

# Preschool Press

AAPS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

MAY 2023

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Preschool Families,

As the school year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of you for the trust and support you showed us this school year. It was a pleasure to have your children in our classrooms.

If you need any assistance regarding re-enrollment to preschool or transitioning to Young 5's or Kindergarten please feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher or to the Family Community Resource Specialist Team.

### Important resources:

- **Free Summer Meals for Kids & Teens**: Meals are open to all children 0-18 years of age or persons up to 26 years of age who are enrolled in an educational program that is recognized by a state or local public educational agency. For more information call 734-761-2796, ext. 221 or email :[summerfood@foodgatherers.org](mailto:summerfood@foodgatherers.org)

- **Food Gatherers** has partnered with AAPS to pilot an Emergency Food/ Grocery Distribution at Pathways to Success Academic Campus. Please call **Food Gatherers** -734-761-7296 Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm for assistance.

- **Mother's Reaching Hands** - Free clothing for babies and kids. Call: 313-364-0338 or email: [mothersreachinghands@gmail.com](mailto:mothersreachinghands@gmail.com). Location: Mt. Olive Church, Ypsilanti. (more details on [page:11](#))

As always thank you for your continued support. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

**Kristin Crowe**

Principal/ Director

[crowek@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:crowek@aaps.k12.mi.us)

**Jo Ann Serafano Telfer**

Assistant Principal /Assistant Director

[telferj@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:telferj@aaps.k12.mi.us)



### IMPORTANT DATES

**6/8/23**  
**Thursday**

**Last Day Of School**  
**(Full Day)**

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**First Day Of School For**  
**2023-2024**  
**Monday, August 28, 2023**

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## SUMMER SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

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It is almost summer! At school the children have been spending more time playing outdoors and seem to be loving exploring the nature playground! As we transition out of school, many children spend more time playing outdoors with other children. As parents/guardians, we make the decision about where and when our children can play outdoors. We also decide when it's OK for them to play without adult supervision or if it's better if we are there and observing them. We can help their children deal with safety issues when we are not with them by teaching attitudes, strategies and actions they can take to keep themselves safe.

**Laura Dills**

*Family and Community  
Resource Specialist*



The first thing we can help our young children learn is an attitude towards safety since we cannot always be right next to our child when they make a decision during play. We can help them recognize that they have a role in preventing accidents and injuries. While it is our job to teach them about how to play safely, it is their job to learn how to decide to make safe choices.

Most parents/guardians know we have to teach our children about safety procedures in a variety of settings, including the yard, playground or park, with vehicles, their own toys, such as bikes, wagons or scooters. If we show our children how to play safely on the swings or slide, for example, and we do it consistently when we are with them, they will begin to learn the safety rules and practice them when we are not present.

Sometimes when accidents happen, children may feel scared to tell an adult because they fear they may get into trouble. Explain that in emergency situations when skills are needed beyond the scope of a child, children need to go to a responsible person for help. We can also make sure they know who they can go to in an emergency when we are not present. For instance, if your child is going off to another house to play, make sure they know they should go the adult who is supervising if they run into a problem.

When children play, explore and try new things, there are bound to be accidents or injuries. We are doing a disservice to kids to “wrap them in a bubble” to protect them and we can't always be there to look out for them and prevent accidents. However, we can make a consistent effort to teach our children safety rules and who to go to in an emergency. This will help prepare our children to become thoughtful and more independent elementary school students.

On that note, June is always a time of mixed emotions here at the preschool. We are sad to say good-bye to our Young 5's and Kindergarten friends, but are also very excited for their amazing journey ahead. The children have all made so much progress in terms of their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. We have witnessed how the children have grown in the way that they deal with frustration and the care and concern they express for others. We have been fortunate to be a part of your child's growth and development. Thank you for entrusting your child/children to us this year and for being a supportive part of our school community!



## HEALTHCARE LETTER FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE SPRING 2023

Dear Westerman Preschool families,

I have enjoyed collaborating with you and your students throughout this past school year. Here are a few reminders to finish up the 2022-23 school year and to help assist us in getting ready for the 2023-24 school year.

### Medication Pick-Up

If your student has medications in the school clinic for this school year, please plan to pick them up at the end of the school day on June 8, 2023. **Medications cannot be given to your student to take home.** If you are unable to make it by June 8th, there will be some limited staff availability at the school the following week. Please call the office ahead of time if you are trying to pick up medications after the last day of school. If you would prefer we discard the medication(s), please contact me directly.

### Health Care Provider Visits

Please contact your child's Health Care Provider's office now to schedule a visit for their routine care. Your child will need a [new physical form](#) filled out by their Provider if they are returning to Preschool. PLEASE SEE [THIS DOCUMENT](#) on Preschool Health Requirements if your child is returning to Preschool in the fall.

