

**Newsletter Date:**  
March 1, 2018

St. Thomas More Preschool

Volume 14, Issue 7

**Upcoming Events:**



*Dr Seuss Day*  
*Lion & Monkey* 3/1

*Dr Seuss Day*  
*Giraffes, Elephants & Zebras* 3/2

*No School ~* 3/21-  
*Conferences* 3/23

*Theme Day ~* 3/27  
*Lions & Monkeys*

*Theme Day ~* 3/28  
*Giraffes, Elephants & Zebras*

*No School ~* 3/29-  
*Easter* 4/2

## *This month at Preschool...*

March is looking to be a very exciting month as we start off with dressing silly or as our favorite Dr Seuss characters or just wacky, silly, fun. We will spend some time preparing for parent/teacher conferences. We will be working and playing hard this month! :)

Our themes this month will focus on Rodeo and Easter. We will

spend time exploring opposites and practicing our rhyming and reviewing letters and numbers.

The words for our spring program are coming home with your child next week as well. The spring program will be early this year on April 27th. We have started working on those songs at preschool, so if you could listen to that CD again

at home that would be great!

As always, if you have any questions please let us know!

Teacher Meghan &  
Teacher Carrie



*Happy St Patrick's Day!*

### **Points of Interest:**

- March Birthdays
- Contact Information
- Theme Day Page
- Calendar

## *From the Director's Desk*

In order to encourage families to spend time reading aloud at home, this month we will have a little contest that will help you keep track of the number of books read. A form to help you track your books and a more detailed note came home this week!

At school we encourage reading and literacy throughout our day. We provide a quiet space for children to read and explore books through the use of the reading loft. We offer the listening center where children can listen to a story and look at the book, independently. We also interact with the class

during daily read alouds and encourage active participation with literacy through songs, finger plays and rhymes.

Literacy is integrated throughout our day. If you are looking for more ideas to try at home please let us know! ~Meghan

# 10 Reasons Why You Should Read to Your Kids

See full article at ~ <https://www.earlymoments.com/Promoting-Literacy-and-a-Love-of-Reading/Why-Reading-to-Children-is>



- **A stronger relationship with you.** As your child grows older, he'll be on the move—playing, running, and constantly exploring his environment. Snuggling up with a book lets the two of you slow down and recaptures that sweet, cuddly time you enjoyed when he was a baby. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together.
- **Academic excellence.** One of the primary benefits of reading to toddlers and preschoolers is a higher aptitude for learning in general. Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education. After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the math, science, and social concepts he'll be presented with when he begins elementary school?
- **Basic speech skills.** Throughout toddlerhood and preschool, your child is learning critical language and enunciation skills. By listening to you read *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, your child is reinforcing the basic sounds that form language. “Pretend reading”—when a toddler pages through a book with squeals and jabbers of delight—is a very important pre-literacy activity. As a preschooler, your child will likely begin sounding out words on his own.
- **The basics of how to read a book.** Children aren't born with an innate knowledge that text is read from left to right, or that the words on a page are separate from the images. Essential pre-reading skills like these are among the major benefits of early reading.
- **Better communication skills.** When you spend time reading to toddlers, they'll be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way. By witnessing the interactions between the characters in the books you read, as well as the contact with you during story time, your child is gaining valuable communication skills.
- **Mastery of language.** Early reading for toddlers has been linked to a better grasp of the fundamentals of language as they approach school age.
- **More logical thinking skills.** Another illustration of the importance of reading to children is their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic in various scenarios, recognize cause and effect, and utilize good judgment. As your toddler or preschooler begins to relate the scenarios in books to what's happening in his own world, he'll become more excited about the stories you share.
- **Acclamation to new experiences.** As your child approaches a major developmental milestone or a potentially stressful experience, sharing a relevant story is a great way to help ease the transition. For instance, if your little one is nervous about starting preschool, reading a story dealing with this topic shows her that her anxiety is normal.
- **Enhanced concentration and discipline.** Toddlers may initially squirm and become distracted during story time, but eventually they'll learn to stay put for the duration of the book. Along with reading comprehension comes a stronger self-discipline, longer attention span, and better memory retention, all of which will serve your child well when she enters school.
- **The knowledge that reading is fun!** Early reading for toddlers helps them view books as an indulgence, not a chore. Kids who are exposed to reading are much more likely to choose books over video games, television, and other forms of entertainment as they grow older.

Books have the power to benefit toddlers and preschoolers in a myriad of ways. As a parent, reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do to prepare him with a foundation for academic excellence.

**Contact us at:**

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# Happy Birthday



## March

2~ Cruise

12 ~ Dylan

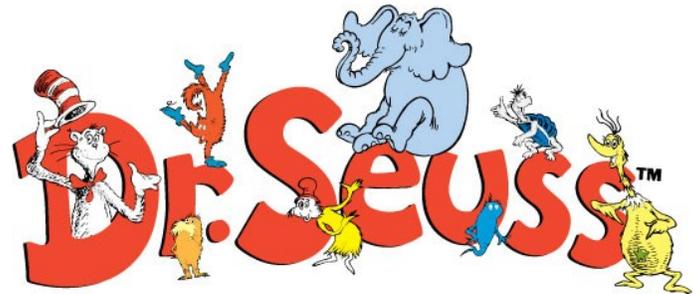
17 ~ Otto

18 ~ Jasper

## Home to School Connection

**READ! READ! READ!**

- Some suggested Dr. Seuss reading for preschoolers:
  - \*Dr. Seuss's ABC's
  - \*Rhyming and Repetition
    - ~There's a Wocket in My Pocket
    - ~Green Eggs and Ham
- Pick books that meet your child's interests and attention span.
- Allow children to choose books they would like to read.
- Engage your child with questions, turning pages, etc!
- Have fun!!



We would LOVE to have some parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or older siblings come in this week or next week to read a Dr Seuss book (or another book) to their child's class. If you are interested, please sign up on form on top of lockers.

We have many Dr Seuss books available at preschool, so if you want to use one of ours that would be fine!

Let's share our love of reading with these growing young minds!