

WELCOME!

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

Welcome to our new and returning families. Please help us welcome 56 new families to our school! This is going to be a great year with many exciting happenings. Read on to find out some of the things we have in store for you.

PARENTS' ONLY NIGHT

Parents Only Night is a night to meet with your child's teacher and learn about our curriculum, ask questions, sign up to help in the classroom, and meet other parents. *Child-care is not available.*

WELCOME MRS. KISH

Please welcome Melanie Kish to our school. She will be teaching the MWF AM 3's class and substituting as a teacher's aide from time to time. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and we are lucky to have her! Good Luck, Mrs. Kish!

GARDEN INFO

Last Spring, Mrs. Merrill wrote a grant to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and won funding to create the First School Birds & Butterflies Garden. This brand new space beautifies our shed area in the southwest corner of our property. It is full of areas for the children to observe, dig and interact with nature. We are still looking for signs of bats in the nearby bat house she installed last year!

We will be working out in the garden each week this fall. Some classes will be harvesting the garden we planted last November and carrots we planted in the spring. We will also be planting a fall harvest garden. If we are careful and protect it from the frost we may be able to harvest a salad for our Thanksgiving Feast! We are also hoping to plant another round of spring bulbs this November. If you are interested in helping the teachers and children in the gardens, please contact your child's teacher to be added to the email list. We will need help with a fall lean up soon!

ESL CLASSES

This year we are able to offer English as a Second Language class to our students who are learning English. Mrs. Florkey, with a Master's Degree in TESOL, will lead the students to a greater understanding of English through repetition, longer wait time, and targeting of specific needed areas. Teachers will be in communication in order to customize a curriculum for each child. Please contact Mrs. Florkey if you would like to join. Classes take place during the LUNCH BUNCH period.

LUNCH BUNCH

We are pleased to welcome all of our Lunch Bunch friends this year! In Lunch Bunch we start at 11:15 with a little down time. We eat our lunches with our friends and discuss our mornings. We will enjoy additional fun room time and ESL or Spanish instruction, if selected. Each month will bring a new theme for exploration. For example, September's theme will be the First School Learning Garden. We will read literature, explore the gardens, create art projects, plant fall vegetables, and harvest our spring vegetables. While weather allows we will also play outdoor games and enjoy the playgrounds. Please remember that the pick up time for Lunch Bunch this year is 12:45. We have a no peanut policy. This means no peanut butter, almond butter, Nutella, etc. Sun butter (made of sunflower seeds) is acceptable. We look forward to a good year! Some other themes to look forward to are: Nursery Rhymes, Fairy Tales, and Kitchen Science. If you are interested in adding Lunch Bunch or Spanish please contact Stacey Yarger at 433-3455 ex)1. There are a few spots left!

Lingua Academy

We are pleased to announce a partnership with *Lingua Academy* to bring Spanish instruction to our 3 and 4 year olds as well as our full day Kindergartners. Senora Ana comes to us from Mexico where she was a Kindergarten teacher. She brings a natural enthusiasm for learning and will get the children excited to explore communicating in a new language. Spanish instruction will begin September 6th and will be billed monthly. If you are interested in adding we can accommodate you at the beginning of each month.

Please contact Stacey Yarger at 433-3455 ex)1 to add in October.

Dates to Remember:

- SEPT. 5—NO School
- SEPT. 6 Lunch Bunch Starts
- SEPT 13—Mrs. Florkey's Parents Only Night 7—8 p.m.
- SEPT 14—MWF and Kindergarten Parents Only Night 7—8 p.m.
- SEPT 15—T/TH and Mrs. Kershner's Parents Only Night 7—8 p.m.
- Week of SEPT 19—School Pictures

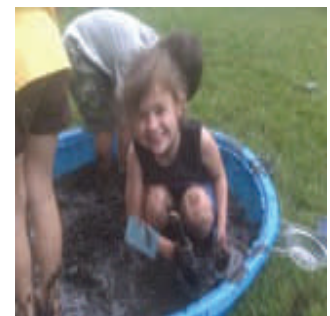
FORMATION OF PARENTS GROUP

In the past, parents have gotten together for informal social gatherings after dropping off the kids at school. They have met at the Panera Bread in Centerville to discuss issues related to child-rearing and education. Please contact Stacey Yarger if you would like to meet other First School parents at similar gatherings.

SPIRIT WEAR

There are 3 Tie-Dye T-Shirts available in size Youth Small and 2 navy blue T-Shirts in size 3T available in the office.

SUMMER CAMP FUN!!!



Elle Terry enjoys a "mud bath" at Earth Camp!