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,

I hope that you had a wonderful Spring Break with your child! As many of you already know, the Thompson School District will be opening a new early childhood center next year. Due to time constraints, we will implement a phased in opening of the new center. We’ll open with a few classrooms in 2019-2020 with the full center opening in the 2020-2021 school year. This new center will have up to 12 classrooms to serve our community where we can provide an enriching experience for our preschoolers and families.

The Design Advisory Group had our first meeting on March 6 to begin the process of imagining what the center could include and look like. Many shared some innovative ideas and hopes for what this center could provide.

**Upcoming Events**

- **April 8**
  - Family PIE Meeting
  - Monroe Early Childhood Center
  - 5:00-6:30 p.m.

- **April 3**
  - Thompson School District Board of Education Meeting
  - Week of the Young Child Presentation

- **April 10**
  - Thompson School District Board of Education Meeting

- **April 11**
  - Literacy Night
  - Con Ball Middle School
  - 4:30- 6:00 pm
you are interested, there will be other opportunities for you to share your input at future community forums so keep an eye out for future opportunities to share your thinking!

**Literacy Night.** I hope that you will be able to attend our Literacy Night at Conrad Ball Middle School on Thursday, April 11th, 2019. We’ll have a lot of great activities for you and your family to participate in! Food and drink will be provided. Look for more information to come soon!

**Early Childhood Applications for 2019-2020.** We are currently accepting applications for our Early Childhood Programs for the 2019-2020 school year. If you and/or you know someone who has a child ready for preschool, send them our way! For further information visit our [Thompson Integrated Early Childhood](https://www.thompsonschools.org) web page or call 613-5052 or 613-5761 for more information.

**Weather Delays.** With spring being here, we can get a variety of weather: sun, snow, rain, and everything in between. In the event of a 2 hour delay, the morning sessions will be canceled. The afternoon session will continue as scheduled at the regular time. The full day class will start 2 hours later than the original start time. Any delays/cancellations will be shared on the school district website as well as through phone calls and emails. If you have any questions, please contact us at 970-613-5052.

Happy spring,

Lamb Caro
Early Childhood Administrator

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**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. These packets will need to be COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO YOUR TEACHER ON OR BEFORE THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH.

PLEASE RETURN THE FORMS IN THE ENVELOPE THEY WERE SENT HOME IT. THANKS!

PLEASE READ: CHANGES IN PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2019-2020

- Next year, we will be making a change in the days students attend preschool. Currently, students attend Monday through Thursday with Wednesday being a late start day. For the 2019-2020 school year, students will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a non-school day for our program. We are making this change for a number of reasons to improve our delivery of services to our children and families. These reasons include:
  - Consistency of Schedule- The start and end times will remain the same instead of having a modified schedule
  - This change will provide more in-school time so students can reap the most benefit from the preschool experience
  - This will give our staff the opportunity to collaborate with other district staff, giving us the opportunity to improve the communication between preschool and elementary schools.

Emotional Resources....

It’s hard to believe that it’s already April. Did you know that April is the Month of the Young Child? We know how very important it is to prepare our young children for the world. One skill that children need, as they make their way, is to be able to solve problems; especially when it comes to their interactions with others. Here are some pictures you can use with your child to help them become a great problem solver! (Pictures can also be found on the Head Start website at: http://headstartinclusion.org/teacher-tools#problem)
English Language Development:...

The Gift of Language

You are your child’s first teacher and the language you speak with your child is the first language they will learn. Teach your child to be proud of their language(s) and culture. Continuing to use your home language with your child and demonstrating the value you place on your language and culture, will help your child learn to value these special gifts too.

Discuss with your child all the benefits of maintaining two (or more) languages and continue to use the language you are most comfortable with when talking with your child. Using your home language helps connect your child to family, cultural traditions, friends, and neighbors who speak the same language. Read books, sing songs, and play games using the language you are most comfortable with.

