Is the School Ready for Your Kindergartner?
by: Karen Nemeth

Many parents have questions about whether their child is ready for kindergarten. Don’t forget that it’s important for the school to be ready for your child as well. Young children are so different from each other - their maturity, language development, past experiences, home languages, physical and social development can vary widely. Kindergarten is a wonderful way to get children of all abilities, languages, and backgrounds ready for success in school – each in their own way.

Don’t forget that it’s important for the school to be ready for your child as well.

Here are some things you can do to help your school be ready for your child.

Click here to read the full article, or enter the following URL into your browser: http://families.naeyc.org/child-development/school-ready-your-kindergartner#sthash.TcziGRRP.dpuf.

The MSU CDL Parent Council would like to thank Sundance Buick GMC for their generous sponsorship of Family Fun Night.

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4 Things Kindergarten Teachers Want You to Know

Kindergarten teachers are passionate about partnering with the families of their students. When families and teachers work together, kids win! Here are four things that kindergarten teachers want you know.

Click here to read the full article, or enter the following URL into your browser: http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/4-things-kindergarten-teachers-want-you-know#sthash.YNCLkaQA.dpuf.

Please join us! The next Parent Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., February 10, 2016, at the Haslett CDL.
GET TO KNOW OUR CDL EDUCATORS!

Teacher Feature

1. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
Sally Mowers

2. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AT THE CDL?
I am the Head Teacher in the East Lansing 4-year-old classroom.

3. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL?
Art class was always my favorite.

4. WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU ARE NOT IN THE CLASSROOM?
I love to cook for my friends and family. I am an obsessive knitter. I also love drawing and going for long walks.

5. WHAT IS ONE PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT IN YOUR LIFE-TIME? WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO?
I have never had a reason to visit New York City, and I think that is a place that everyone should see and experience.

6. WHAT IS SOMETHING FUN WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?
I am an eclectic reader, with a taste for classic Science Fiction.

7. SILLY STUFF!
What is your favorite cereal?
Oatmeal Squares
Would you bungee jump?
Not at this time.

What is your favorite snack?
Cheese, but I am trying to quit.

Which vegetable is the worst?
Lima beans.

How many cats is too many?
It depends how many mice one has!

Do you untie your shoes when you take them off?
Never.

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East Lansing Public Library offers resources to find books for the whole family

Through the “Readers’ Advisory” page on their Web site, the East Lansing Public Library librarians and patrons share the best sites, tips and recommendations to help you find your next great read.

Click here for the East Lansing Public Library’s Readers’ Advisory page, or enter the following URL into your browser: http://www.elpl.org/taxonomy/term/295
In Our Community

Family Winter Fun Weekends
Location: Meridian Township

The Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department is offering Family Winter Fun Weekends throughout February. Many of the activities are free, but some have a minimal charge. Visit the Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department via www.meridian.mi.us, or call, (517) 853-4600, for more information.

February Event Schedule*

• Moonlight Ski and Shoe, Saturday, February 20, 6-9 p.m. Harris Nature Center (+8 yrs. old)
• Moonlight Sledding Saturday, February 13th, 6-8:30 p.m. North Meridian Rd. Park
• Meridian Fishing Derby, Saturday, February 13, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., location TBA
• Animal Valentine Campfire, Saturday, February 13, 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center
• Howl at the Moon, Friday, February 19, 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center
• Winter Farmers’ Market, Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Harris Nature Center
• Meridian Swims Sunday, February 21, 6:30-8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club
• Family Special: Birds of Winter Sunday, February 21, 3 p.m. Harris Nature Center

*Please check the Web site for an updated schedule of events as all dates and times are subject to change.

Eat, Drink, Bid, and HAVE FUN!
In addition to free admission and family-friendly food, the CDL Family Fun Night will hold a silent auction featuring some of your favorite local businesses!

- Barbers Floor & More
- Blow Hair Salon in the MAC
- Bottom’s Up Dance
- Brenda Menyard
- CES Embiordary
- Discovery of Smiles
- Douglas J
- Dunhams—Signed MSU Football and Basketball
- Goldfish Swim School
- Hitching Post Restaurant
- Ledges Salon
- MAC Athletic Club
- McAllister’s Deli
- Mid Michigan Sports Scene
- MSU Community Music School
- MSU Extention
- Old Town General Store
- Q106
- Preuss Pets
- Potter Park Zoo
- Premier Dance Company
- Reliable Aftermarket Parts, Inc.
- Scarlett Sybrowsky
- Schuler Books
- Soup Spoon Cafe
- Sundance Riding Stables
- Toms Western Store
- Tropos
- Velvet Candy Store
- And more!

