

Welcome Spring!

From: Meredith Florkey, Director of Curriculum
& Stacey Yarger, Director of Admissions

Welcome back from Spring break! Have you noticed the bulbs each student planted last fall are peeping through the soil in front of our school? In this newsletter please read about our Spring Field Trips, the Family Fun Open House and our Where Are They Now article on page 2 featuring our very own current First School parent, Michelle Gelpke! The school year may be winding down, but we are as busy as ever at First School.



Spring Field Trips

Your class will be going on a field trip to Possum Creek Farm this month. Please note that it is a working farm and you and your child should dress for the weather and it may be muddy or dusty. Your teacher will be sending home a slip of paper asking for your attendance plans. Please return this slip asap so that we have an accurate head count. Class will not be held at the school the day of your field trip. You, or another family member/adult, will drive your child to the farm and then take them home after your field trip is over. Directions will be included on your slip that goes home. The farm is so fun in the spring – will there be any baby animals?

FAMILY FUN OPEN HOUSE

We look forward to our second annual Spring Open House on April 16th at 10:00 a.m.! This is a free event open to our families AND their friends with small children! First School does this as a thank you for spending your pre-school years with us as well as giving us an opportunity to showcase our school to prospective families. This year we will have **Dorie and the Daddy-O's** rocking our pre-school set with a free concert. There will also be crafts, face painting, and to wrap it all up we'll have a birthday cake for First School's 40th Birthday! We can't wait to see you there!

**FYI! SPIRIT WEAR Days are April
14 and 15!**

GARDEN CORNER: Enjoy our beautiful spring bulbs! While waiting in line, ask your child if he remembers planting his bulb last year and where. Thank you to Mrs. Verma who took time out of her day to help Mrs. Florkey weed and rake leaves in the front garden. The garlic we planted last fall is sprouting in our PIZZA GARDN! With hard work and a little luck, we will be able to make pizza in the fall. There will be a garden clean up event on Friday, April 15th at 11:30 if you are interested in helping. I'll have tools, just bring some gloves. Kids are welcome and you may bring a lunch for them. Rain date is April 22.

Dates to Remember:

- **POSSUM CREEK**
April 13, 14, 15, 19, 26
- **Family Fun Day**
Sat., April 16
- **Happy Birthday Mrs. Florkey, Shaw and Weed**
April 10, 19, 21
- **Egg Factory**
April 21, 22

SPRING CLEANING

We are in need of the following:

- empty and clean two liter bottle
- buttons
- film canisters
- gently treated toy collections (wooden trains, matchbox cars, Imaginext play sets, etc.) Contact Mrs. Florkey at 433-3455 ext. 2 if you have any questions.

LUNCH BUNCH CRUNCH: This month we will be doing an author study of **Eric Carle**. What is an author study? Not only will we read and look at illustrations in many different Eric Carle books, we will use some higher order analytic skills (yes, your kids...) to compare, contrast, critique, and create our own Eric Carle style book. What fun!

2011-2012 Enrollment News

Thank you to everyone for getting their re-enrollment forms in before March 31 for the early bird tuition price. We are shaping up to have an exceptional year with high enrollment numbers. Please look for a referral form soon that will give you a discount on your first month's tuition if you refer a family who chooses to enroll. You are our best advertisers! Thank you!

Please continue reading on page 2

Where Are They Now?

As part of our fortieth year celebration, we will spotlight a former student to see the progress he or she has made since attending First School.

Our featured student is MICHELLE GELPKE. But when Michelle was a student here at First School back in 1977 she was known as MICHELLE MALESKE. After her pre-K through 12 school years Michelle attended Wright State University where she graduated with a BS in Public Administration & Management with an Accounting Minor. She is currently working for Norman Spencer Agency Inc. as a Customer Service Rep. She is married to husband, Rob Gelpke and they



Michelle Then...



Michelle Now!

have two boys, Brennan, age 5 (and former First School Attendee) and Aiden, age 3 who is a current student in Mrs. Shaw's MWF class.

When asked what her favorite memory of First School was Michelle answered that she loved her teacher Michelle...(but couldn't remember her last name. That was a long time ago!) She also loved Circle Time and of course, The Fun Room!

Thank you Mrs. Gelpke for sharing some of your memories with us. We love having former students who are now First School parents!

THE EGG FACTORY

Soon we will have the egg factory return to the Fun Room! You will receive a note requesting that you send in two **hard boiled** eggs on April 21 & 22. On that day your child will be decorating the eggs and will bring them home (not for consumption). Be on the look out — this is a favorite day for the kids and Mrs. Zembower. We also welcome parent volunteers!



Noteworthy

Director's Blog:

- Check out this new feature on our website (www.firstschooldayton.com). Meredith Florkey now has a blog about important issues related to Early Childhood Education that affect your child.

Welcome New Families!

- Please welcome the Trout family to our school

Absence?

- Please call the office and let us know if your child will be absent.

Box Tops For Education

- * Please keep sending in those Box Tops!

FORMS

Please help us keep our files up to date. Stacey Yarger may be contacting you to update a medical form for your child. It is important that we have the current medical information on file; not only in case of emergency, but also we are required to have current information on file when we are audited by the state. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe school for your child.

SUMMER CAMP 2011

Summer Camp enrollment opens to our current families on April 11th—our First day back after Spring Break. These camps are intended for those students who are three and four years of age. If you are interested in these camps for a child who will be entering Kindergarten, we will create a waiting list and notify you if we are able to accommodate you. Enrollment for non First School families opens on April 25. The cost of the week long camps is only \$100.00 per session. HURRY — these camps fill up quickly!

FIRST SCHOOL DAY AT THE DAYTON DRAGONS

Join your First School Friends at Fifth Third Field on SUNDAY MAY 22nd at 2 p.m. for a wonderful afternoon of family fun and baseball. First School is sponsoring this day in part. Please send in your ticket reservation forms by April 27th. Flyer attached.