Dear Parents:

Another summer is behind us and another school year has begun. As we close out our summer backpack program for this year, we are expecting an even larger backpack class for next summer! Many of you have requested that we put your child on our summer list for 2015. Preference will be given to our current families when filling openings in our backpack room for next summer. In addition, if you suddenly find yourself in need of childcare due to an unexpected school closing, you can use our backpack room for drop in childcare. I would ask that you call our office in the morning to let us know that school has been cancelled and you will be bringing your child to us. Also, if you are going to need childcare during the days Delaware City Schools are closed for the fair, please let us know.

As usual, the schools are still working the bugs out of the bussing schedules but overall the year started off without a hitch. Our other students are settling into their new classrooms and getting to know their new teachers and classmates. Our new kindergarten class and our pre-school classes will begin their new year on September 2nd.

I will be taking a much needed vacation the week of September 14th. During that time, please speak to my office staff if you have any concerns. I’m asking that you not call, text or email me so I can enjoy some time with my family.

There have been several incidents in the past few months where children became upset when a sibling tries to check themselves into the ProCare system in the mornings or out in the afternoon. I’m asking that parents only use the check
in/out system. This way, it eliminates any arguments between siblings. More importantly, we use this system as a means of communication. Many times we leave messages for parents so they see it when they are checking in/out. If children are using the system, they may not realize there is a message for the parents to read.

As we begin to transition into fall weather please bring a jacket or sweater in for your child to keep in their cubby if they don’t already have one.

REMINDER: beginning January 1, 2015 we will only accept online payments for tuition.

The Teddy Bears–Miss Barb, Miss Ashley, Miss Betty

Happy first birthday to Sawyer who will celebrate his special day on September 29th. We would like to welcome Max and Grayson to the Infant Room. We’re looking forward to getting to know our newest babies and their families.

Our theme for this month will be all about the fair. On Monday September 8th, if it’s possible dress your baby in an outfit that has a fair theme to it. We’ll be doing special pictures that day.

We’ll also be creating farm animals with our foot and hand prints.

As always, we are in need of any extra plastic Walmart or Kroger bags that you don’t need.

The Butterflies-Miss Michelle, Miss Victoria

Welcome Maddison to our classroom! We’re always excited when a new friend joins us.

Our focus this month will be on the following areas:

**Week 1:** Physical Education and our letters will be E-F-G-H

**Week 2:** The five senses and our numbers will be 1-2-3-4

**Week 3:** Apples and the shape oval

**Week 4:** The fair and the color yellow

**Week 5:** 1 Corinthians 16:14 “Do Everything in Love”

Our classroom could use some dry erase markers and a dry erase board eraser.

Freeman’s Farm Fall Festival

6142 Lewis Center Road
Galena, Ohio 43021
740.548.7866

Come enjoy the changing colors of the season with your friends and family. The farm offers a wide variety of traditional farm activities in which your family can participate.

Five Great Weekends:
September 27-28, October 4-5, October 11-12, October 18-19, October 25-26

Activities include:

- Farm animals petting area
- Campfire concession area
- Apple butter making demonstration
- Kettle corn popping
- County Market
- Crafts and gifts
- Hayrides travel through scenic woods
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The Busy Bees-Miss Kim, Miss Lindsey

Please remember that Friday is share day. **Do not bring in any type of violent toy such as guns and knives.** Also, do not bring in toys from home Monday through Thursday.

**Themes:** Meet me, Community helpers, Fair, Meet my family  
**Letters:** D-G  
**Numbers:** 4-7  
**Shapes:** rectangle, oval, diamond, star  
**Colors:** brown, black, gray, green

The Lively Lions–Miss April, Miss Kristi

September is another big birthday month in the five year old room! **Tripp** will celebrate his big day on the 12th followed by **Alexis** on the 17th and **Lexie** on the 26th. Happy Birthday to all of you.

What better way to celebrate fall than with a fall party. Our class will have a fall party of September 26th at 10:00. A sign-up sheet will be posted as we get closer to that date.

This month we will be working on the following:

**September 2-5:** The five senses, the letter Dd, the number four, the sight word up, the color red, and the shape circle.

**September 8-12:** Apples, the letter Ee, the number five, the sight word a.

**September 15-19:** Fair week, the letter Ff, a review of the numbers 1-5, the sight word said.

**September 22-26:** Fall, the letter Gg, the number six, the sight word the

We are in need of some extra classroom supplies if you are willing to donate them to us. We could use some fall stickers, extra crayons, markers, glue sticks and baby food jars.

Delaware County Preservation Parks

Fall 2014 Hound Hikes

Bring your family and your dogs to the parks for fun and entertaining walks with a naturalist. Hound hikes are an opportunity to visit our scenic parks and also gather some pet-related information from our guest presenters, such as pet care and discipline, supplies and services. Pets must be up to date on all shots and have county tags. Meet at the kiosks. All hikes begin at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday, September 10th**  
Shale Hollow Preserve  
6320 Artesian Run  
Lewis Center  
Guest: The Outdoor Source

**Monday, September 22nd**  
Hogback Ridge Preserve  
2656 Hogback Road  
Sunbury  
Guest: The Madisson Inn

**Monday, October 6th**  
Deer Haven Preserve  
4183 Liberty Road  
Delaware  
Guest: Simply Dog Photography

Freeman’s Farm Fall Festival

6142 Lewis Center Road
Galena, Ohio  43021
740.548.7866
James Dobson believes that children should not participate in sleepovers. The world has changed, he says, and has become too dangerous to allow your children out of your sight for so long. In his book *Bringing Up Girls*, he says:

Sadly, the world has changed in the last few decades, and it is no longer a safe place for children. Pedophiles and child molesters are more pervasive than ever. That is why parents must be diligent to protect their kids every hour of the day and night. ...  

