



**37 E. Allendale Ave.
Allendale, NJ 07401
201-327-6016**

www.archernurseryschool.com

FEBRUARY CALENDAR – 2012

January 31	Tuesday	Conferences – 4-4 S
February 1	Wednesday	Conferences – 4-4 H
February 7	Tuesday	M&M Conferences – 4-4 H
February 8	Wednesday	M&M Conferences 4-4 S
February 9	Thursday	Dental hygienist at school – 2 ½; -3-3 TTF
February 13	Monday	Valentine’s Day Parties – 2 ½ MW, 3-3 MWF
February 14	Tuesday	Valentine’s Day Parties 2 ½ TT, 3-3 AM TTF, 4-4 H, 4-4 S
February 15	Wednesday	Dental hygienist at school – 3-3 MWF; 4-4 H; 4-4 S
February 20-24		Closed – Winter Recess

From the Director

Karen Miller (201) 327-6016

archerns@verizon.net

Conferences will be held in early February for the 4 year old classes and in March for the 2 ½ and 3’s classes. The parent/teacher conference is a unique time to share your thoughts. It provides an opportunity to discuss your concerns about your child with his/her teacher. It is a time that is helpful and informative for both parents and teachers. For the teachers, pre-conference time starts in September when they begin to carefully observe each child’s social, emotional, physical and cognitive development as it is evident in the classroom. It is always a pleasure to see how often the parent and teacher’s opinion as to the child’s strengths and weaknesses are similar. Areas of concern to either one, when shared, can result in unified efforts from which the child benefits enormously.

Please keep in mind that the teachers are early childhood professionals-not psychologists or medical personnel. They do not claim expertise in either of these areas. All are mothers, however, and can share with you from that perspective as well.

Several of you have inquired as to why we hold our conferences in early spring – mid winter for the 4 year-olds - rather than the fall as public schools do. Foremost is the fact that your pre-school children attend school on a part-time basis and for only 2 ½ hours. In order to accurately observe and evaluate children’s growth and development an adequate period of time must pass. The teachers watch carefully, interact with your children and collect materials for each of them throughout every month of school. They record their observations on our conference form. If you, or the teacher, have concerns at any time throughout the school year a request for an immediate conference is always encouraged. Part of the advantage of choosing a cooperative nursery school is the opportunity for you, too, to observe your child’s growth and development in the context of the classroom.

A sign-up sheet will be posted outside each classroom for you to choose a convenient day and time for your meeting. Please let your child’s teacher know as soon as possible if you (1) switch a day or time or (2) need to change your day or time. Several teachers will use a minute timer to help keep on schedule and be ready for you and not hold up those who are waiting. If you need more time do not hesitate to make another date with your child’s teacher. If you would like a copy of our growth and development conference form, please visit our **website** – www.ArcherNurserySchool.com or stop by my office.

Since **Special Guest Day** is scheduled for March 7th (3-3 MWF) and 8th (2 ½; 3-3 TTF; 4-4 H; 4-4 S) I thought you would appreciate the dates and a brief description in this February Newsletter.

Special Guest Day is part of one day set aside each year for your child to bring one special person to school – Grandma, Grandpa, Dad, Mom, Aunt, Uncle, adult sibling, babysitter, neighbor....so many wonderful choices. Your child and his/her guest will participate in a mini-day at Archer. The classes will start at their regularly scheduled time. Your child may bring his/her adult guest to school with them when class begins. The teachers will plan these days to include some special activities, time for the child to introduce their guest, and time to enjoy and share other everyday school activities with one another. The first hour and 15-30 minutes will be devoted to time for everyone. The balance of the morning will be with the children as usual. Therefore, the guest portion of the session will be from 9:00 AM to about 10:30 AM.

PAID PARENT SUBSTITUTES

Please be advised that the paid substitutes are available to all of you on a per session basis. These parent substitutes will work on your assigned day upon prior arrangement with them. It is your responsibility to contact your substitute, to make arrangements to pay that person directly (\$25.00 per session), and to provide the juice and snack as scheduled. If you would like to be paid for substituting for another parent’s participating session – in your class or in other classes, please call me. Currently available substitutes are:

Barbara Clinton	201-447-2261	All sessions
Elaine Dube	201-327-9245	All sessions except T/T AM’s
Michelle Gangi	201-934-6679	All sessions
Sue Radleigh	201-825-3557	M/W/T AM’s
Margaret Ricciardone	201-251-9447	All sessions
Karla Manuppelli	201-857-4324	M/W/F AM’s

As a cooperative nursery school, the entire staff and board truly value parent feedback.

