

**in this issue >>>**

- Working Your Way Through a Science Experiment with Your Child
- Ms. Wendy's Cooking Corner
- Crafty Corner
- Laugh it Up!
- Important Dates
- Fundraising Opportunities

**Wilde Lake Children's  
Nursery  
Cooperative  
Preschool  
Established 1968**



2020-2021  
Issue  
One

A Triannual Newsletter for Our Preschool Community

# Tiger Times



January 2021

Welcome to our triannual newsletter! Inside, you will find useful information, fun ideas, and helpful dates!

Editor: Jessica Petree

Contributions by: Jessica Petree, Wendy Greenfield

Wilde Lake Children's Nursery

10518 Marble Faun Lane

Columbia, MD 21044

410.997.4856

[Info@wlcn.net](mailto:Info@wlcn.net)

Columbia's Oldest Cooperative Preschool!

Director and Lead Teacher: Jessica F. Petree

Assistant Teachers: Tammie Heffner, Wendy

Greenfield

Wilde Lake  
Children's  
Nursery  
Est. 1968



## Working Your Way Through a Science Experiment with Your Child

*How to have fun with science at home*  
~ Ms. Jessica

While we have all gone through school and done our own experiments for our entire lives, it is important to remember that your children are only just beginning their scientific journey. I thought that perhaps a little explanation of how and why I do things in class might help do these same things at home.

When we work on experiments in class, we use the basic principles of the scientific method. We: 1. Make an observation, 2. Ask a question, 3. Form a hypothesis or testable explanation, 4. Make a prediction based on the hypothesis, 5. Test the prediction, and 6. Use the results (our observations about what has happened - What happened because of what was done?) to make a new hypothesis or prediction. We use words such as observation (In terms of the five senses - what do they see, hear, taste (ONLY WHEN APPROPRIATE!!!), feel, smell?), prediction and hypothesis (We explain that this is their guess about what will happen. You'll note that prediction is a word I use when we read as well. It is a great vocabulary word for them to utilize.)

*"I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."*

- Albert Einstein

During the course of discussion and instruction, I use the grown-up science word interchangeably with simpler language to allow the children to fully grasp the scientific terminology.

To begin experiments, the children should help gather all of the tools needed and either a science experiment specific journal (How fun! And I take no responsibility for the oodles of different experiments that your children will want to start to explore; you have NO idea about the kinds of experiments that have happened in my own house!☺) or a paper on which they may jot down their work. These jots may come in the form of drawings OR, they may ask for you to transcribe what they are saying. I like to have a master chart as a class where the observations everyone makes can be recorded. If you are only working with your own child, you can write directly on whatever form of paper they are using. If there are more children, you may opt to chart the information much like we do in class. This is a great time to introduce graphs and other mathematical (and scientific) tools!

Once the materials have been introduced, the children should do a couple of things. First, they need to observe the materials in front of them and then determine what question they want to ask. i.e. My toy is frozen in the ice. What will get my toy out of the ice the quickest? The page/journal should have the question they want to answer in their experiment. They can then list their hypothesis: The \_\_\_ will get the toy out the fastest.

As we look at everything and do everything, I constantly ask the children to make observations with their senses to get them more attuned to the fact that they are observing things even when they don't think they are!

The next step would be to make a prediction about what they are going to discover as a result of what they are doing. For example: If your child's hypothesis is that warm water will work best, they should predict what will happen when the water hits the ice. Jot these predictions down for them or have them draw.

Do the experiment! Test out that hypothesis. Did it work? Did it only sort of work? What did you observe? Based on that, let's see what will happen when we use something else! If there are multiple materials being utilized, they should predict what will happen with each one.

Conclusion: What happened? What worked best? Was my hypothesis correct? I ALWAYS reiterate that it is okay to not have predicted correctly. We learn when we discover things work in different ways than we expected!!

*The most important part of the science experiment?*

***HAVE FUN!!!***

*What is a scientist? A scientist is someone who wonders, invents, explores, thinks, imagines, doodles, questions, observes, draws conclusions. A scientist is **YOU!***

With winter weather brings the time of year for warm and hearty meals. Meat and potatoes were typically served when I was young, however, there are many meatless meals that fulfill the same full belly feelings that you desire during the cold, dark months. I LOVE to utilize my slow cooker any time, but especially during the winter. Here is a recipe that you can do with your child!

