March 8 - Daylight Savings Time Starts - Spring Forward

March 9 - Adaptive Sports in PE

March 9 - 5:00-6:30 Talent Show Auditions

** March 9 - Third Nine Weeks Ends **

March 10 - Author Visit - Denise Lawson

March 10 - Pay $1-Wear a Hat-Help Archery Team!

March 10 - 5:00-6:30 Talent Show Auditions

March 12 - 7:00 WCPS Board Meeting @ North Warren Elementary

Mar 13 - Beta Snack Shack @ Morning Meeting

Mar 13 - Third Quarter PBIS Dance Party

March 13-15 - Greenwood HS Musical - Newsies

** March 18 - Report Cards Sent Home **

March 18 - World Down Syndrome Day Celebration @ BW

March 19 & 20 - NO SCHOOL

Mar 23 - SBDM Council Meeting

Mar 24 - Primary Leader of the Month

Mar 25 - Spring Picture Day

Mar 26 - Intermediate Leader of the Month
Talent Show Info from Mrs. Nance
It’s time to start getting your act(s) together for our annual talent show to showcase your special talent. Auditions will be held on Monday, March 9, 5:00-6:30 pm OR Tuesday, March 10, 5:00-6:30 pm. Talent show auditions in the music room. Monday, March 30 - Talent Show @ 6:00 pm

The K-PREP Testing Window for Warren County Elementary Schools has been set for May 7 - May 13. Please avoid making any appointments during this time.

iTunes Gift Cards - Briarwood is currently updating our iTunes account and loading/adding/purchasing songs for future upcoming events at Briarwood - Family Sweetheart Dance, Morning Meetings, Fun Fridays, PBIS Quarterly Reward Events, & etc. If you would like to donate iTunes gift cards, please send them to your child’s homeroom teachers!

Briarwood’s Beta Club is raising money to compete at the National Convention in Texas this summer. To help with fundraising we will have a SNACK SHACK set up at Morning Meeting on Friday, March 13. We will have various kinds of candy available for sell for $1 each. We would love to have your support!
Upcoming Author Visit!
Denise Lawson will be visiting Briarwood on Tuesday, March 10! She will be sharing Black Bear’s adventures. Books will be available for purchase in advance and that day. More information will be sent home soon! For more information about Black Bear visit www.blackbearsleddog.com

A Message from Mr. Clayton

WCPS Community,

As the coronavirus continues to impact communities across the country, I want to provide you with the latest update in regard to our preparation as a school district. As you may recall from communication last week, we began monitoring this situation in close collaboration with both local and state health officials. If you haven’t read that communication or if you would like to review it, it is available at this link.

In keeping with our commitment to keep you accurately informed, we have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions, which outlines many of WCPS’ current practices as well as several of our precautionary measures. I encourage you to review this information as we work together to minimize any potential impact on our school community. Please know that you can expect us to continue our timely communication as we continue to monitor the spread of the coronavirus. As always, thank you for entrusting us to educate your child!

Respectfully,
Rob Clayton
Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

April 2020

Warren County BOE
Warren County Schools

Use fun activities to teach letters and encourage interest in reading

Letters are the building blocks of words. Learning to recognize them is a critical step on your preschooler’s path to reading and writing readiness. And when you provide a variety of creative ways to learn, your child’s interest in reading is likely to grow along with his skills.

To teach letter recognition:

- **Play with food.** Create letters from tasty supplies such as circle-shaped crackers and small, straight pretzels. Let your child break up the foods to form letters, too.
- **Jump the alphabet.** Write letters on paper plates. Put the plates on the floor. Call out a letter and ask your child to jump on that plate.
- **Write with light.** Use the beam of a flashlight to draw a letter on a wall or ceiling in a dark room. Can your child follow the beam and figure out the letter? Take turns making letters and guessing.
- **Put pieces together.** Draw part of a letter, such as a circle or diagonal line. Let your child add to it, eventually making a letter, such as P or W. Offer hints as needed. Then switch roles and let him draw the first line.
- **Match big and small.** Write letters in uppercase and lowercase on a sheet of paper (start with the letters of your child’s name). Have your child draw lines from each lowercase letter to its uppercase match.

Practice social communication skills

Children use their communication skills to establish friendships at school. Speaking to peers can be a challenge for shy children, who often do not say much—even when they have large vocabularies.

Research shows that knowledge of words doesn’t always improve social communication. So if shyness is keeping your child from making friends, she may need to strengthen other communication skills. To help:

- **Role-play** having conversations. Remind your child to make eye contact and speak clearly.
- **Help your child read cues.** Pretend to be bored by what she’s saying. Does she notice? Say, “Did you hear me sigh when you kept talking? If someone does that, they are probably done listening.”
- **Change the topic.** While chatting with your child, start talking about something else. Can she make the switch? Adaptability is key for social communication.

Source: “Building social communication skills in shy children helps with peer likability,” Yale-NNIC College, nisc.org/ycc_shy.

