

CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER

Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

PTO SCHOOL PICNIC - Saturday, April 24 at 11:00am on the school playground. See you there!

PTO OFFICERS 2010-2011 The final PTO meeting for this school year will be on May 11 at 6:00pm. At this meeting we will accept nominations and vote on new officers. We need parents and staff members to volunteer for next year. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please mail Eddie Conners at econners@msn.com

TRIKE-A-THON FOR ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL

Not too many children have signed up for this fund-raiser for St. Jude's. You can still participate – send forms and donations tomorrow!!!

JUNIOR ELEMENTARY CLASS The Juniors planted Impatiens on Monday in celebration of Earth Day. We thank David Dixon for taking our Soup Committee shopping. Our Soup Committee for April is Sam, Alexa and Karina. They will prepare a hot-dog lunch for the Juniors on Thursday. We have been rehearsing for our Play and the Juniors will bring their script home on Friday to learn their lines. Please send it back to school on Monday. **Science Fair** - Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00pm. Entries are due April 26, **Mothers' Lunch** – Friday, May 7 at 12:00noon. **Spring Play** – Friday, May 14 at 10:30am at Hillcrest Hall. Spelling test – Friday, April 23.

DOWNSTAIRS CLASS This week some of the children have been learning to snap, button and Velcro. Some are also practicing stringing beads on a shoe-lace. These activities are quite challenging for children this age, and help them to develop their fine motor skills. Even at this young age we are preparing the children for writing and reading. Fine motor activities help strengthen hand muscles and refine the pincer grasp that will be later used for writing. We also present activities from left to right in an effort to accustomize the children to the direction they will later use to read and write. When you read to your child at home, you can scroll your finger

under the words as you read to help reinforce this also.

OUTSIDE CLASS In honor of Mothers Day we would like to invite all mothers to come and enjoy cookies & lemonade (made by the children) on Wednesday, May 5 from 10:00-11:00am. There will be a sign-up sheet on our door where you may indicate if you will be able to attend. Thank you.

SENSITIVE PERIODS (cont'd.) Learning to care for their home and family by making beds, cleaning, sweeping, cooking and gardening also interests children. These practical skills strengthen social skills and relationships throughout their lives. Allowing children to watch and interact with us as we work models vital skills. We assist our children in acquiring skills by modeling and giving simple instructions, by offering short (one – five minute) 'lessons'. For social skills, though, the teachable moment is not when we expect a certain behavior, but rather beforehand, with indirect preparation. Let's say neighbors are coming over for coffee. What social skills will your child need to be successful in this situation? Perhaps greeting the neighbor, introducing oneself, offering a place to sit, thanking guests for the visit, and saying good-bye. Your child can practice with you several times before the visit. If your child cannot remember what to do, forcing him to 'perform' is not recommended. Remember, the teachable moment is not at the moment we are asking the child to perform a new skill. Shyness, embarrassment, fatigue, and hunger all contribute to an inability to perform a new skill, as we've all experienced. To develop social skills, analyze what needs to be learned according to the situation and your child's behavior. Model with your own behavior, and prepare your child indirectly with short lessons. In this way, you can assist your child in acquiring social skills for a lifetime of successful relationships.