know God." And what could be better than that?

Infants:

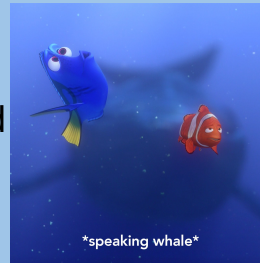
Highlights:

- August Theme: Ocean
- Catch bubbles
- Sing Baby Shark
- Listen to The Beach Boys
- Sail in a pirate ship



Goals:

- Learn to Speak Whale
- Understand fish are friends and not food
- Remember to just keep swimming!



Reminders:

- Check your child's extra clothes bin for weather appropriate clothing. Also for the right sizes for growing babies!
- We will be having several water days throughout the summer. Please bring in a swimsuit, swim shoes, swim diapers, and towel. Please bring a cloth bag to hang on their hook.
- Please bring in a water bottle for your child to hydrate on hot days outside.
- Please sign in and out every day on the clipboard. This is a licensing requirement.

Wishlist:

- Elmer Glue sticks
- Painters tape
- Blue tissue paper
- Blue straws
- Ocean animal bath toys

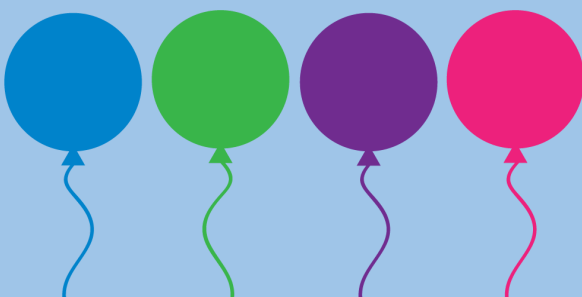
Thank You: Acelynn for Sharpies!!

Welcome!

- Noah (Vera's little brother)
- Grant (Ms. Debbie's Grandson)
- Lily (Charlie's little sister)

Happy Birthdays:

Happy First Birthday Acelynn!



Toddlers:

Highlights:

→ August Theme: Ocean/Beach

- ◆ Digging in the sand for seashells
- ◆ Flying the parachute high outside
- ◆ Playing with beach balls
- ◆ Getting creative and messy with our sensory art time

Goals:

→ Exercise Play Activities include

- ◆ Climbing, running, kicking and throwing a ball, using the parachute, water play

→ Developing Solitary Play skills Activities include

- ◆ Encouraging toddlers to experiment and use toys in new ways
 - Growing beyond the dump and run stage of play
- ◆ Allowing space for the toddlers to play by themselves and enjoy activities

Reminders:

- Please make sure your child has outdoor exploring shoes every day. Open toed sandals and shoes that slip off easily can be a problem for busy toddlers. Our playground surface gets very hot and bare or stocking feet get toasty quick. Open toes often lead to trips and stubbed toes.

Wishlist:

- Ocean animals for our theme play bucket (must be approved for under 2 years of age)
- Ocean or beach themed stickers or room decorations
- Medium to large seashells for toddlers to explore

Birthdays:

Lucy turns 2 on August 1st

Thank You:

Easton's family for the great 4th of July parade gear. It made our parade super special.
Miss Carla for all of the beach balls for August beach theme activities



These toddlers have skipped right over solitary play and gone to parallel play.



Preschool:



Highlights:

- August themes: Jungle, zoo, pets, dinosaurs
- End of summer fun week (**More info to come**).
- Silent Auction and Party on Pavement!

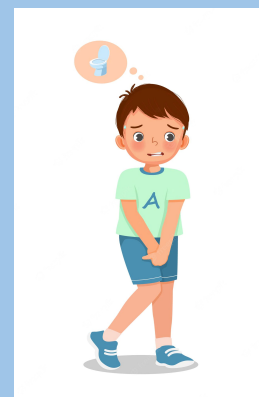
Goals:

Some of our group goals include:

- Shares without prompting
- Practices zipping, buttoning, and fastening
- Can stay in an activity for 5-10 minutes (increasing attention) ***on going***
- Kindness ***on going***

Reminders:

- *****Please take your child potty before dropping them off- especially before 7:45 when there is only one teacher in the room.*****
- Limit the amount of items put in cubbies; we have lots of friends and a limited amount of cubbies so many of us are sharing and running out of space!
- Please check your child's extra clothes bin to be sure there are weather appropriate clothes inside!