## Vegetable Stew with Cheesy Dumplings

### Stew Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1-2 carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 leeks, cut into thick slices
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 32 ounces vegetable stock
- 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 can white beans such as cannellini, drained and rinsed
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp each of dried rosemary, thyme and parsley
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ½ cup frozen peas

### For the dumplings

- ½ cup plus 2 Tbsp. of flour
- 3 ½ Tbsp. of cold butter, chopped
- ½ cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp. minced parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste

*"The more you know, the more you can create. There's no end to imagination in the kitchen." - Julia Child*

*Cooking with your kids can offer a chance for them to feel like they are really contributing to your family. Little kids can do big things even if those big things seem small to us. Washing cans, peeling carrots, measuring the ingredients are all life skills that every human needs. When your child cooks, they are using their 5 senses, fine and large motor skills, math and science, and let's not forget the art of following directions as well. The kitchen is also a great place to have conversations.*

*Just remember, any messes they make are actually memories for you to retell when they are adults©*

*Happy cooking,*

*Ms. Wendy*

## *Directions:*

1. Turn on slow cooker to low. Heat 1 Tbsp. of the oil in a frying pan and fry the carrots and leeks for 5 minutes to soften. Add in garlic and salt to taste. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute. Slowly add in the stock while stirring until thick with no lumps.

2. Add contents into the slow cooker. Add the beans, herbs and potatoes, and top with water to cover if needed. Cook on low for 4 hrs.

3. To make the dumplings, add flour into a bowl and stir in the COLD butter until evenly distributed. Add the cheese, parsley, salt and pepper to taste. Mix in 3-4 Tbsp. COLD water with your hands to make a soft, slightly sticky dough (add a little more water if needed). Divide into six and roll into balls.

4. After 4 hours, add the heavy cream and peas to the slow cooker and turn it to high. Arrange the dumplings over the mixture. Cover and cook for 1-2 hours more until the dumplings are firm and doubled in size. Garnish with parsley and serve.

*Adapted from this recipe: <http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/>*

# Crafty Corner

Creativity stems from the imagination and the invitation to create. Having ample supplies at home is sure to promote creativity. Letting the children create in the manner in which they feel works for their project is ideal. *WE* may not be able to visualize how a popsicle stick and a cotton ball could possibly become a lion, but our child does. Creating and overcoming obstacles on the way to that creation will lead to their masterpieces. There will be times of frustration, and times where they will ask for your assistance. Jump in and have fun! If they are enjoying the process and seem to like how things are going, let them continue. We don't have to "fix" their art so that we can understand it. They are the artists, and they will feel a sense of pride and accomplishment when they do it themselves!

## Useful Craft Supplies to Always Have on Hand

- Construction Paper
- Safety Scissors
- Crayons
- Washable Markers
- Washable Tempera Paint
- Watercolor Paints
- Cotton Balls
- Popsicle Sticks
- Plain white paper
- Liquid glue and glue sticks
- Stickers
- Paint brushes - NOT necessary, but useful

*\*I like to use Crayola brand, as I find them more colorful and durable.\**

## Household Items You Can Use for Painting!

- Forks
- Rolling pins wrapped in yarn
- Sponges
- Spatulas
- Whisks
- Q-Tips
- Cotton Balls
- The rim of a cup or bowl
- Slices of apples
- Potato pieces
- Eraser ends of pencils
- Marker caps
- Toothbrush
- Spoons
- Cookie cutters
- Potato masher
- Crumpled paper
- Bath poof / loofa
- Alphabet blocks
- Legos / Duplos
- Toy animal feet
- Toy car wheels
- Balls of foil
- Bubble wrap
- Wine corks
- Cardboard

## Laugh it Up!

**Q:** *How do you talk to a giant?*

**A:** *You use big words!*

# Important Dates

## Registration is now open for the 2021 - 2022 school year!

To register for the 2021-2022 school year, please visit: [How to Register to our Co-op Preschool - Wilde Lake Children's Nursery \(wlcn.net\)](#)

### January

January 1 - New Year's Day, No School

January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School

January 29 - Professional Development Day, No School

### February

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 11 - WLCN Board Meeting

February 12 - Chinese New Year, Professional Development Day, No School

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 15 - President's Day, No School

### March

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - Spring Begins

March 28 - Passover Begins

### April

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 2 - Spring Break Begins, No School

April 4 - Easter

April 5 - Spring Break, No School

April 6 - Spring Break, No School

April 22 - Earth Day

## Fundraising Opportunities:

*Usborne Fundraiser:* <https://t6586.myubam.com/1768089> (This fundraiser ends February 21.)

*Amazon Smile:* When using Amazon, be sure to use Amazon Smile for purchases and link your Smile account to WLCN!

*Harris Teeter Together in Education:* Visit [harristeeter.com](http://harristeeter.com), link your VIC Loyalty Card to WLCN (school code 6970 or type in Wilde Lake Children's Nursery), and the school will earn a percentage of your grocery shopping purchase.