A Note From Our Administrator……..

**Vision:** Children and Families Empowered for a Lifetime of Learning

**Mission:** The mission of the Thompson Integrated Early Childhood Program is to provide high quality, developmentally appropriate education, and family-centered services that value and respect the diversity of individual children, and families. Through collaboration with community and educational resources, we will strive to identify and alleviate barriers that interfere with the ability of families and children to reach their full potential...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We recently finished up our GOLD marking for our students, with information being shared with you at our upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences. We are also busy working on our Head Start Self-Assessment of our program. This is an annual opportunity for us to review our goals from last year and look at areas of our program for improvement. This information will be shared once we have completed it!

**Early Childhood for 2019-2020.** We are currently accepting applications for Thompson School District Early Childhood Programs for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have a child that will be 3 or 4 years old...
as of October 1, 2019, they may be eligible for FREE preschool. If you know someone who has a child(ren) ready for preschool, send them our way! For further information visit our Thompson Integrated Early Childhood web page or call 613-5052 or 613-5761.

**Spring Break.** Mark your calendars! Spring Break is coming up, March 18 – 22, 2019. School will not be in session during this time. We hope you enjoy this time with your child!

Sincerely,
Lamb Caro
Early Childhood Administrator

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020 PRESCHOOL**

We are now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. If your child will be turning 3 or 4 years of age on or before October 1st of 2019, they may be eligible for FREE preschool, could participate in the tuition-pay program or may receive special education services if they qualify.

Information about our preschool program and applications can be found on the Thompson School District Website at [www.thompsonschools.org](http://www.thompsonschools.org).

Please share this information with friends, family or neighbors who have children who might be interested in applying for our program. For further information you can contact us a (970) 613-5052.
RETURNING PRESCHOOL STUDENTS: - Please watch for a re-enrollment packet coming from your child’s teacher in March. These packets will need to be COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO YOUR TEACHER ON OR BEFORE APRIL 4TH

Emotional Resources….

How do you feel?

Did you know that it is important to teach your child about feelings? Children need to learn what we call “Emotional Literacy”. To be able to identify complex feelings, children first need to learn a wide vocabulary of feeling words. Consider teaching your child about words such as “frustrated”, “disappointed”, “embarrassed”, “proud”, or “excited”.

Talk with your child about situations where they might have these different feelings. This vocabulary will give your child a tool to better explain how they feel. Having others understand us makes us all feel good. Once a child understands their own feelings, they can better understand other people’s feelings and this leads to becoming a caring and empathetic friend.

Mary Bowman, Mental Health Coordinator 613-6179

Education Corner….

Can you believe it is March already?!? This month brings with it some crazy weather in Colorado. I never understood when people would say… “It is Colorado, just wait 10 minutes. The weather will change!” How very true that is! Please send your children with coats and hats this month, just in case.
I hope that you are able to take some time to enjoy the beautiful weather this month with your preschooler. You can take a “listening walk” and practice listening to what is around you. Ask questions like, “Do you hear that bird?” “What is that far away sound?” “What else do you hear?” Preschoolers are filled with wonder and curiosity. Take advantage of this and make the most of your precious time with them!

Mark your calendars for our Program Literacy Night next month on April 11th at Con Ball Middle School. This is a fun night filled with games and prizes, pizza and lots of ideas for teaching Literacy at home. Our theme this year will be the book Groovy Joe Dance Party Countdown by Eric Litwin. Hope to see you there!

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator

English Language Development….

The Value of Oral Tradition

Oral Tradition, in any language, is a simple way to support your child’s language development using rhymes, poems, songs, oral stories, etc. The purpose of oral tradition is wide ranging: teaching values, morals and beliefs, transmitting and preserving family history and cultural traditions, and/or entertaining the listener.

When you play with your child think about sharing an oral tradition from your childhood or create a new one in your family (see below).

- Teach your child a rhyme or poem from your childhood
- Sing a song you know
- Tell a story from memory
- Teach a proverb or legend
- Tell riddles or jokes
- Entertain your child with a fable or “tall tale”
- Tell an exaggerated story to make your child laugh and encourage them to add silly details to the story themselves

Erin Ridge
English Language Development
(970) 613-6084

Health/Wellness.....

❄️ Stay safe this Winter: Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips ❄️

Keep your Family safe with a carbon monoxide alarm or detector. Carbon monoxide is a gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. Carbon monoxide poisoning can result from furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running/warming up in garages. Carbon monoxide can cause severe side effects or even death. It is more harmful to children than adults and they may be more severely impacted by exposure to it.

Safety Tips:

1. Make sure your home has a carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home – especially near sleeping areas.
2. A carbon monoxide alarm or detector is not a substitute for a smoke detector. Both are important. There are many models that are a combination of the two.
3. Never use a grill, camping stove, or generator inside your home, garage, or near a window. Carbon monoxide can build up and pose an extreme safety hazard.
4. Never leave a car, SUV or motorcycle running inside a garage. If you need to warm it, make sure to pull it out of the garage immediately.
5. If you must use gasoline-powered devices, store the gasoline in a locked location where children cannot access it.
6. Always keep gasoline away from anything that could ignite it. Common household appliances such as dryers and water heaters can start a gasoline fire.

Stay warm and safe this Winter!
Christiana Shorten,
Health Coordinator (970) 613-5063

Try this great recipe as a healthy snack for kids!

Ingredients:
1 medium banana
1 TBSP natural peanut butter
½ TBSP honey
¼ cup blueberries
1 whole wheat tortilla

Directions:
Mix peanut butter and honey until combined. Spread mixture evenly down center of tortilla.
Place banana on top of peanut butter spread. Top with blueberries.
Fold tortilla and enjoy!
www.FruitsAndVeggiesMoreMatters.org
Family Engagement….

Family Game Night
Thursday, March 14, 2019
6:00 – 7:00
Loveland Public Library
300 N. Adams

Does your preschooler love Candyland or Old Maid? Our Early Childhood staff and Family PIE parents are planning a fun game night for our families. Come to the Library to meet other Early Childhood families, play some games and enjoy some snacks. Playing board games teaches children how to take turns, count, solve problems, and play well with others. Games can help with eye-hand coordination, learning how to group items, letter and color recognition and so much more! Game night is a fun way to spend time together as a family. We hope to see you there!

Money Matters:

Managing spending can often be difficult, but there are ways to make it easier to manage your spending and reach your financial goals:

- Track your spending for a week or a month to see how much you’re spending in different categories
- Create a household budget. For a budget worksheet, go to: consumerfinance.gov/MyNewMoneyGoal
- Set a weekly spending limit based on your budget
- Check your balances regularly on your accounts and credit cards and set up text message alerts from your bank or credit union.
- Compare your actual spending to your budget and make adjustments if necessary

Julie Lindsay
Family & Community Partnership Coordinator – (970) 613-5053
This event is sponsored by Philo, Read Aloud Loveland and the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County.

**Groovy Joe Literacy Night!**

Please join us for an evening of food, fun and games!

When: April 11, 2019
4:30-6:00pm

What: Literacy Games, Free Pizza and Prizes

Where: Con Ball Middle School
2660 N. Monroe Ave
Each student will receive a free book!