Based upon your feedback, during the remainder of this school year, we are looking to pilot a couple of programs to further enhance and complement our curriculum. While throughout the year our children consistently participate in wonderful programs such as Music with Miss Lisa, Pat's Pets, and visits from our local police and fire departments, to name a few, we are excited to announce additional programs coming to Archer!

The staff and board are thrilled that Margaret Ricciardone, a former Archer mom, current parent substitute, and Certified Children's Yoga Teacher, will be working with our children on a monthly basis beginning in February. She is a certified children's yoga teacher with Naturally Yoga of Glen Rock. Margaret has extensive training in child yoga and incorporates yoga with storytelling. So, not only will our children reap the many benefits of yoga, they will also be using their imagination in storytelling. As Margaret says, "a child can take a hot air balloon ride to a magical forest" during a yoga session! We encourage you to take a look at her website www.storytimeyoga.com/teacher_mRicciardone.html

The excitement of learning will continue this month when we have Mad Science visit Archer! Mad Science is the world's leading provider of science enrichment for children. They spark imaginative learning with educational and engaging programs. So, get ready because our children might become paleontologists before we know it!

We are also excited to tell you that, thanks to Miss Lisa, we have been highlighted in an article of a local, up and coming blog - Playgroundtalk.com!

Playgroundtalk.com is a fabulous, positive, community based blog that provides parents with an insider's guide to everything local. It was founded by two moms, Lauren and Andrea, who met at a library with their little ones and decided to share some parental advice they've learned with other parents. Deals, parent outings, kid friendly events, and even great parks to visit can be found in this blog! Coming this month, a Community Forum will be part of Playgroundtalk.com. This forum will feature different sections covering medical, clothing, and anything related to connecting with other mothers. Playgroundtalk.com is a blog for parents with children of all ages. In addition to great local information, you will not be inundated with junk mail. So, definitely take time out and visit Playgroundtalk.com.

To read the article on Miss Lisa's Music, and see some great pictures from Archer, go to www.playgroundtalk.com/musicclassinbergencounty/.

We encourage you to provide us with your feedback so that our staff can continue to deliver quality preschool education through program diversity and age appropriate child development techniques and activities. It's all part of what makes Archer the unique nursery school that we all love!

From the VP & Registrar**Stephanie Canariato 201.788.7412**

archerregistrar@yahoo.com

I would like to thank the Board Members and our assistant registrar, Kate Simmel, for all their help at the January Open House...I really appreciate it! It was definitely a success!! If anyone has any questions regarding their registration for next year or questions regarding KEP, please don't hesitate to ask. If you know anyone with interest in enrolling at Archer, please have them contact me and I will get them all the necessary information they need. Word of mouth is a great way of advertising!

From Parent Participation**Shannon McLaughlin(201)962-2790**

asmclaughlin@verizon.net

Hello Archer Families-Registration is upon us-please don't forget to fill out your parent participation paper and include it when dropping off your registration. Also, if you are a board member, hold a chair position, or co-chair position please have your year end report to me no later than March 15th. If you are new to the position this year and haven't written one before please email me with any questions. I can send you a sample from another year as well. Also, if anyone has any feedback on any committee that they were on this year, please don't hesitate to send it to me. Any changes you would make, if you thought the committee could use a chair person, etc. Thanks to everyone for your ongoing committee participation at Archer!

From the Publicity Coordinator**Nicole Drummond 917-301-7268**

lifolewy@hotmail.com

Happy Winter! Thanks to your generosity we had a very successful Baby Basics Supply Drive – they were so grateful for all the wonderful donations that will benefit the families in Bergen County – THANK YOU! We also had a photo from Mrs. Frueh's Friday Fun Days published in the Town Journal. We are so thankful to The Town Journal who has been wonderful in getting our information out this month and advertising for Archer.

This month we will be collecting non-perishable foods for our annual "Souper Bowl" to donate to the Mahwah Center for Food Action. Please check your children's bags for flyers. Baskets will be setup outside each classroom for your generous donations. Finally please remember to keep your pictures coming – if they are not published in the local papers, they are submitted to the website for posting. Thank you for your continued support!

From School Events**Chelise Ashworth**

cheliseashworth@gmail.com

Spring is on the way and we have a lot of great events planned!

Gertrude Hawk Chocolates-Catalogs, instructions and order forms will be sent home in the school bags beginning week of Jan 30th

Original Works of Art- Our students will be creating their own amazing works of art that will be transformed into Memorable items that you can purchase-wall art, note cards, aprons, lawn flags, stainless water bottle, clocks, nightlights and more! You can view the program and products at www.originalworks.com.

