



Dear Valued Families,

Thank you for a wonderful start to Spring. This time of year is always filled with the joy as we gear up for end of year conferences, and prepare for Summer Fun. Your children have been busy learning through creativity, and how important this is for our learners. We value your trust and confidence in our educational center. The next few months are very busy, so please review this newsletter carefully, and advance any questions or concerns you may have. I will see you all back part time this week, and full time April 16. Take a moment to read the attached document supporting children learning through creativity. Also, continue to witness God's work, as we move forward with Good Shepherd Lutheran School, serving grades Kindergarten-2nd grade. Please sign up at [www.gslsbastrop.com](http://www.gslsbastrop.com) to receive continuous updates. Please email [lsbcbastrop@gmail.com](mailto:lsbcbastrop@gmail.com) directly, for tuition schedules, teacher job postings, enrollment applications and programming. This is a very exciting time for our community!

Warm regards,

Alysa K Johnson

**Easter Sing A Long: April 17th @4:30pm**

**Parent Teacher Conferences May 6th-10th**

**Pre K Graduation May 23rd**



## Taking Steps Toward Creativity

The world is changing at a pace that challenges educators to provide learning environments where students can think creatively and problem solve using innovative solutions. This month we will be examining how to support creativity in children, and how we can cultivate that in our classrooms.

March, 2018

### **"Taking Steps toward Creativity"**

By Doris Knuth

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The world is changing at a pace that challenges educators to provide learning environments where students can think creatively and problem solve using innovative solutions. This month we will be examining how to support creativity in children, and how we can cultivate that in our classrooms.

### **Creativity defined:**

Webster defines creativity as the use of the imagination or original ideas, especially in the area of artistic work. However creativity is more than that. Imagination and original ideas are part of the puzzle piece but researchers also include creative ideas that are useful, adaptable, have the ability to see possibilities, make things happen, make connections and solve problems.

### **What children need for the future?**

Becoming more intentional in what we can do for students in the area of creativity as a specific subject connected to core learning goals will give children the tools they need to meet the demands of today's rapidly changing world. The Partnership for 21st Century Learning have created 4 areas of development that will enable today's children to become tomorrow's leaders. Those areas are:

- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Critical thinking (problem solving)

Children are eager to experience the world around them and continually find new ways of thinking, discovering and experimenting. If not encouraged or experienced, creativity in children declines drastically by the 4th grade. As advocates for best practices in education, we can include specific activities that will support their creative minds.

Ways to promote Creativity in the classroom

- Provide time for open ended projects

- o Teacher chosen or child chosen topics with teacher providing guidelines
- o More hands on activities
- o Include topic research
- o Freedom to explore their own ideas
  - Keep classroom environment flexible
- o Moving furniture around to allow for small group project work
- o Include unconventional learning materials
- o “Genus Hour” – depending on age, allowing 1 hour a day or week specifically toward project work
  - Provide visual reflection areas and activities
- o Open bulletin boards where students can add comments, questions, drawings, or pictures
- o Add color and humor within the classroom
- o “Mindset Moments” – (see more information on Mindset Moments in the [www.canva](http://www.canva) reference below)
  - Encourage discussion and team building
- o Collaborative activities with peers
- o Include a variety of technology, music, art
- o Include high expectations, flexibility, and communication
  - Provide time to celebrate student’s project work
- o Inviting parents and other classes to experience the finished project work
- o Emphasize the process rather than the product
- o Document students work throughout the project and display around the classroom

Igniting children’s creativity is not an easy task, however our world has become increasingly complex with an ever larger need for individuals who can develop creative solutions. Allowing children of all ages to express their creative side both individually and collaboratively will enable them to provide ideas and solutions to an ever changing world.

“If a child is to keep alive their inborn sense of wonder, they need the companionship of at least 1 adult who can share it, rediscovering with them the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.” Rachel Carson





