



A Note from the Principal...

March is here!! We have many activities planned in our classrooms this month. It's also time to Pre-register for the next school year. As the principal of Discovery Isle I am very proud of the learning experiences that the students have received here. My staff and I are very dedicated to making your child's day not only educational but fun and safe. We look forward to meeting your child's needs in 2016/17.

Join Discovery Isle and "Leap into the New Year" 2016/2017

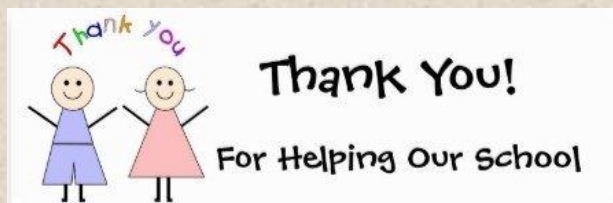
Pre-register during the early bird dates of **March 1st thru March 11th**



This year's early bird registration fee is \$110.00 per child. (Savings of \$50.00) Please fill out the pre-registration form... click [here!](#) You may also pick one up at the front desk.

Kindergarten Testing

Thank you to all our parents who attended our Kindergarten Open House! We will begin testing for the New Kindergarten School year 2016/17 the week of March 7th to 11th. If you were unable to attend the Open House and are interested in our Kindergarten program please stop by the front desk.



Thank you all for the support and participation in the variety of fundraisers we have had throughout the year. Please feel free to only participate in the fundraisers that work for your family.



Art to Remember: The children at Discovery Isle have been working hard to create great works of art for you. Soon you will receive a personalized order form featuring your child's art work along with pricing. The order forms will need to be returned to the front office by Tuesday, March 22nd.

F.Y.I

- **Parent Reports** are currently being worked on. They will be completed and passed out the last week of March.
- **Year End Statements** are available upon request at the front desk.



Spring Begins
Sunday, March 20th



March Recipe...

Lady bugs on a log
Snack March 17th

6 stalks of celery

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup cream cheese

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup cranberries

Directions

1. Fill each celery stick with cream cheese and top with 3 or 4 dried cranberries. (For variety, substitute hummus for cream cheese).

Upcoming events

Staff Development Day:



On **Friday, March 25th** The teachers and administration come together and have a day of workshops and group discussions. Some of the topics this year that our teachers will participate in are:

- Review updated rubrics
- Focus on specific age group curriculum.

Dentist Visit:

On **Friday, March 11th** Dentist Evelyne Vu-Tien will be coming in to talk about dental care. The presentation will begin at 9:30am in the multi-purpose room.



Introducing Your Preschooler to the Fascinating World of Non-Fiction

When you think about children's books, you might envision castles, talking animals or a flying magic school bus. Although it's these types of stories with your child, it's important to also him to non-fiction books. You may be surprised to learn that he's with exploring real people, places and things!

Non-fiction is not only interesting to children, but it also creates an foundation for learning. It helps children build new vocabulary, critical thinking skills, fuel their curiosity and gain a better understanding about the world around them.

Below are ways we integrate non-fiction in the classroom, as well you can try at home.



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INFANTS:

In the classroom: Infants love to look at faces, so our teachers choose non-fiction books that include photographs of people, such as *Global Babies* by Global Fund for Children. Afterward, they show the baby a photo of his own family and talk about the people in the photo. For example, "Look, Ben. Here's your mom. Who's she holding? That's you."

At home: Read multi-sensory picture books with your child. Choose non-fiction books with different textures and bright colors to help stimulate his growing sensory awareness.

Recommended reading: *Families* by Rena D. Grossman, *Bathtime (Baby Touch & Feel)* by DK Publishing

TODDLERS (ages 1-2):

In the classroom: Toddlers learn the names of different animals and vehicles and the sounds they make. While singing songs with students, our teachers ask, "What does a pig say?" or "What sound does a fire truck make?"

At home: Point out photographs of familiar animals and vehicles in magazines or books. Ask your child to mimic the noise that each item makes. This can also be done in the car as you're driving around your neighborhood.

Recommended reading: *Baby Animals* by National Geographic Kids, *Noisy Trucks* by Tiger Tales

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: Teachers and students read non-fiction books by going on picture walks. A picture walk motivates children to rely on pictorial clues to decipher the story's plot and make predictions. Before reading the story, they flip through the book, and the child is encouraged to make predictions about the characters and plot. The teacher then reads the book aloud to the student. When finished, the teacher asks questions to start a conversation about the text.

At home: Visit a library with your child, and let him choose a book. Take a picture walk through the book with him. When you're finished, ask the librarian to recommend a non-fiction book about the same topic. For example, if you read *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, your child might also be interested in *Puppies, Puppies, Puppies*, a non-fiction book by Susan Meyers.

Recommended reading: *My First Baseball Book* by Sterling Children's, *Everything Spring* by Jill Esbaum

INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: Our Intermediate teachers combine non-fiction reading with dramatic play. After reading a book about farm life, children create their own farm in the dramatic play center and pretend to be farmers. Children gain a better understanding of the book, practice problem solving skills, and use new vocabulary.

At home: Select a book with large photographs or illustrations. Flip through the book, and let your child stop on pages that interest him. Don't worry about reading every page. Ask him to tell you what is going on in the pictures, and encourage him to make comparisons to experiences he's had in real life. For example, if you pick a book about weather, you might ask, "Where do we go in the summertime when it's hot?" or "Why do we use an umbrella in the springtime?"

Recommended reading: *Watching the Seasons* by Edana Eckart, *Wings* by Melanie Mitchell

PRE-K/PRE-K2 (ages 4-5):

In the classroom: Our older preschoolers read a non-fiction book paired with a fiction book, and compare and contrast the two stories. After reading *Stella Luna* and *Bat Loves the Night*, the teacher might ask, "In *Stella Luna*, the bat slept upright. Is that how a real bat sleeps?" Students may also create a Venn diagram that shows similarities and differences in the two books.

At home: Read various forms of non-fiction with your child, including books, brochures and flyers. Challenge him to find sight words in the text. Afterward, ask him to write in his journal what he would like to learn about next. Use that information when choosing another piece of non-fiction.

Recommended reading: *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin (fiction), *Wonderful Worms* by Linda Glaser (non-fiction)

By introducing children to both fiction and non-fiction texts in the preschool years, they become comfortable with a wide range of subjects and acquire the skills needed to comprehend important information in kindergarten and beyond. They are better able to tap into their interests and enjoy learning about real world people, places and things.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education