Until you have dealt with little victims as I have and seen the pain in their eyes, you might not fully appreciate the devastation inflicted by molestation. It casts a long shadow on everything that follows, including future marital relationships. Therefore, parents have to think the unthinkable in every situation. The threat can come from anywhere—including neighbors, uncles, stepfathers, grandfathers, Sunday school teachers, coaches, music instructors, Scout leaders, and babysitters. Even public bathrooms can be dangerous today...

He believes the threat is so pervasive that parents should not allow their children to participate in sleepovers. I find myself both agreeing and disagreeing.

I agree with the nature of his concerns. Before my children were even old enough to ask, Aileen and I talked it through and decided we would not allow our kids to do sleepovers. Now let’s be clear: there is no biblical command that forbids them, so this was not a matter of clear right and wrong, but a matter of attempting to act with wisdom. We determined we would make it a family rule: Our children would not be allowed to spend the night at their friends’ homes. We believed they would face a particular kind of vulnerability if they found themselves alone and in bed outside our care, and we wanted to protect them from it. So they have stayed at their grandparents’ and have stayed with my sisters when we’ve visited the South, but they have not stayed at friend’s homes.
(Note: My son is fourteen and we have now relaxed the rule with him, though permission is still dependent on circumstances.)

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The reason we drew the rule so firmly was that it removes exceptions and explanations. We know ourselves well and realized that if we drew up a list of exceptions we would inevitably broaden that list over time. Not only that, but we did not want to have to explain to a family why we allowed our children to stay with others but not with them. So sleepovers were just taken right off the table without exceptions or individual explanations.

In this way I agree with Dobson that there is wisdom in avoiding sleepovers. But here’s where I disagree: that the risk is that much higher today than it was decades ago.

Aileen and I made our decision based largely on experience and observation of what happened around us when we were young. We made this decision because even in our youth—decades ago—we saw plenty of evidence of the dangers inherent in sleepovers.

When I was young I had some bad experiences with sleepovers. Nothing devastating happened to me, but I did learn that sleepovers bring a certain vulnerability and that children often behave foolishly in these circumstances. Before long my family came to know the local chief of police and he told us that if he had learned anything in his many years of law enforcement it was this: Don’t let your kids sleep over. As I got older I learned of several people I knew who had been taken advantage of during sleepovers, and it wasn’t a perverse father in most cases, but a predatory older brother or sister or cousin. Sometimes it was even the friend himself. The world was plenty dangerous back then and children were just as vulnerable, but somehow these things weren’t talked about as they are today.

As Aileen and I considered all of this and weighed it in our minds, we decided that the benefits of sleepovers did not outweigh the risks.

Denny Burk writes, “Parents must be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves when figuring out the best way to protect children from both. Moreover, parents will often have to pursue principles that might seem strange to the rest of the world but

The early church didn’t say, “Look what the world is coming to!”
They said, “Look what has come into the world!”
—Carl Henry
which are the only rational responses to very real and potential threats to children." Burk believes we need to challenge the assumption of sleepover-as-norm, and I quite agree. Do not allow yourself to feel pressured into sleepovers simply because it is what parents have always done. Instead, consider the issues and come to a conclusion that is right for your family and your context.

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Here's What's Cooking!

Cooler temperatures and football season can only mean one thing – it’s time to break out the comfort foods.

**Turketti Casserole**
1-1/4 cups (2-inch) spaghetti pieces
1/4 cup minced pimento
1/4 cup diced green pepper
1/2 cup turkey or chicken broth
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 cup diced onion
1-1/2 to 2 cups cooked turkey or chicken cut into 1-inch pieces
1 10-1/2 ounce can cream of mushroom soup
1/8 teaspoon celery salt
1/2 cup grated Cheddar Cheese
Parmesan cheese (optional)

Preheat oven to 350F. Cook spaghetti until barely tender. Drain and rinse with hot water then drain well again. Mix with all ingredients except cheeses. Toss lightly. Pour into a greased 1-1/2 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle with cheeses if desired. Bake 45 minutes to one hour.

**Pumpkin Crumble Cake**
Base:
2 15 oz. cans pumpkin pie filling
1 12 oz. can evaporated milk
4 large eggs
1-1/2 cups sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Topping:
1 box yellow cake mix (do not mix according to directions)
1 cup (2 sticks) butter
1-2 cups walnuts or pecans
Whipped Cream

Preheat oven to 350F. Mix together base ingredients. Pour base mix into an ungreased 9x13 baking dish. Evenly distribute the dry yellow cake mix over the top of the pumpkin mix. You can sprinkle with additional pumpkin pie spice if desired. Melt butter and pour over the dry cake mix. The butter will not completely cover the cake. Spread nuts evenly on top of cake mix. Bake in oven for 1 hour. Serve warm with fresh whipped cream.
Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie.

~Jim Davis