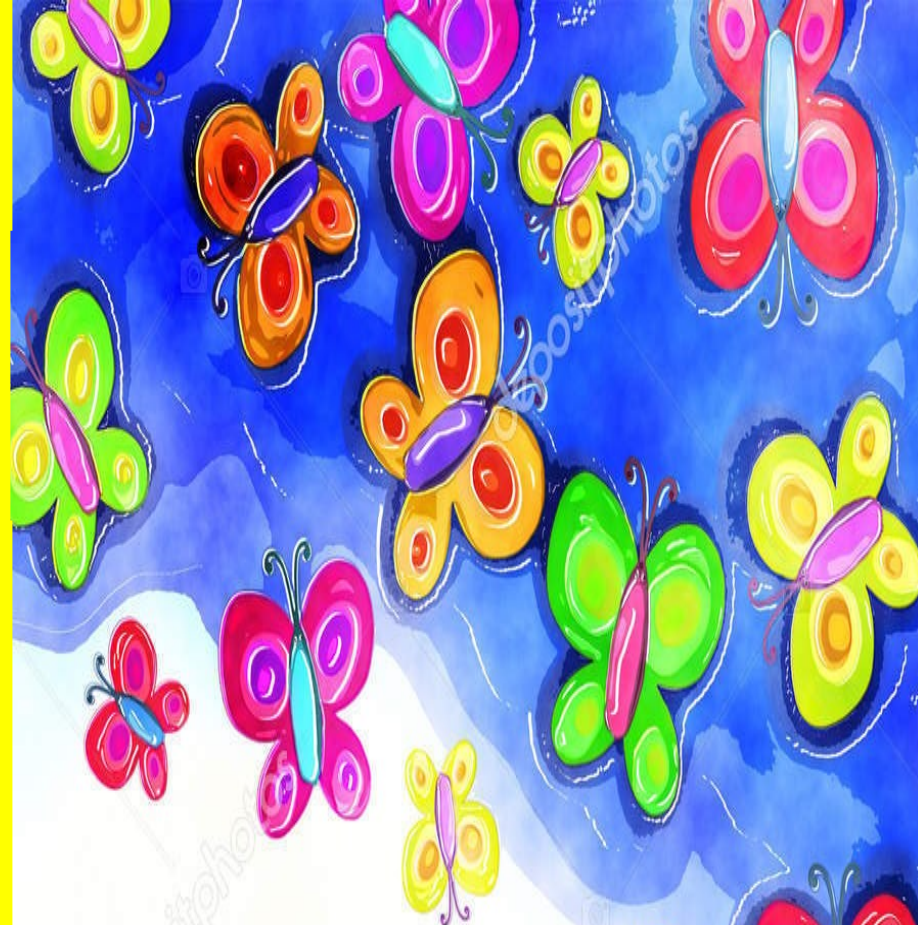
April 8-12th we will participate in the Week of the Young Child celebration. Please check your child's folder later in the month for list of what will occur on each day.

### Parent Teacher Conferences:

We have scheduled Parent Teacher Conferences for May 6-10th. Parents will be able to sign up for a 10-15 min slot were they can discuss the progress of their child over the course of this school year. The teachers of LSLC have put together portfolios for each child paying special attention to milestones such as social emotional skills, comprehension, and much more. The teachers will take time to go over their findings along with answer questions you may have. Sign up sheets will be going out soon.

### Illness Policy

When and if your child is sick, it is very important that you inform the Admin team. This is to happen even if the child is diagnosed over the weekend and was not sent home from school. We want to make sure that we are attempting to keep children healthy and safe.



## *Easter Program*

Our annual Easter program will be a short sing a long this year on Wednesday April 17th at 4:30pm. For egg hunts we are asking each child to bring 12 pre filled eggs with items that are individually wrapped or in some form of wrapper. Also we are a peanut free facility so please no candy or items that include nut products.

### April Birthdays:

Braylee Renfro	2nd	Jed Etheridge	16th
Emily Hargis	8th	Blake Hilbig	16th
Lucy Cantu	8th	Piper Cruz	24th
Ellory Krcmar	9th	Landon Groom	25th
Rosalie Milburn	28th`		

**Happy Birthday!!**





## Spring Needs:

Spring is here and the weather conditions have changed, with that being said there are a few items your child may be in need of. Please be sure to check and change out your child's extra clothes. Cooler, breathable clothes will be needed for the warmer weather. Also be sure that your child's also has an extra pair of shoes. Please also check your child's sunscreen and bug repellent.

## Summer Intention

### Forms:

Summer intention forms are being sent out this week. Please look in your child's folder for this form. The form helps us better evaluate summer placement and simply asks if your child will be attending this summer. Please return the form at your earliest convenience.

*Closed  
Good Friday*

Little Sheep will be closed on Friday April 19th in observance of Good Friday. We will reopen with normal business hours on Monday April 22nd.

## Information Update:

Please remember that if any of your contact information changes to please let the administrative team know. This includes but is not limited to phone numbers, email address, mailing address, etc. It is important that your child's information stay up to date.

## Children's Book Day April

### 2nd:

Tuesday April 2nd we encourage children to bring their favorite book on diversity to school to share with their friends. Please be sure your child's book is labeled with their first and last name.



International Children's  
Book Day: April 2

Earth Day is Monday April 22: We will celebrate by wearing green

