

February News 2015

Crafton Heights Community Preschool 412-921-6153

Dates to Remember

- MATH IQ Feb 10
3:40-4:30pm @Propel
- NO SCHOOL Feb 16
President's Day!
- Hoagie Orders
Due Feb 18
- Hoagie Pick up
Tuesday Feb 24
- March 3rd Math IQ3:40
-4:30pm @Propel
- March 10 6:00pm
Family Night

Ocean Exploration

The children were so engaged with learning about the vast oceans that cover our planet and the creatures that live in them. They were amazed with the sizes and different shapes of the seashells, the variety of fish, the size of the giant octopus and great white shark and just how huge a blue whale is! They learned a lot using our cardboard bricks to measure the length of the various creatures we had marked on the floor. The blue whale is so large we had to use children to measure its

length- 22 kids long!

The sink or float experiment was another great learning opportunity. We learned that just because something is big doesn't mean it will sink. And something small like a pompom cannot float.

January was all about numbers also. Counting, measuring, writing, learning patterns and visual recognition were some of the ways we introduced and taught numbers. Pre-k is learning to write 1-10, PS 1-5.



Our completed Ocean mural, filled with yellow tangs, mackerels, clown fish, coral, sea anemones, sea urchins and feather dusters and sting rays.



Children's Classics

Do you remember Corduroy? Goldilocks? or the nursery rhymes "Hickory, dickory dock" or "Wee Willy Winkie"? In February we will tell the stories and nursery rhymes of some classics that every child should know as they learn & grow. The rhythmic chants, flowing texts and intriguing stories will be incorporated into our lessons.



"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."



"Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man"
This is one of the stories we will read in February.

WQED MATH IQ

Building math skills, building friendships, building community is what is happening with our partnership. Children are learning math skills in a fun, safe environment along with their mentors: students at Montour Propel, teachers, Mrs. Mack and Math IQ coordinators- Cathy Cook & Gina Masciola. Parents are part of a Pitt research study/survey. During one of the next two interventions WQED will be filming our sessions to be part of their educational outreach training. At the end of the school year a MATH IQ community event will be held celebrating this new

program. The event will include both schools, participating families, community partners and school leaders. If you would like to be part of the planning committee for this event—please talk to Mrs. Mack.



February 10 is the next Math IQ at Montour Propel. The March date has been changed to March 3rd at Propel.



5 Reasons Why You Should Read to Your Kids

Below are some benefits that highlight the importance of reading to your child between the ages of two and five.

1. **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.
2. **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?
3. **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 jabbars of delight—is a very important pre-literacy activity. As a preschooler, your child will likely begin sounding out words on his own.
4. **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.
5. **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.

Excerpts taken from <https://www.earlymoments.com>

Important Information & Dates



February Birthdays

Logan D– Feb 2

Maggie– Feb 9



We will have a small Valentine celebration on Feb 11

MATH IQ
@ Montour Propel
3:40-4:30pm

February 10

March 3rd

WQED / Pitt
Parent Surveys will be conducted on Tuesday February 10 from 9-12. Please plan on meeting with your interviewer and receive your WQED goody bag. (Math IQ parents only)

NO SCHOOL
February 16th
President's Day

Please bring in snack items by February 9th
(bring in Fruit on day listed)

Hoagie Orders & Book Orders
Due Feb 18

SAVE THE DATE!
FAMILY NIGHT
MARCH 10TH 6:00PM
This event is for the whole family, siblings & grandparents. Enjoy an evening at pre-school. We will have dinosaur themed activities. Light refreshments will be provided.



Friends making pizzas for snack, choices of cheese, cheese & sauce or cheese & pepperoni was enjoyed by all the friends.

Pre-K was working on an octopus with 1-8 dots on each tentacle.



The ps group cut and painted their octopus with the color of their own choosing.

Looking at the items— which ones will sink or float?

Learning about clean water and polluted water– The children colored a picture of a clean ocean, then had a painted overlay representing pollution in the water.



We used children and blocks to measure the Blue Whale, great white shark, giant octopus, dolphin & mackerel.

After the water evaporated only crystals were left on the paper from the salt water painting we made the day before.





The children had gym with their groups this week— After warm up stretches we danced to music with scarves. We used the parachute to slowly make rolling waves, next we jumped fast, then we held it as high as we could. We took turns running under as it was held up high. After that we wiggled the parachute as fast as we could to get all the pompoms off. We ended our gym time with an ocean obstacle course. The children hopped from lily pad to lily pad and crossed a balance beam to make it to the end of the course.

