

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER



17TH ANNUAL VGNS DANCE

Tuesday, May 21st
6:30 to 8:00

It is once again time to begin planning our end of the year dance. This is a wonderful event that offers families a time to get together and socialize. The dance is organized by the parents. There will be sign-ups for decoration and refreshment committees. An email with details will be sent home in April.



We would like to thank all of the families who participated in our **Kid City Family Night Fundraiser**. Kid City opened their doors to us for free so all money raised benefits VGNS. This was also a great opportunity for families to spend time together outside of VGNS and many expressed enthusiasm throughout the evening, hoping we will continue to offer this event again in the future. We would like to offer a special thank you to Matt Niland, Mrs. Niland's husband, for putting in extra hours after a long day so that we could hold this event.

LITERACY KITS

Winter is a great time to sign out one of our Literacy Kits, located in the school office. Parents are invited to visit the library *any time* during school hours. When returning kits, please place them in the marked basket, also in the office. Each kit needs to be inspected for repairs before it can be placed back on the shelf for another family to sign it out.



OH WHERE
OH WHERE
DID THOSE
PESKY GERMS
GO?



You never know!

Please continue to work with your child to cover coughs/sneezes, use tissues, and wash hands often.

Open-Door Policy

At VGNS, we encourage parents to come and visit in the classroom whenever they are able. Parents are welcome to read a favorite story, share a hobby, do an activity, or just visit the classroom. If you are interested in visiting please talk with your child's teacher to set up a time. The kids love it!

A HUGE Thank You to Plantsville Community Nursery School!

We were sad when we heard the news last year that the longest running nursery school in town was closing their doors. We were lucky enough to buy many wonderful materials for our new classroom AND gain an extraordinary teacher, Mrs. Girardin, who taught there for 20 years! Right before our holiday break, the past two former directors from PCNS presented VGNS with a check for nearly \$600! The money that remained in their account was gifted to our school. We are incredibly thankful for their thoughtfulness and generosity. The school is still thinking how to best use the donation.

Bluebird 4's Class

Eric Carle Study: Special Activity

Beginning March 6th we will be doing a unit about the author Eric Carle. The children will experience first-hand how Eric Carle makes his illustrations by going through the process themselves, from mixing colors, to making patterned paper, to the final product. To kick-off our unit we would like the children to make a special keepsake T-shirt on

Wednesday, March 6th. *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*

This project will involve each child putting their thumbprint on a t-shirt for each child in their class to form a caterpillar.

Look for the email with more details.



Bluebird 4's to Visit Bread for Life

Chaperones are welcome to join us when we walk down to Bread for Life, a local group that helps those in need. Our visit is scheduled for March 29. See the attached permission slip for more details.



Critter Caravan

On Friday, March 15th the children will be entertained by some furry, prickly, scaly critters. This program will provide a hand's on presentation of small animals for the children to touch, hold and learn interesting facts. This program is made possible with funds raised during the year.

BOOK SKILLS

Recently the children participated in group activities that involved each child holding their own book to follow along with the teacher as a story was read. We noted that a few children had difficulty turning one page at a time ~ this is not uncommon. As adults we do it without even thinking but for a child it is a learned skill. We encourage you to not only model book handling but also put the book in your child's hands when reading to them.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Developing fine motor skills is an important part of early childhood education. These skills are utilized in kindergarten through writing, cutting, artwork and other projects. When a child lacks muscle strength or coordination to do these activities, they struggle to complete everyday tasks in a kindergarten classroom.

We are offering suggestions for finger strengthening and coordination along with a few additional ideas:

Ideas for building finger muscles/coordination:

- Lots of play dough play!
- Use clothespins to close snack/cereal bags at home and have your child open/close, squeezing the clothespin.
- Open jar lids... use tongs to pick-up food.
- Offer a variety of small balls that are squishy.
- Fingerplays (poems/songs that require finger movement)
- Spray bottles~ great in the tub or to help water plants
- Tearing paper (for a collage)
- Art projects that involve scissors
- Crayons are better than marker~ require more muscle work
- Board games that require children to maneuver game pieces
- Bead stringing
- Construction with Legos or other similar toys that snap together

Thank You

to everyone who contributed Valentine treats for our Grandfriends. They were very excited to see all of the goodies and immediately started looking at the cards that the children made. Our grandfriends are looking forward to our April visit.