If your child has asthma, severe allergies, or a seizure disorder, their "Action Plan" will need to be reviewed and renewed over the summertime. This is true whether they are returning to Preschool or moving on to another AAPS school. Please start calling their doctors' offices as soon as possible - leaving this to the last minute could result in delays getting an appointment and assuring that your student has the medication they need to begin the school year. Routine appointments tend to book up quickly in the summer, so I highly recommend calling as soon as you can! For more guidance on the things you need for certain diagnoses, please see the "Resources" section at the end of this letter.

If your student needs to have medications (prescription or over-the-counter) at school for the next school year, AAPS requires an updated [Medication Administration Form](#) on file, signed by both a health care provider and a parent. In order to administer any medications at any AAPS school, this form must be renewed before the start of each school year. Medications include prescription (e.g. insulin, inhalers, epinephrine) and non-prescription (e.g. Ibuprofen, Benadryl, Hydrocortisone cream, Desitin) medications. Medication forms, school nurse contact, and other information is available on the school nurse website: [Ann Arbor School Nurses Website](#).

Healthcare Providers' orders can be faxed to your child's school, or can be handed in with the medication at the start of the next school year. If your Health Care Provider has their own form that they like to use to order medications, that would suffice. Please just make sure that a parent signs said form, as we need both the Provider's signature and a parent's.

### Immunizations

The Michigan School Immunization Law and AAPS require that all students are up-to-date on their state required

immunizations **before the first day of school**. Also, strongly consider the influenza vaccine, as we experienced an active flu season this past year in addition to COVID. Immunization waivers can only be issued through the public health department with an appointment (see “Resources” section at the end of this letter).

## Health Plans

If your student has any health needs that may require an Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) prior to starting school, we should have a discussion before the start of school in the fall. This can include diabetes, seizure disorders, food or other severe allergies, asthma, etc. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns you may have. If your child already has a Health Plan, please contact me if there have been any changes in their condition or in their treatment plan. In addition, please be sure to complete and document pertinent health issues in the online health section of InfoSnap.

If you would like your child to receive meal accommodations for food allergies or a medical condition impacting their diet, please submit the required [Special Dietary Needs Form](#) to the school (whichever school they are going to in the Fall), and also email the completed form to our [Dietary Team](#).

## Vision/Hearing/Dental Screening

Preschoolers, Kindergarteners, and Young 5’s students are required by the State of Michigan to have **vision and hearing screenings completed PRIOR to the start of school**. This can be done at your regular doctor’s office or at the Washtenaw County Public Health Department (WCHD). See the “Resources” section at the end of this letter.

Michigan Kindergarten Oral Health Screening legislation was passed in December of 2020. This law currently recommends that a child enrolling for the first time in Young 5’s, Kindergarten, or first grade present at enrollment, **or no later than the first day of school, a certificate of dental oral assessment**. This may be done through your regular dentist’s office or you can call the Washtenaw County Dental Clinic (see “Resources” section below).

## Emergency Contacts

The school staff can only release your student to people who you have been listed on the Emergency Contact Section found on InfoSnap (online enrollment). Therefore, please list ALL of the people who may need to pick up your student in the event of an injury or illness. Please update any address/phone number/emergency contact changes that may occur, throughout the school year with your office staff.

## Resources

[Physical Exam Form - for students returning to preschool](#)

[Preschool Health Requirements - for students returning to preschool](#)

[ASTHMA - What your child needs for school](#)

[SEVERE ALLERGIES - What your child needs for school](#)

[SEIZURE DISORDERS - What your child needs for school](#)

[AAPS Immunization Information](#)

[AAPS Food Services Information](#)

[Ann Arbor School Nurses Website](#)

[Washtenaw County Health Department:](#)

WCHD Immunizations: (734)-544-6700

WCHD Free Vision & Hearing Screening: (734)-544-6786

WCHD Dental Clinic: (734) 480-4250

**Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools [RAHS] - (physicals, immunizations, etc)**

RAHS Clinic main line: (734) 998-2163

**Packard Health - (physicals, immunizations, etc)**

Packard Health main line: (734) 971-1073

**Corner Health - (physicals, immunizations, etc)**

Corner Health main line: (734) 484-3600

In good health,

**Bethany Araujo, RN - School Nurse**

Westerman Preschool & Family Center

**[araujob@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:araujob@aaps.k12.mi.us)**

Direct line: (734) 660-5399

Westerman - main office number: (734) 994-2303 // fax number: (734) 994-2895

## USE YOUR HEAD...PUT ON A HELMET!



**Kathy Gaines**  
*Physical Therapist*



Now that spring is here and summer is just around the corner, it's time to get outside and go for a bike ride! Make sure your child wears a helmet whenever they ride a bike or scooter to avoid serious head injury in case of a fall. When choosing a helmet, make sure it fits well and is a style and color they like and will wear. Look for helmets that meet appropriate safety standards, and never use a helmet that's already been in a crash, which affects its ability to protect your child's head.