Wishlist:

- Black retractable pens

Thank You:

Ms. Carla for treasure box toys!

Birthdays:

Adelynn- August 1st, Graham- August 20,
Evelyn- August 31



4K School Age:

Highlights:

→ August Themes:

- ◆ Ocean
- ◆ Beaches
- ◆ Islands
- ◆ Volcanoes
- ◆ Pirates

→ We learned all about Sports and Disney last month!

Favorite Activities:

- Making Elephant Toothpaste!
- Bingo Dabbing Sports Jerseys!
- Making Mickey Mouse!
- Learning about sports with Coach Erich!
- Learning all about The House on the Rock and that we should build our foundation on God, just like we should build a house on a rock instead of sand!

Goals:

- Using kind words and touches with our friends and teachers!
- Using good table manners at meal times!
- Following classroom rules!
- Treating each other and our classroom with respect!

Reminders:

- Please make sure YOU (not your child) are signing your child in every day! This is a licensing requirement!
- Please check your child's extra clothes bin for size and weather appropriate clothing!

We go outside everyday (weather permitting)! Please make sure that your child brings a water bottle so that they can stay hydrated while both inside and outdoors!

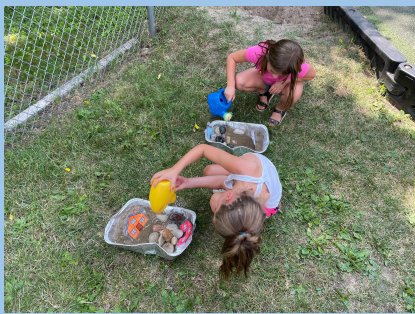
- If you haven't already, please make sure that your child has sunscreen and a form on file!
- Please make sure your child has shoes that have a back for playing on the playground!

Wishlist:

- Batteries (AA or AAA)
- Frog brand painter's tape
- Newspaper
- Brown Paper Grocery Bags
- Markers
- Prizes for our Prize Basket
- Metal Forks and Spoons
- Clorox Wipes

Birthdays:

Amelia will be 8 on August 9th!
Kylie will be 9 on August 9th!
Ellie will be 5 on August 1st!



Ms. Terri is celebrating on August 25th!
Ms. Amanda is celebrating on August 28th!

Parent Page:

Below is an excerpt from an article about the correlation between screen time and child development. The entire research study can be read by clicking the link at the bottom of this page. The article is a bit long but very interesting. It does discuss good ways to share screen time with your children as well.

Effects of Excessive Screen Time on Child Development: An Updated Review and Strategies for Management

Muppalla S, Vuppalapati S, Reddy Pulliahgaru A, et al. (June 18, 2023) Effects of Excessive Screen Time on Child Development: An Updated Review and Strategies for Management. Cureus 15(6): e40608. doi:10.7759/cureus.40608

Screen media use may have both beneficial and detrimental effects on a kid's cognitive results. Media devices with screens have the potential to improve education and learning [2]. For instance, research has suggested that electronic books and learning-to-read applications may improve young children's early reading skills and creative thinking capacities [2,4,5]. However, studies have also demonstrated the negative effects of screen media use on a number of cognitive areas such as executive functioning, sensorimotor development, and academic outcomes [2,6]. Media multitasking was found to have a negative impact on executive functioning in teenagers, notably on working memory, inhibition, and the capacity to switch between tasks [2,7].

The Quebec Longitudinal Study of Child Development cohort study found a long-lasting connection between early screen media exposure and cognitive abilities, with each one-hour increase in TV exposure at two years of age corresponding to a 7% unit decrease in participation in class and a 6% unit decrease in math proficiency in the fourth grade [8]. A Spanish research study discovered a negative correlation between the use of screen media and academic achievement, indicating that increased screen time was associated with lower academic performance. Similarly, a study conducted in the United States found a significant link between higher levels of media multitasking and lower scores on standardized tests measuring academic performance in mathematics and English [9].

However, adverse executive and academic outcomes may be confounded by the poorer attention and focus from multitasking behaviors rather than solely from screen media overuse, and more research is necessary to tease out this relationship. Language development has received the majority of emphasis in studies on screen usage and cognitive development in young children, whereas other cognitive development domains including executive skills have received less attention [10]. Thus, there are significant, albeit indirect, effects of screen media use on cognitive development in children [2].

Effects of Excessive Screen Time continued