



# "Oh the Places You'll Go!"

Volume 8, Issue 3 March 2016 *The Butterfly Buzz*

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss

TCPlace will be **CLOSED** on **Friday March, 10th** for Staff Development Day. The staff will be renewing CPR & First Aid training, as well as completing new trainings, and spring cleaning the classrooms. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to make TCPlace the best place to be!

## NAEYC FAMILY SURVEY

In January we distributed, collected and analyzed NAEYC Family Surveys. Thank you to all who took the time to complete a survey. These surveys align with NAEYC criteria on teaching, assessments and relationships between TCP staff, children and families and identify areas where we can improve the services we provide in these areas. To yield valid results, we needed at least 50% participation from all the families enrolled at TCP and because of your support in completing them, we had a 56% completion rate. **The full results of the survey are published in a chart and available for anyone to review, located on the bulletin board outside the office.**

To summarize the results, it is safe to say that our largest area for improvement is communication. Our management team needs to improve communication to parents about events and procedures including child assessments, teacher placements, schedules, and staffing changes, as well as why/how we conduct these annual surveys and consequently, how we share and act upon the results. Our teaching staff needs to improve communication with families with respect to their child's overall progress and development, on both a frequent, informal basis (face to face anecdotes during pick up/ drop off times) and formally during planned, bi-annual parent teacher conferences. All of our staff – management and teaching staff alike – needs to improve communication amongst ourselves in discussing children's and families' individual needs and transitions.

This year's Family Survey results have inspired deep conversations and brainstorm sessions for how we can improve in these areas. First, this newsletter is a tool that can communicate on a broad basis. We commit to improving the topics and details so that parents can stay connected to both classroom and center happenings. Second, we are working to change the way that we communicate with individual families about your child's day at TCP. Stay tuned for exciting updates in this area! And third, we want to reiterate that our door is always open to parents and families to come talk about your child and how we can better help him or her grow. Please know that you can call, email or drop in with questions, concerns and celebrations any time!

## Join the PAC Parent Advisory Counsel

The PAC is a group of parents who are committed to helping offer input and make decisions at The Children's Place at New Liberty UMC. The PAC is just starting up again after being dormant for the last few years and is welcoming new parent members. We met in February and discussed some exciting new changes to address the areas of improvement that surfaced as a result of the NAEYC Family Surveys (outlined in the article above). We also discussed which fundraising options are most effective for us and least painful for the parents and decided on four direct appeal letters for donations per year... and maybe a few other fun ones sprinkled in as well.

**If you are interested in serving on the PAC and offering your input on topics like these and others, please attend the next meeting on Tuesday April 18th at 6:30pm.**

## Donate to HiMama— A New Digital Communication System

HiMama is an app-based digital communication system that would replace the daily sheets that are used in our Babies, Wobbly Walkers and Toddlers classrooms and streamline children's developmental profiles, anecdotal noting and assessments into one program. Take a tour of how the program can improve documenting, reporting and communicating with parents: <https://www.himama.com/parent-portal-tour>  
The cost of this online program is something that we did not budget for in this fiscal year's planning so a special fundraising campaign will help fund the cost to get started. Please let either Cathryn or Molly know if you have not received the fundraising letter appealing for donations toward moving to HiMama. The cost for the first year of the online service is \$1810. We know this system will help bridge many gaps in communication... please donate if you are able.

## Babbling With the Babies

The Babies are loving having a smaller class lately and all the one-on-one attention that each of them is able to soak up. McCall is busy busy lately, army crawling and playing pat-a-cake! Olivia loves having a better view of the world now that she’s sitting up well on her own. She can keep a close eye on exactly where Ms. Gail is at all times! Jackson is working on his upper body and trunk strength by practicing sitting up in the new baby seat. All of

the babies are enjoying Ms. Gina’s homemade baby foods – McCall is even starting on some table foods. She loves the pasta! We are proud to see Franklin doing so well as he transitions to Wobblies this month. He is cruising all around that bigger classroom and we know he’ll be walking on his own soon.

Thank you for your prayers for baby Logan throughout the month of February. Logan was admitted to Eggleston Hospital in late Feb-

ruary with what turned out to be an obstructed bowel. After a series of tests and several scary days, Logan’s doctors performed surgery and his little fighter spirit has taken him to a full recovery. He and Ms Kassie are back home now as of March 5<sup>th</sup>. Logan and Kassie are going to take some time off from TCP allowing them to spend time together while he builds back up his strength.

