Our Message:
February is a great month. We celebrate many great observances.

Each month of the year recognizes many wonderful and very significant dates that are dedicated to a specific cause.

American Heart Month
Nat’l Children’s Dental Health Month
Nat’l Tooth Fairy Day (28th)
Nat’l Library Lover’s Month
Nat’l Don’t Cry Over Spilt Milk (11th)
Nat’l Make A Friend Day (11th)
Nat’l Caregiver’s Day (17th)
Valentines Day (Tues, the 14th)

All these dates are important. We use them at the school to share their meaning, instruct our children on self expression through the arts, music and building social relationships.

We’ll continue to share the dedicated dates for each moth but February seems to hold some wonderful causes and events that inspire us all.

Out of all let us learn and share that we are deserving of one another's’ respect and compassion. What we give in life, we will get in return. Be positive, have focus and share with the world.
The Broken Record Thing:

A few other vital notes include: If you are covered through ELC, you must sign in and out everyday….. With your full name. The times entered “Can Not” be the same every day and must be written in “Black” ink.

Students must at the school by 9:15 SHARP.

Immunization and Shot Health Certificates must be up to date.

Please provide a change of cloths for your child (weather appropriate).

Meals: We DO NOT serve breakfast. Please assure your child is properly nourished. Any special needs should be addressed through our office.

Daily "Grams" are provided to up-date you on your child’s daily activities. These also serve as reminders for supplies that might be needed specifically for your child.

Parking: Parent parking and child drop off and pick up must be made in our East parking area

Library Books and materials should be returned each week to help assure other children are afforded access.

Fiscal Responsibilities: Please make sure you keep up with weekly tuition payments so as not to disrupt child care services.

RESOURCES: There are numerous resources and assistance services and programs available to our communities.

Pasco Kids First (Child Advocacy) http://www.pascokidsfirst.org/

Early Learning Coalition of Pasco & Hernando Counties: http://www.phelc.org/

Florida Office of Early Learning http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/

Florida Association for the Education of Young Children http://www.flaeyc.org/

Help Me Grow Florida https://www.helpmegrowfl.org/service-providers/resources/

Florida Department of Children and Families : Family Development, A Caregiver’s Guide
https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childwelfare/caregivers/

The Family Conservancy
http://www.thefamilyconservancy.org/parenting-resources-information

The sea of Learning has just up-dated it’s website and Facebook page. We have a considerable amount of reference and resource information that has been made available to you. We will be building upon these resources over time. If you should ever find a broken link to a webpage or an omission, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

Behavior: Sharing

…it’s mine.
You get the idea. Oh, the challenge of sharing when you’ve just learned what belongs to you and what belongs to others! Sharing is indeed difficult for toddlers. Fortunately between the ages of three and four, sharing becomes easier. Watch for these social developments in your child:

- Three-year-olds begin experimenting with various sharing techniques, such as taking turns and trading toys for short periods of time.
- Older three-year-olds begin to cooperate. They understand that giving doesn’t mean giving up, and are more willing to give and take with friends.

- Four-year-olds grasp the concept of sharing very well. They play cooperatively with their friends and are willing to share their possessions.

What can you do to help your child make this transition?

- Encourage sharing. Don’t force it. A reluctant sharer may feel that his needs are less important than the other child’s needs. Forcing a child to comply is not the same as teaching him to be generous. Praise sharing when you see it.
- Acknowledge that sometimes it’s hard to share. Use empathy rather than scolding to encourage sharing.
- Give your child opportunities to not share. Allow her to put away a few special toys before a play date so that the children do not have to share those toys.
- Share with your child. Be a role model for the behaviors you wish your child to exhibit. Share food, books and other “treasures” to reinforce the benefits of sharing.
- So, about those toddler’s “Rules for Living” – take heart! The more your child practices sharing, the easier it will get.
Car Seat Safety
You want your child to be safe and sound as you travel with him in your vehicle each day. What you may not know is that every year thousands of children are injured or killed in car crashes. Many of these deaths and injuries could have been avoided if children were properly secured in their car safety seats or seat belts. You can make a difference for your child by using their car seats or seat belts properly every time they ride in your car.

How to Choose and Use
Choose a car seat based on your child’s age, weight and size. Try it out in the store before you take it home. Place your child in the seat and adjust the straps and buckles to make sure it works for your child. Fit it properly and securely in your car. Ensure the seat is buckled tightly into your vehicle and your child is buckled snugly into the seat. For the best protection for your child, keep him in the seat until he has reached the manufacturer’s height or weight limit.

Rear-Facing Seats – All infants and toddlers should ride rear-facing until they are 2 years of age or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of their car safety seat. If your baby reaches the height and weight limit for his infant-only seat, he should continue to ride rear-facing in a convertible car seat for as long as possible. Check your car safety seat instructions to find the weight and height limits for rear-facing seats. Some types allow up to the weight of at least 35 pounds.

Forward-Facing Seats – Children who are 2 years or older, or who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car safety seat should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer of their seat. Check your car safety seat instructions to find the weight and height limits for forward-facing seats. Some types allow up to a weight of 65-80 pounds.

Booster Seats – Children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt positioning booster seat until he is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. Booster seats are designed to raise your child so that the lap and shoulder seat belts fit properly. The lap belt should lie low across a child’s upper thighs and the shoulder belt should cross the middle of a child’s chest and shoulder.

Seat Belts Usually between ages 8 and 12, or when they are 4’9” tall, children should use a seat belt in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection. The seat belt should fit properly with the lap belt lying across the child’s upper thighs and the shoulder belt across the chest. Seat belts are designed for adults. If it does not fit your child correctly, she should stay in a booster seat until the seat belt fits her properly. Also, be sure your child does not tuck the shoulder belt behind her back or under her arm.

Tips to remember
There are many types of seats that can be used. Be sure that the car safety seat you choose works within current child passenger safety guidelines. When making changes, always follow the car seat instructions. Follow the instructions in your car owner’s manual to properly install your child’s car seat. Always wear your own seat belt as a good role model. Never allow anyone to share car seats or seat belts. The safest place for children under the age of 13 is in the back seat.

All of the above information was gathered from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Website at www.aap.org and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Website at www.nhtsa.gov. If you want more information, such as on safely securing children with special needs, premature infants, using used car seats or airplane safety tips, go to these sites. If you need help installing your child’s car seat, contact a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician. visit www.seatcheck.org.
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