



August 2018

Dear ECDC-SMC 4's Families,

Welcome to ECDC-SMC's 2018-2019 school year. It is going to be a fun and exciting year! **We are looking forward to meeting all of the children and their families on the first day of school on Monday, August 20th.** We have a fun-filled school year planned and look forward to sharing many wonderful experiences with your child. If you have any questions or concerns before the start of school, please call ECDC-SMC's office at 574-284-4693.

### **Open Houses and Items Needed:**

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the Family Open House on Friday, August 17th from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** This is a great time for your child to meet his/her teachers, tour the 4's activity room, meet new friends and ask questions. It would be helpful to bring the following items with you to the open house or on the first day of school. **Please remember to label all of your child's items with their name.**

- 1 close up snap shot of your child for his/her locker
- 1 complete change of clothing
- 1 adult size old shirt for a paint smock (optional)
- 1 crib size blanket and 1 small pillow (for children enrolled in the afternoon)
- 1 8 oz. bottle of washable school glue
- 1 box of crayons
- 1 box of washable markers

### **Family Photos:**

Please feel free to bring in a 4x6 family photo. We will have a special place in our classroom to keep them. Many of the children enjoy being able to look at their picture or even carry them around with them. This can be especially helpful at the beginning of the school year as the children are adjusting to their new environment. If you are interested

in bringing in a family photo, you may do so when you bring in the other supplies requested or at any other time during the school year.

### **Lovies:**

The 4's classroom welcomes lovies! What is a lovie? It might be a blanket, a stuffed animal or something else a child likes to have close by. These lovies help children feel comfortable during the time they spend apart from their families, and can be a healthy transition into a new environment. When your child is not holding or cuddling their lovie, it will be put in your child's locker for safe keeping.

### **Meet the Teachers:**

This school year, Mrs. Devin Mawhorter (Mrs. D.) and Ms. Loree Greenwood are the 4's Co-Lead Teachers. Mrs. Meg LaCarrubba is an Associate Teacher in the 4's. She is known as "Mrs. Meg". Mrs. D. has taught at ECDC-SMC for 11 years. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a Minor in Early Childhood Education from IU South Bend. Ms. Greenwood is excited to be with us for her fourth school year in the 4's. In addition, she has taught at ECDC-SMC for the past 11 summers. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Saint Mary's College and over 20 years of experience teaching children ages 3–5. Mrs. D. and Ms. Greenwood taught the school age children this past summer at ECDC-SMC. Mrs. Meg graduated from Hofstra University with a Bachelor's Degree in Humanities. She joined ECDC in October, 2017. Prior to ECDC, she worked in a Montessori preschool setting and has raised five children.

### **Projects:**

At the beginning of the school year our study will focus on getting to know the children and families. During this time we will ask that you bring in pictures of your child, family, pets, friends, family stories and traditions. We will send home a letter and/or email explaining the project and letting you know about any items that we need at least one week in advance. This will be a fun and exciting way for all of the 4's to get to know one another and make new friends. Other projects that we will explore this school year will focus on the changing seasons. One of our favorite fall projects is exploring pumpkins. This project is a wonderful way to incorporate many skills such as observation, creating a hypothesis, and recording data through observational sketches, photography, and graphs/charts. A project about the seasons opens the door to so many wonderful paths to explore with the children. We will also be doing an author study, which is always a favorite study in the 4's. We will be learning about such authors as Todd Parr, Audrey Wood, Lois Ehlert and Robert Munsch. Our author study is a wonderful study that incorporates many important literacy skills, such as phonemic awareness, comprehension and vocabulary.

## Parent Helpers:

We always love to have families involved with activities in the classroom. Some things that you can do to help out include:

- Be a parent reader; please talk with the 4's teachers about coming in to read to the class.
- Be a parent helper on field trips; please check the parent information area in the 4's classroom for sign-up sheets beginning in September.
- Sign-up to make play dough; please check the parent information area in the 4's classroom for a sign-up sheet. The play dough recipe will be hung in your child's locker a week in advance.
- Sign-up to wash toys; the 4's teacher's will put toys out with a "wash me" sign. Please feel free to take them home and wash them. Be sure to sign the toy out on the sign-out sheet. Toys washing instructions will be provided.
- We also love parents who have a special talent, interesting job or have special knowledge about one of our projects to come in and visit; please talk to the 4's teachers if you would like to share your knowledge with us. We love to have parents or family members join us to talk about their jobs and hobbies during our Community Helpers Project.

## Important Dates to Remember:

School Year Open House	August 17 <sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
ECDC will be open Labor Day	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
If your child will not be attending on Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> , please contact the ECDC-SMC office on or before September 1 <sup>st</sup> .	
Gymnasts in Motion Begins	September 5 <sup>th</sup> (prior registration required)
Early Closure - ECDC closes at 4:00pm	September 7 <sup>th</sup>
Individual and Class Picture Days	October 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> (pre-payment required)
Parent Visit Week (during Fall Break)	October 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
Sign-ups will be available online through SignUp.com	
ECDC-SMC remains open during the ND & SMC Fall Break	
Early Closure - ECDC closes at 4:00pm	October 19 <sup>th</sup>
Speech, Language & Hearing Screenings	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> (pre-payment required)
Scholastic Book Fair	November 12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving Vacation (Wed, Thur, Fri)	November 21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Early Closure - ECDC closes at 4:00pm	November 30 <sup>th</sup>
Winter Vacation (2 weeks)	December 24 <sup>th</sup> – January 4 <sup>th</sup>

## **Celebrating Birthdays at ECDC/Special Treats for the Children:**

Birthdays are a special time in a child's life and we know how much they look forward to celebrating this time with their friends. The children and teachers at ECDC enjoy being part of this celebration. If you want to bring in a birthday treat or snack to share with your child's class, please use the **ECDC Birthday Treat/Special Snack Option** list found on the Food Program page of the ECDC website to select the food item. Please remember that ECDC is a nut free building and we ask that no nuts or nut products are brought into the building. *All processed food items must also be commercially prepared and sealed. This doesn't apply to fruits and vegetables. The teachers will cut the fresh produce. If you have any questions please speak with one of the Co-Lead Teachers or Program Director.* Thank you!

**On our website**, you will find additional information about gymnastics registration, our breakfast, snack, and lunch menus, birthday snacks, and our school year calendar.

- [ECDC-SMC 2018-19 SY Breakfast Menus](#)
- [ECDC-SMC 2018-19 SY Snack Menus](#)
- [ECDC-SMC 2018-19 SY Lunch Menus](#)
- [Celebrating Birthdays at ECDC/Special Treats](#)
- [ECDC 2018-19 SY Special Dates & Tips](#)
- [2018 Fall Semester Gymnastics Registration Form](#)

Sincerely,

*Devin Mawhorter*  
Mrs. D.

*Loree Greenwood*  
Ms. Greenwood

*Meg LaCarrubba*  
Mrs. Meg