~Our Babies Teachers are:  
Ms. Jackie (8:30-2:30)  
Ms. Gail (alternating 8-5 or 2:30-6:30)  
Ms. Grace (alternating 8-5 or 2:30-6:30)  
Ms. Sahar (6:30-8:30)



Breakfast time for Jackson

## What’s Up with the Wobbly Walkers?

As always, the Wobblies are on the move. So much physical development is happening in this classroom! It is evident when you watch James David masterfully climb the sunshine mountain on the playground to slide down or Ellie push her chair around the dining room after breakfast. Mason and Kohen have mastered so many large motor skills that they’ve begun working on smaller muscle groups. They’ve invented a game of pushing the pipe builders through the small opening of the chair handles. They laugh and laugh at

this new game, which is actually strengthening their small motor muscles in their hands and improving hand-eye coordination and problem solving skills like cause and effect.

In February, the Wobblies were excited to welcome a new friend, Chael to the class and wish Gerald good luck as he moves to the Toddler classroom. McKenna and Franklin have recently joined the Wobbly class as well as they transitioned from the Babies. Looking forward to March, the Wobblies will explore the themes of Dr. Seuss, the colors of the rainbow,

the color GREEN (during the week of St. Patrick’s Day, of course), music, and finally spring weather. They will be creating some super cute new artwork to decorate the refrigerator and reinforce the concepts they’re learning in a touchable, tasteable, Wobbly-friendly, whole-body way.

~Our Wobbly Teachers are:  
Ms. Jenna (7-3)  
Ms. Heather (7:30-4:30)  
Ms. Sahar (8:30-12)  
Ms. Janna (1:30-6:30)  
Ms. Grace (PRN in afternoons)



Jaxson is ready for football practice.

## A Toot from the Toddlers

The Toddlers are like little leprechauns in training this month as they work on the life-long skill of self-control. Toddlers are working hard on regulating themselves as they practice going potty and using words to express themselves. These skills are so hard to learn but so important! And even though they are totally different skills, each is related to the other. Toddlers need communication skills to tell their parents and teachers when they need to use the potty and they must recognize the internal urge to go potty when it appears and

regulate it until they get to the restroom. So much for a little person to learn! At the same time, they are learning about the world around them too.

This month, they’ll learn about rainbows, leprechauns, shamrocks and the fun holiday: St. Patrick’s Day. Through these fun themes the toddlers will practice colors and how they appear in the rainbow, words like leprechauns, mischief and luck and they’ll enjoy a party including all things GREEN on St. Pat’s. There is a sign-up sheet for the party on the classroom door. After the green fun is

over, the Toddlers will begin a unit on transportation for two or three weeks. First they’ll explore cars, trucks, trains and all things that “GO” on the land. They’ll talk about how some of those things travel on roads while some need tracks to go. Next, they’ll learn about things that go in the water and in the air including boats, submarines, airplanes and hot air balloons.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to support what the children are learning in the classroom by using teachable moments in the car or wherever you are. If you spot a green car,



Ms Tanya and the Toddlers made oobleck ,a Dr. Seuss sensory experience!

say “Look at that green car driving on the road. Can you see a red car?” or “There is a rainbow in the sky! What colors can you see in the rainbow? Do you think there’s a mischievous leprechaun at the end of that rainbow?”

~Our Toddler Teachers are:  
Ms. Tanya (6:30-2:30)  
Ms. Sabrina (8-5)  
Ms. Estefany (9:30-6:30)

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## The Preschool Buzz

One of the Preschoolers' favorite things to say to each other is, "You're my friend" and five minutes later perhaps, "You're not my friend." During the preschool years, children move from parallel play, where they have friends but typically just play near their friends but not with their friends, to cooperative play. In the cooperative play stage children are learning that their friends have feelings and wishes just like they do. This early empathy allows children to engage in play together, adapting and changing their games to the different person-

alities that are playing it. They still focus on their own feelings and wishes primarily but cooperative play is a social dance that begins life-long relationship skills.

This month, the Preschool class will dive into spring themes that include rainbows, colors and color mixing, St. Patrick's Day and those naughty little leprechauns that spring up at the end of the rainbow. Be sure to ask your preschooler about the cool rainbow flower experiment they are doing. Later in the month, they'll begin learning about the world of transporta-

tion: cars, trucks and trains oh my! The transportation unit will span two weeks as they classify vehicles into two land and then air travel. Buckle your seat belts and away we go!

~Our Preschool Teachers are:  
Ms. Mackenzie (6:30-2:30)  
Ms. Danielle (8-5)  
Ms. Thelma (9:30-6:30)—floats between preschool & pre-k in the mornings to assist with circle times and small group lessons)

Don't forget to check your child's cubby for a season - appropriate change of clothes and to wash & return TCP spare clothes.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We would like to send big birthday wishes to:  
March 5: Adalyn K -5!  
March 8: Savy- 5!  
March 23: Tristan G-7!  
March 6: Ms Paula W!  
March 22: Ms Indria B!  
We hope you all have a wonderful birthday!



Brynley watches as Pastor Josh gives Allie ashes on Ash Wednesday.

