

The BUMP Bulletin

February 2022



Dates to Remember:
2/14-Happy Valentine's Day
2/18- NO SCHOOL
(Professional Dev. Day)
2/21- NO SCHOOL
(Presidents; Day)



Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day will soon be here! Each classroom will celebrate the day a little differently. Please check with your child's teacher to see what their special plans are. We do ask that if you are planning to send in valentines for your child to pass out, please do not address the valentines to specific children, but rather just have your child sign their name (if they are able!). The teachers typically line up a valentine's bag or box for each child and all the children can then "mail" their valentines right down the line. Trying to match up a specific bag/ box to a specific valentine really slows down and frustrates some children. Please make sure if you are sending in a candy valentine that it does not contain any food allergens that are present in the class.

Spring Fundraiser

If you were here last year, you may recall the Stoller Butter Braid/Mrs. Field's Cookie Dough fundraiser that we did. We had such a positive response to it, that we are bringing back the butter braids and cookie dough just in time for Easter Brunch. We will send home information soon. While there are no expectations for your child to sell, we hope you enjoyed the product and will want to order. Butter Braids are made locally and Stoller is an Ohio company. They are shipped to us frozen/refrigerated and you just have to place, bake, and enjoy! Our sale will kick off on February 15th and run until March 8th.

Chick Hatching has returned!

Our spring special, chick hatching, kicked off with an educational presentation from Farmer Krista who taught us all how to be chicken farmers and left us with an incubator and 7 eggs to watch and learn about. Each class can visit the incubator during the day and observe if anything has changed and predict what might happen next. We expect the eggs to begin the hatching process sometime around February 15/16. We do let the children know that not all of the eggs may hatch. After hatching, we are able to care for the chicks for the next week and watch them grow! The chicks will return to the farm on February 23rd. Children will have the opportunity to hold a chick if they would like and learn all about feeding them and caring for their pen. This special event is brought to us by Bring the Farm to You. We will post pictures to the parent Facebook page to keep everyone updated!

Purposeful Play and Kindergarten Readiness

It's that time of year – registration for the upcoming school year has begun. Many current families are deciding about whether to send their child to kindergarten. The biggest question on everyone's mind is "Are they ready?" Ready for preschool or ready for kindergarten – two sides of the same difficult "coin" for parents amidst a pandemic. This has led to a lot of discussion between teachers, administrators, and parents as to what "ready" looks like.

BUMP is really a play with purpose preschool. While we learn through play and that play is open ended, it does have an educational goal. Our program is not "less" academic, we just work our academics into our play and make it relevant to what's happening during play. Some examples would be writing a menu for the restaurant in dramatic play, guessing how many blocks it takes to match a friend's height, then constructing that and counting them (this often leads to measuring more items), mixing colors while painting and experimenting with different blends, making up rhymes to a silly song and looking for more words to rhyme or sounds to match.

Those are some examples of how we work academics into our play, but readiness also involves social skills as well. Self-regulation, the ability to recognize and manage your emotions, is a very important skill that children work on during their preschool years that lays an important foundation for kindergarten. Being able to handle frustration, disappointment, excitement, and wait a turn are skills that children need to grow their emotional intelligence. We work on how to constructively negotiate conflict in everyday situations while in the classroom which will serve children as they go through life. Learning how to speak up, ask for help, listen to the ideas of one another, and carry on a conversation are social skills that many children need help developing.

We work on developing strong self-help skills and independence at preschool. Children going into kindergarten should be able to bathroom independently, put on their own coat, open their lunchbox and begin to eat without much assistance. When we talk about kindergarten readiness, we talk about the whole picture. Does a child need to know every single letter sound and write all upper- and lower-case letters to go to kindergarten or is it more important that a child is curious, excited to learn, has many self-help skills, and the confidence to try? Most kindergarten teachers would say the latter.

Ultimately, it is the parent's decision as to whether kindergarten is right for their child and the timing is right for their family. The following link can help as a guideline in assessing your child's readiness: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Kindergarten/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist>. Your child has many years of learning ahead of them and our goal is always to send a child off to kindergarten excited about their future. Our door is always open should you want to talk about your child and their transition to kindergarten.

Upcoming March Dates:

- March 3 NO SCHOOL (Spring P/T Conferences)
- March 4 NO SCHOOL (Teacher comp day)
- March 14-21 NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

