



May 2018

**When you have just 2 minutes!
Read this stuff...**

THEMES: letters and numbers

Important Dates for Everyone!

3-Day Important Dates

May 2 – St Olaf Prairie visit

May 8- Year end picnic 5:30 to 7pm

May 16-Last day of classes

2-Day Important Dates

May 3 – St Olaf Prairie visit

May 10 - Year end picnic 5:30 to 7pm

May 18-Last day of classes

All good things must come to an end...

It's hard to believe that the year is nearly over - amazing! We have been so fortunate to work with such a great staff and board and it has been a thrill to get to know you and your child better. Have a safe and wonderful summer! Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Oh NO! What will you wipe your hands with?

Don't forget the napkins when you join us for the end of year celebration and potluck picnic. We will gather from 5:30 to 7pm, rain or shine, at Oddfellow's Park. We will eat at 6pm so please bring a dish to share with your child's classmates and their families. You need to bring your own plates, utensils and beverages. The dates are listed at the top of this newsletter.

You shop, Open Door Preschool gets money! It's so easy !

Did you know every time you use the special Amazon.com link on our website to make a purchase Open Door gets money? This could not be any simpler. You buy the birthday gifts, books, dvds you were going to buy anyway, amazon.com ships them to your door and ODNS gets .5% of the purchase price. This is an opportunity that will continue to be available. The complete instructions for taking advantage of this offer AND the special link you can use to set it up is available on our website.

We are looking for a few small humans!

At this time we still have openings in all of our classes for the Fall of 2017. We have several combination options including lunch options. Please spread the word throughout the summer and direct people to our website for additional information and to download the registration form. Scholarship money is available through our parent aware certification as well as through Open Door. Thank you for all your help and support.

When you have 5 MORE minutes! Read this stuff...

Reading! Who needs to read? Ummm...YOU! And your little humans! If your child can write their name they can apply for their own library card. Who needs any other card when you've got a library card??? The Northfield Public Library Summer Reading Program begins soon. The programs take place at the library and are completely free! Hope you will be able to check it out.

All the day we play.

Play is an important part of our program at ODN. As a parent, you may ask how children learn while they are playing. Through play, children learn things that cannot be easily taught. In play, children are forced to use their minds. They make decisions and solve problems. They figure out how to make things work and how to put things together. They have experiences from painting to hammering nails to reading books that help them learn how to think. Play helps children to understand symbols - like designs and pictures that are needed for reading, writing and arithmetic. Children use words in their play to share thoughts and feelings, and so their language skills develop. Through play, children master control of their bodies. By playing with dolls or blocks or Legos, children are developing hand-eye coordination. By running, climbing and moving to music, they are developing large muscles and becoming physically fit. They learn to get along with others. Children have different ideas when they play. They learn how to listen to others' views, how to lead, and how to follow. They also learn to cope when things don't go the way they planned - for themselves or others. They learn how to solve conflicts with words rather than fits - an important life skill. They learn to get along with others who have backgrounds different from their own. Through play, children learn to control and express their emotions.

It is important for children to feel free to learn without fear of making mistakes. Play allows them to do this. Mistakes are OK to make. We just try to learn from them. Play is more than fun and games. It involves many types of learning and should be a part of every child's life, at school as well as at home. So be sure to have fun playing this summer!

When you've got 10 more minutes! This stuff is good to know...

With All the Gratitude in Our Hearts...

Thanks to everyone who provided supplies, materials and equipment throughout the year. Your generous support helps us keep our operating costs down.

Thanks to our board members Marja Cox, Katie Ebling, Brooke Hintz, Cassie Chavis, Missy Mowers, Heidi Grant, Chad Pribyl, Beth VanDeWalker, and Emily Mitchell. Our board operates smoothly thanks to all of you! A special thanks to Marja Cox who kept us operating this year as Chair, and to Cassie Chavis and Brooke Hintz, who made sure that the children enjoyed snack and had all the necessary donated items. A thank you must also be extended to the other staff members Sue Anderson, Heidi Grant and Deb Christensen. I am so fortunate to work with such amazing people (and I believe your children are pretty lucky too!)

Speaking of children... Thanks for sharing your children with us! It's our pleasure spending time with them and getting to know all of you better.

Don't forget to keep in touch this summer. If you've got questions or thoughts, feel free to contact us! And don't forget to LIKE us on Facebook.

Thanks to Katie Ebling and her son Hank for bringing in her hen to both the 2 and 3 day classes.

Thanks to Arick's parents, Aaron and Sonja Gilmer for providing the equipment necessary to house the chicks until they went to their new homes at the Gilmers and the Eblings.

Thanks to Mildred's Mom, Laura Jensen, for reading to both the 2 and 3 day classes in both English and Spanish.

Thanks to Missy Mowers and Heidi Grant who subbed for Mrs. Christensen when she was gone.

Thanks to all who chaperoned during our field trips to the prairie.