## The Pre-K Chronicles

The year before a child enters kindergarten is a critical year. 4 year old brains are so ripe for learning and interacting that they act like sponges soaking up information. The typical 4 year old has a vocabulary repertoire of approximately 1,500 - 1,600 words that expands to 2,200 words by the time they enter kindergarten. That is one of the largest expansion in early childhood! We should do all that we can to encourage that by reading a variety of books and being descriptive in our two-way conversations with our 4 year olds. We should summarize what they say, adding new words and descriptions of emotions to

add depth to their word well. Reading and talking together are just part of sharing this special time in a child's life while encouraging their academic development but play remains a vital part as well. Sometimes, we can become too concerned with preparing a child for the next phase in life that we forget to allow and encourage them to enjoy the current phase. Play is a child's most important work. They need to have several hours a day of uninterrupted play (real active play - not video game play) for ideal development.

This month in Pre-K, they will be exposed to a wide variety of new words - some

real and some nonsensical - as they study the works of Dr. Seuss. The first week of Dr. Seuss reading was tons of fun dressing up to match the books they read each day. The second week will continue this theme and introduce word and literary concepts like rhyming and onomatopoeia words (sound words like "crash, bang, boom!"). Playing word games that include rhyming and onomatopoeia words is both fun and educational for them as they help build phonemic awareness or the concept that letters make sounds and that the sounds in different order make up words.

After a tongue-twisting good time with Dr. Seuss, the class will turn their focus toward the rainbow! Rainbows and lucky shamrocks and leprechauns and pots of gold all lead to one fun day... St. Patrick's Day! The Pre-K class will celebrate the day of all things green with special games and fun activities to do together. Be on the lookout for more details about that as the holiday gets closer.

~Our Pre-K Teachers are:  
Ms. Brooke (7-3)  
Ms. Karen (2:30-6:30)  
Ms. Thelma (assists during circle time and small group)



When Ash Wednesday is also crazy hair day. (Chloe and Adalyn)

## An Afternoon with After School

After a long day of structure and sitting at a desk in school, it is very important for our school agers to enjoy some unstructured play. Freedom within limits allows after schoolers to choose their leisure activities including the choice to lounge on the couch and do nothing. Last month the school agers said goodbye to

Ms Hailey who is pursuing a different career path. While we miss Ms Hailey, we are delighted to welcome Ms Anna to TCP family. Ms Anna graduated from Flowery Branch HS in 2014 with a desire to move to Orlando to be a Disney princess at Disney World. But when she became an aunt to twins - a niece

and a nephew, she knew being that far away from family wasn't what she wanted. She is enrolled in Early Childhood at West Georgia University and excited to be working with children! Please be sure to extend a warm welcome to her when you see her!

Looking ahead, our spring break and

summer camp planning is under way. We'll be asking the kids for their input on the fun things that they'd like to do including field trips, cooking projects and more.

~Our Afterschool Teachers are:  
Ms. Indria  
Ms. Anna



# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Wear <b>RED</b> and <b>BLUE!</b> Read: 1 Fish, 2 Fish, Red Fish,...</p>	<p><b>Silly Socks Day!</b> Read: Fox in Socks</p> 	<p><b>Wacky Hair Day!</b> Read: Wacky Wednesday</p>	<p><b>Hat Day!</b> Read: The Cat in the Hat</p> 	<p>3 Wear your pj's and have green eggs and 'turkey' for lunch!</p>	<p>4 </p>
<p>5 Happy Birthday Adalyn K.!</p>	<p>6 FairyDust Consignment Sale</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Happy Birthday Savi! NLUUMC Easter Cantata practice 6:30pm</p>	<p>9 Playball</p>	<p>10 TCP <b>CLOSED</b> Staff Development Day</p>	<p>11 Pastor Josh &amp; Mercy's wedding day!</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13 No school for Jackson Co.</p>	<p>14 Happy Birthday Katelynn! eLit with the StoryLady</p>	<p>15 NLUUMC Easter Cantata practice 6:30pm</p>	<p>16 Playball</p>	<p>17 Wear Green to school! </p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Happy Birthday Ms. Indria! NLUUMC Easter Cantata practice 6:30pm</p>	<p>23 Happy Birthday Tristin G! Playball</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 New Liberty Work Day. 10-2 Come help us refresh the playground and church campus!</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>For the first time in many years, our baby room has some openings for new enrollees. All the babies on the waiting list have aged out of the baby room and are now waiting for a spot in the Wobbly room! If you know of any new mummies looking for the very best care for their baby, please send them our way. To thank you, we'll apply a \$100 referral credit to your tuition after their first month.</p>		<p>29 NLUUMC Easter Cantata practice 6:30pm</p>	<p>30 Playball</p>	<p>31</p>	