To put a helmet on correctly, make sure it is the right size for their head circumference. Place the helmet level on your child's head, not tilted forward or backward. The front of the helmet should be about 2 finger widths about their eyebrows. If there is a dial adjust on the back, tighten that next, or if there is no dial, add pads that may be included with the helmet for a better fit. The child should be able to shake their head, without the chin strap on, with the helmet staying on their head. Next, adjust the V-straps by their ears. Finally, adjust the chin strap until only one finger fits under it. Check again to make sure the helmet doesn't move forward or backward once it's tightened.

Remember to check your child's helmet often to make sure it still fits well as your child grows. And, since children learn best by example, make wearing a helmet a family rule!

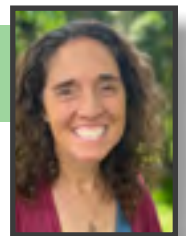
## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

Now that spring is here and summer is just around the corner, it's time to get outside and go for a bike ride! Make sure your child wears a helmet whenever they ride a bike or scooter to avoid serious head injury in case of a fall. When choosing a helmet, make sure it fits well and is a style and color they like and will wear. Look for helmets that meet appropriate safety standards, and never use a helmet that's already been in a crash, which affects its ability to protect your child's head.

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Remember to check your child's helmet often to make sure it still fits well as your child grows. And, since children learn best by example, make wearing a helmet a family rule!

**Jacqueline Malcolm**  
*SLP*







Ms. Desiree, Ms. Lexie & Grandma Joanne

## Classroom Spotlight

PK-1 Thurston Elementary



Our classroom visited the Ann Arbor Traverwood Library in concluding March is Reading Month. During our Preschool Storytime, we participated in telling stories with a felt board and singing along with our friends from the community. This opened the opportunity for our students to share the positive environment and share about reading stories to their families.



Walking to the library



Dancing with friends



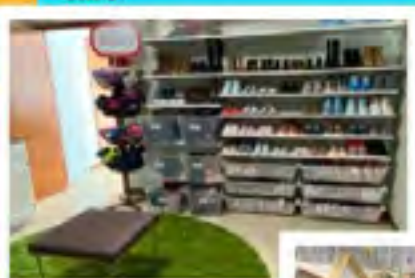


## Clothing Children with Confidence and Self-Esteem

**Our Organization supports children in crisis.**

We provide clothing, shoes, undergarments, hygiene items, toys, books, school supplies, car seats, cribs, and much, much more FREE of charge to children in foster care.

**Each year approximately  
7400 children enter foster  
care for the first time.**



Over  
3600sq.ft  
of shopping  
space.

**LEARN MORE  
about how  
you can help!**

**Donate  
Today!**

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT  
[Michiganfostercarecloset.org](http://Michiganfostercarecloset.org)**

**We are  
100%  
volunteer  
run.**

Hello, families!

Do you have a foster child, or are you looking to rehome some of your child's gently used clothes and/or toys? The Foster Closet of Ann Arbor is a great resource for both!

(888)  
511-6322

**Tuesdays: 9:30am-12:00pm  
Wednesdays: 5:30pm-8:00pm  
Saturdays: 10:30am-1:00pm**

**37 Enterprise Drive,  
Ann Arbor MI 48103**

**Used item  
drop off is only  
the second  
Saturday of  
every month.**



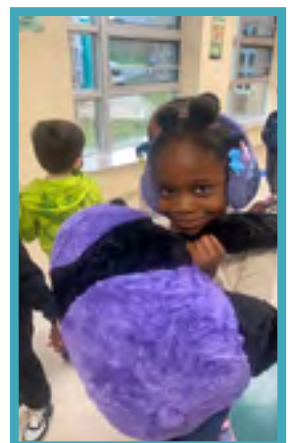
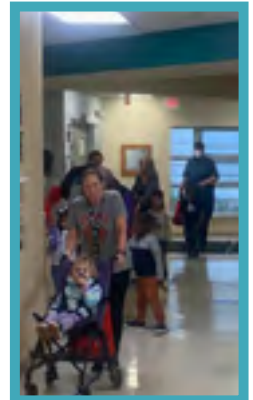
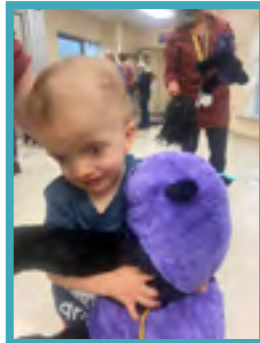
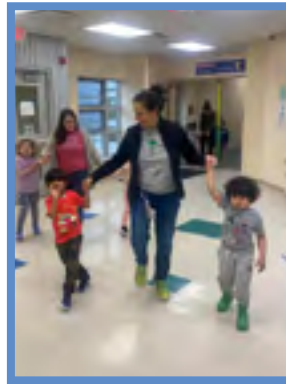
If you are interested in hearing more about the Foster Closet, please email me at [morgans@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:morgans@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Sarah Morgan, M.A.  
Early Childhood Special  
Education Teacher