Below is a list of some stories about bilingual families:

- *Marisol McDonald no combina*/ *Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match*/
  By Monica Brown
- *¡Gaby está aquí! Un día loco de palabras mezcladas*/ *A Crazy Mixed-Up Spanglish Day*
  By Marisa Montes
- *El parque que nuestro pueblo construyó*/ *The Park Our Town Built*
  By Diana Gonzales Bertrand
- *Grandfather Counts*
  By Andrea Cheng
- *Dear Juno*
  By Soyung Pak
- *Yoko Writes Her Name*
  By Rosemary Wells

Erin Ridge
English Language Development
Source:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from
https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/importance-home-language-series

Erin Ridge
English Language Development
(970) 613-6084
Health/Wellness…..

Healthy Children Learn Better!

Even though it is Spring, we are still seeing a number of illnesses here at school. Here are some health practices that we can all follow to keep our Schools and Community safe and well!

Take a proactive approach to curbing the spread of such illnesses by practicing and encouraging our Children to practice frequent hand washing. Good hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent illness. Children (and Adults too) should be encouraged to cough or sneeze into their elbow area/sleeve, not their hands. Germs on fabric/clothing quickly die, while germs on hand that are not immediately washed, are easily spread to others. Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Please keep your children home if they are sick. Some of our School Exclusion guidelines are below.

If your Children do become ill, please keep them at home if they exhibit any of the following:

- **Cough**: sever uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, difficulty breathing, red or blue color to face with cough, high pitched whooping sound with coughing or vomits after coughing.
- **Diarrhea**: when accompanied by symptoms of illness, when it contains blood or mucous, when the child is in diapers, or when stools are so loose they can’t be controlled by the child.
- **Fever illness**: Temperature greater than 101° F (oral) with signs of illness, should be back to normal for 24 hours prior to return to school without the aid of medications.
- **Flu symptoms**: Elevated temperature or fever (>101° F) and sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea. Stay home from school until fever or symptoms of fever are gone for 24 hours without the aid of medications.

Christiana Shorten ND, NP-APN, CCHC
Early Childhood Health Coordinator

(970)613-5063
Family Engagement….

Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 8 – 12

We would like to extend a big thank you to all of our volunteers who help us every day in our classrooms. Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 8 – 12. Our volunteers have helped check out books, assisted with small group activities, planned classroom parties, read books to our children, and filled in for our lunch aides. We are so fortunate to have families and community members who donate their time to benefit our students. I would like to join our teachers in expressing gratitude for our volunteers. Happy Volunteer Appreciation Week!

Mark Your Calendar!

Preschool Field Day
Friday, May 10, 2019
10:00 am - noon
Centennial Park
977 W. 1st St

Money Matters

Depositing all or part of your income tax refund in a savings account could help you start an emergency savings fund. Your tax preparer can have your tax refund automatically deposited into your savings account. You will then have money for unexpected expenses such as car repairs or medical expenses, rather than going into debt. Learn more at consumerfinance.gov.

Julie Lindsay
Family & Community Partnership Coordinator – (970) 613-5053
Garden Chicken Wrap

Prep Time 5-10 minutes

What you need:

- 4 whole-wheat wraps (8 inches)
- 2 cups store-bought rotisserie chicken, shredded
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 1 avocado, thinly sliced
- 1 cup baby spinach leaves
- 1/4 cup of your favorite fat-free/low-fat dressing (about 1 tablespoon per wrap)

Equipment and supplies:

- Cutting board
- Sharp knife
- Measuring cups

What to do:

1. Place wraps side by side on a flat surface. Divide chicken into four portions (about 1/2 cup each). Place a portion of chicken on each wrap.
2. Top each wrap with carrots, avocado, and spinach. (Have an adult help with the chopping.)
3. Drizzle dressing evenly over each wrap.
4. Roll each wrap up tightly and cut on the diagonal.
5. Serve immediately or wrap tightly in aluminum foil and refrigerate for lunch the next day.

Nutritional analysis (per serving):

- 320 calories
- 22g protein

Education Corner

Hope you all can join us for Literacy Night on April 11th.

See flyer attached!

Amy Gerhard, Education Coordinator
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!