Art, Creativity and Music Apps for Early Learning

Art and Creativity: iPads will never replace the smell of freshly peeled crayons, but they can offer children a new way to create, complete with such features that might include using a camera, microphone or an “undo” option that encourages experimentation.

Music: From making and sharing music with modified synthesizers, to learning skills such as notation, music apps are easy to find.

Click here to read the full article, or enter the following URL into your browser: http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/music-math-more/art-creativity-and-music-apps-early-learning.

Eat, Drink, Bid, and HAVE FUN! In addition to free admission and family-friendly food, the CDL Family Fun Night will hold a silent auction featuring some of your favorite local businesses!
The MSU CDL Parent Council would like to thank the following corporate sponsors for their generous support of Family Fun Night at Impression 5 Science Museum.

- Demmer Corporation
- Sundance
- Autotrader
- RELIABLE AFTERMARKET PARTS®
- Mark Woodman Plumbing & Heating Inc.
- Willingham & Coté, P.C.
- Sports Scene
- Goldfish Swimming School

To learn how you can help make the CDL Family Fun Night a success, please join us at the Haslett campus for the next Parent Council meeting on Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
The Family Fun Night is open to all families enrolled at the CDL. The Parent Council rents Impression 5 Museum, www.impression5.org, for the evening so that children, parents, and siblings can interact and play in a fun social learning environment. In addition to an exciting museum experience, the Parent Council provides dinner for the event. The Family Fun Fest includes a silent auction that helps fund Parent Council events and support CDL programs. If you or your business would be interested in donating to the event, please contact Terrah Hanks, thankssundance@gmail.com.

**How you can help!**

- **Silent Auction Donation:** Do you have an item you would like to donate to the silent auction? Or would you be willing to ask businesses in the community to donate items? **PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR GIFT BASKET IDEAS!**
- **Sponsor:** Do you own a small business or work for a company that would like to sponsor the event with a cash donation?
- **Volunteer:** Would you like to help with setting up and breaking down after the event? And help with various activities during the event?
- **Food:** Do you own a restaurant or catering company (or know anyone you could ask) that would like to provide food for the event?

To learn how you can help make the CDL Family Fun Night a success, please join us at the Haslett campus for the next Parent Council meeting on Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
IMPRESSION 5 SCIENCE MUSEUM
Friday, February 19, 2016
6-8 p.m.

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

Family Fun Night!

With so many silent auction ideas out there, selecting a theme can get overwhelming! Here are a few to get your creative juices flowing. If you aren’t interested in creating a basket but would still like to donate items, please feel free to do so and your parent council will take it from there! If you have questions or would like to make a donation to the silent auction, please contact Terrah Hanks, thankssundance@gmail.com.

Date Night: Gift cards for restaurants, movie tickets, popcorn, wine, flowers, etc.

Pets Are People Too: Choose a pet and include toys, snacks, food, and a gift card to the local pet store.

Hobby/Craft Baskets: Knitting, sewing, a sport or team, scrapbooking, or fishing.

In the Garden: Include seeds, gardening subscriptions or books, tools, gloves, hanging baskets, and gift cards to garden shops.

Fun in the Sun: Sunscreen, beach towels, umbrella, sand toys, cooler or tote, etc.

A Hole-In-One: Golf balls and tees, an umbrella, sunglasses, golf glove, cap, golfing magazines, vouchers to local courses.

Are We There Yet?: A selection of travel supplies such as travel mugs, road trip games, and gas cards.

Family Night: Popcorn, DVDs, gift cards to Red Box or a video store, board games, snacks, etc.

Tool Time: A tool chest and a variety of tools or gadgets to go with it.

Barbeque Blitz: Small grill, tools, sauces, spices, tongs, recipe books, and gift cards.

Car Care: Car wash/oil change gift cards, car wash products, air fresheners, etc.

Ace of Bake: Baking sheets, tins, pans, utensils, racks, mixes, frosting, sprinkles, potholders, cookbooks, etc.

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