

Mountain Lion Cub News



Preschool

Miss Drea and Miss Cecilia's students have been busy learning all about their new classroom! They have also been learning about ways that they can keep themselves and their friends healthy. Their teachers taught them all about germs and how germs are spread. They learned about the importance of proper handwashing and how this helps prevent the spread of germs. To help illustrate how this works, the teachers set up a science experiment by putting pepper in water. The pepper represented the germs and when soap was put into the water, the "germs" scattered to the edges of the container to get away from the soap! The students had so much fun. If you haven't heard it already, ask your child to sing their handwashing song to you. It lasts just the right amount of time (20 seconds) for a good hand washing!



Pre-Kindergarten

The students in Miss Amber and Miss Melissa's class are off to a great start and have had a wonderful time this month playing with friends old and new! They have been learning about what makes each student who they are. All of their likes and dislikes, their physical appearance and more. Each child participated in a craft activity in which they created and decorated a cutout person in their own likeness. Each one is so beautiful and unique, just like they are as children of God. In a fun small group science activity, the students each had the opportunity to make playdough which is a favorite in their classroom. Although this is a great science activity, playing with the playdough is an excellent fine motor activity which helps strengthen the fingers to be able effectively hold writing materials, use scissors and perform other small finger muscle tasks.

Pyramid Model for Families

What is the Pyramid Model?

The Pyramid Model is a framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's healthy social and emotional development. We use Pyramid Model practices in our Preschool which include providing nurturing, responsive relationships and high quality supportive environments for all students. Students understand what is expected of them behaviorally and targeted social/emotional supports or interventions are provided when needed to address challenging behavior. Click on the links below to see our Preschool Behavior Expectations. This year we will regularly provide you with resources in our newsletter that can help with common behaviors that we observe with preschoolers. Have a particular behavior that you are dealing with at home? We most likely have a resource for that. Just ask your child's teacher!

[Classroom Behavior Expectations](#)

[Outdoor Behavior Expectations](#)



Spotlight on Development

Healthy Pretend Play

Young children LOVE to pretend. Pretend play is an important part of a child's development so in preschool we provide many opportunities and props for pretend play all throughout the day. Most of the time, pretend play is healthy, productive and fun for children and should be encouraged by all adults in their lives.

Although a certain amount of "play fighting" is normal for preschoolers, if you notice that your child's pretend play is becoming more violent or aggressive in nature, it's probably time to look at the cause. **Young children's brains are not yet able to process violence that is often shown on TV, in movies, and in video games so it's best to prevent them from having access to this type of material.**

Talk with them about violence in the media. In those discussions, you can teach some important lessons:

- Violence in the media is make-believe, not real.
- Real-life violence hurts people.
- Guns, bullets, knives, and other weapons on TV are fake; real weapons hurt or kill people.

Also, teach your children that violence and weapons may seem exciting in "pretend" games, but that real-life violence is not fun. Encourage your children to pretend and play in ways that don't involve violence.

Lighting the Way for Parents

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” ***Deuteronomy 6:6-7***