## PROJECT ACES DAY

ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) is an annual, world-wide event held every first Wednesday of May.





# PJ DAY







# *Mother's Reaching Hands*

**Pick Up and Drop Off:**

**Mt. Olive Church**

436 Hawkins St. Ypsilanti

By Appointment Only

**Call: 313-364-0338**

**MOTHERSREACHINGHANDS@GMAIL.COM**

**DONATIONS WELCOME!**

## **FREE CLOTHING\* FOR BABIES & KIDS:**

**We currently have baby onesies, disposable diapers, pants, shirts, bibs, socks, underpants, coats, boots, shoes, baby blankets, and girl's dresses sizes 6, 7, 8 as well as toys for younger children.**

\*cribs, baby beds and other supplies  
can be made available as the need arises.

**Washtenaw County Residents - Proof of Income requested**

EIN 92-0795491



# A<sup>2</sup>ZERO WEEK!

**June  
4 – 10**

Take a circular economy tour with TheRide & Destination Ann Arbor Sustainable Tourism packs available at Cinnaholic, 121 E. Liberty during A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Week from 10am-9pm. Get yours while supplies last!



Starting JUNE 1 get your **A<sup>2</sup>ZERO PASSPORT** at any Ann Arbor District Library branch. Get stamps for prizes and fun!



On June 4, get ready for the DxA2 Run! Run, cheer, or join the volunteer team using innovative strategies to ensure this event is zero waste. Details at [dxa2.com](http://dxa2.com)

**JUNE 5**  
6:30pm  
**Watch BEYOND ZERO** at the State Theater



This true story of a CEO taking his company net zero will surprise and inspire you. **Ticket required** for this **free** event; limited capacity. Click **HERE** to register.

Learn to live with your **Wild Neighbors!** Join the wildlife rehabilitation team at the **Humane Society of Huron Valley** 3100 Cherry Hill Rd June 8, 5:30pm



Learn how to fix your **gadgets!** Meet up at **All Hands Active** for **REPAIRSday** Thursday, June 8, 5:30-9pm at 255 E. Liberty

Friday, June 9, 7-9pm  
Tour the new **Resilience Hub** at the Bryant Community Center

June 10, noon-4pm  
Get downtown for the **YMCA Block Party** at 400 W. Washington, Learn ways to live sustainably with **VegMichigan**, **Human Electric Hybrids**, & the **UM Solar Car Team!**



**June 10, 5-8pm at A<sup>2</sup> Summer Fest!** Come to the Annex to learn about all things solar, including robot-generated portraits with **All Hands Active**, bike for your beans with **Mornings with Ella** and **Human Electric Hybrids**, plus bring an up-cycled t-shirt to make a sustainable screen print. Explore bioluminescence at the Kid's Zone with the **UM Museum of Natural History**, visit the **Scrap Creative** station, and make a seed bomb to support pollinator habitats!



**Details & more: [a2gov.org/a2zeroweeek](http://a2gov.org/a2zeroweeek)**





- ☑ **SHOP**
- ☑ **DONATE**
- ☑ **SUPPORT**

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**2280 S. Industrial Hwy. ♦ [a2ptothriftshop.org](https://a2ptothriftshop.org)**

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*Supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools and its Students Since 1993*

*Here's what our community has to say about us . . .*

*"As a fundraising chair at my children's school, I always enjoyed finding ways to package up donated goods for our Silent Auction. I always found what I needed at the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** and donated back what we didn't sell!" ~Michelle M.*

*"One of my favorite fundraising activities was when we got tokens for schools collecting them to win. Love to support the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** and AAPS!" ~Samina D.*

*"As a working parent, my kids wouldn't have been able to participate in after-school activities or tutoring without the donations from the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** that helped provide the late buses!" ~Brad B.*

*"I love knowing my children's stuff can be loved by another when I donate to the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop**. I feel like a contributing part of the community and it keeps things out of landfills!" ~Eddie K.*



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*Visit our website or FaceBook page for Current Hours*