Care for the Earth together

On Earth Day, April 22, show your child that taking care of the planet is something everyone—even preschoolers!—can and should do. Teach him to:

- **Reduce.** Turning off the lights when he leaves a room reduces energy waste.
- **Reuse.** He can flip a piece of paper over and draw another picture.
- **Recycle.** Help him turn cardboard boxes and tubes into toy spaceships, telescopes, bowing pins, etc.

Avoid a praise problem

Studies show that praising your child’s intelligence isn’t the smartest idea. When children are frequently praised for being smart, they feel pressured to prove it—and are more likely to cheat. To keep your praise positive:

- **Avoid labeling your child.** If she feels her identity is tied to a label, like the "smart one" or the “athletic one,” she may try to preserve it at all costs.
- **Focus on effort** instead of talent. “Yay! You kept looking until you found it!”


Jigsaw puzzles develop thinking and concentration

The learning value in jigsaw puzzles makes them a great activity for your child. As he puts pieces together, your preschooler is building fine motor skills and learning to think logically and visually. Puzzles can also help lengthen children’s attention spans. Start your child with simple puzzles of about eight pieces and move up at his pace.

* Be respectful  * Be responsible  * Be a team player  * Be willing to learn
How can I help my child learn to be a better sport?

Q: Losing a game, or not being chosen first, really upsets my daughter. I sometimes let her win to avoid dealing with her fits—which I know is wrong. What should I do instead?

A: It’s disappointing when someone else wins or is chosen earlier. Disappointment doesn’t feel good, but it’s important to help your preschooler learn to accept it and move on. Here’s how:

• **Talk about what it means to be a good sport.** Don’t assume your child knows. Say that good sports respect fellow players. When they win, they don’t gloat. When they don’t win, they don’t pout.

• **Let her experience losing.** No one wins all the time. When your child loses, help her put her feelings into words, rather than tantrums.

• **Acknowledge her feelings.** Let your child know you understand. Encourage her to say, “I’ll try again another time.” Then have her switch to a different activity for a while.

• **Emphasize effort.** Tell your child that win or lose, she can always feel proud if she’s done her best.

• **Focus on the fun.** Games are meant to be enjoyable. Remind your child that if she has a good time playing, she’s a winner.

Prepare your child for responsible independence

Putting your preschooler in charge of doing some tasks on her own helps her learn the responsibility and independence she’ll need in school. To set her up for success, try this four-step process:

1. **Model the skill.** Have your child watch you do the task a few times.

2. **Repeat it together** several times. You can each do part of it, or take turns.

3. **Let your child solo.** Supervise, but let her handle the task herself. The goal isn’t perfection; it is to make her feel capable.

4. **Make the task routine.** Have your child perform it around the same time each day. Soon it will become a habit.

Everyone has a heritage

Sharing family history and traditions with your child helps him appreciate who he is. As you share what’s special about your family, point out that other people have different backgrounds and traditions that make them special, too. Encourage your child to make friends with kids from other cultures. Help him appreciate their differences—and recognize the things they have in common.

Ask questions to prompt thinking about math

Children who succeed at math don’t just memorize math facts. They learn to think mathematically. To get your child thinking in math terms, ask questions like:

• **How many are there?** Help her count items as she points to them.

• **Which is more, your whole cookie or half of it?**

• **What can you see that is square?**

• **How can we solve this problem?**

Are you encouraging your child to care?

Caring is an important quality in a student. A preschooler who cares about people and things will be more likely to care about doing well in school. Are you encouraging your child to be caring and kind? Answer yes or no below:

1. Do you set an example of caring behavior by helping your child and others and showing them respect?

2. Do you teach your child to thank others, both in person and by writing notes?

3. Do you encourage your child to do acts of kindness for others, such as offering to share a toy?

4. Do you help your child consider others’ feelings? “Jim seems sad to be alone. Let’s ask him to join our game.”

5. Do you show your child how to take care of living things, such as plants or pets?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are raising your child to be thoughtful and caring.

For each no, try that idea.

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* Be respectful  * Be responsible  * Be a team player  * Be willing to learn
‘Quick writes’ help kids discover and develop writing ability

When it comes to writing, the common saying that “the hardest part is getting started” rings true for many students. Quick writes are a fun and easy way to help your reluctant writer get comfortable putting her ideas down on paper.

Quick writes are just what they sound like—writing done in short amounts of time. You supply a thought-provoking question or idea, and set a timer for five minutes. Then you and your child each write down everything you can think of on the topic before the timer beeps. Afterward, compare what you have written.

Challenge your child to a quick write from time to time. Try these topics:

- **What are some** of your favorite sounds? Why do you like them?
- **How can you tell** if you like someone?
- **What is the hardest thing** you have ever done? How did you do it?
- **How would life be different** if no one could write?
- **What would you most like** to learn how to do? Why?
- **Ten years from now**, what will you be like?

Your child may be surprised to discover how many ideas she has about a particular subject, and how much she can write in just a few minutes.

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**Reading issues may be hearing issues**

Research shows that hearing loss is often a factor when children struggle to read. In one study, 25 percent of children who had difficulty reading showed mild to moderate hearing loss that their parents didn’t know about.

Having multiple ear infections can sometimes be enough to damage a child’s hearing and affect his reading ability. But because the degree of impairment may be small, he may not notice. Have your child’s hearing screened by his doctor, and stay alert for these signs of impairment:

- **Raising the volume**. Does your child turn up the TV sound when everyone else thinks it’s fine?
- **Favoring one ear**. Turning one ear toward you when you speak may mean that’s his “good” ear.
- **A loud speaking voice**, when your child isn’t excited or angry.
- **A drop in participation** at school. Many things can cause this, but one may be his hearing.


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**Build positive study habits**

Students learn conscientiousness—the ability to set and meet goals, think through choices and fulfill responsibilities—over time. Doing homework can strengthen this trait. When your child does assignments at home:

- **Remind him to take his time** and work carefully—even when he’d rather be doing something else.
- **Encourage him to keep trying**—even when the going gets tough.
- **Have him check his finished work** and confirm that his answers are correct.


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**Role-play social interaction**

The skills needed to make friends and get along with others at school don’t come easily to everyone. To help your child, role-play social situations, such as joining a group or meeting someone new: “Hi, I’m Jill. Nice to meet you!” Don’t worry about popularity. Having just one good buddy at school is fine as long as your child knows how to cooperate well with others.

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**Show why rules matter**

Children have more respect for rules when they understand why they are necessary. To demonstrate the need for rules:

- **Play a game together** without obeying the rules. Then play with the rules. Which way works better?
- **Imagine a world** without rules. Discuss what would happen if drivers could run red lights ... if people could steal ... if kids could yell in class, etc.
Q&A: What can I do to restore my child’s self-worth?

Q: Sometimes my son is too hard on himself. I only expect him to do his best. How can I help him be satisfied with that?

A: Elementary school is a time when children begin to notice their own weaknesses. It is also hard for many kids to know what their "best" really is. There are many ways you can help:

- **Review your expectations.** Are your goals for your child realistic? If you set reasonable goals and relax about normal mistakes, your son is likely to do the same thing.

- **Be sympathetic.** Don’t just brush off your son’s self-criticism. Discuss it with him. Remind him that no one can be perfect, but we can all learn and get smarter.

- **Consider motives.** Sometimes kids complain about themselves to get reassurance from parents. Make sure you always give your child plenty of positive attention.

- **Encourage positive thinking.** Point out your child’s strengths. Help him learn from mistakes. Teach him to use affirmative self-talk, such as, “I’m proud of how hard I tried.”

- **Emphasize that you love your child** for who he is. Tell him that will never change no matter what he does or doesn’t do.

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**Parent Quiz**

Are you a supportive reading audience?

When your child is a beginning reader, reading to you is an important way for her to develop her skills. How you listen can affect her motivation—and her progress. Are you boosting reading confidence? Answer yes or no below:

1. **Do you provide** lots of appropriate reading material? Look for books with repetitive words and phrases, and only one picture per page.

2. **Do you allow** your child time to decode a word before you supply it?

3. **Do you avoid** frequently interrupting your child to correct her?

4. **Do you encourage** your child to reread favorite books or passages? Familiarity supports fluency.

5. **Do you offer** lots of praise and encouragement when your child reads?

**How well are you doing?**

More yes answers mean you are helping your child become a confident reader. For each no, try that idea.

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**Helping Children Learn**

Published in English and Spanish, September through May.

*Published by* The Parent Institute, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. www.parent-institute.com

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* Be respectful  
* Be responsible  
* Be a team player  
* Be willing to learn
Briarwood Elementary
A Leader in Me Lighthouse School

**Special Needs Expo**

**March 28, 10AM-3PM**


**Provide Information. Inspire Hope. Empower Families.**

- Advocacy & Support
- Assistive Technology & Durable Medical Equipment
- Creative Arts & Recreation
- Education & Life After 18
- Legal & Financial
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**Free Event Open to the Public**

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- Vision
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- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy

**Attractions**
- Fashion Show
- Performances
- Haircuts
- Photo Booth
- Special Olympics
- Adaptive Sports Demonstrations
- Face Painting
- Arts for All Kentucky Exclusive Art Exhibit

Attendees are encouraged to bring noise-cancelling headphones or other sensory aids as needed.

* Be respectful
* Be responsible
* Be a team player
* Be willing to learn
Briarwood Elementary
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Opening Day, March 21st

WWW.sky_soccer.org

Rec (Ages 6-18) $70 • YDP (Ages 6-8) $150 • Mighty Kicks (Ages 2-5) $70

* Be respectful * Be responsible * Be a team player * Be willing to learn