

# BRIGHT NEWS!

MAY

2021

## Shout Out to All You Amazing Women Out There!

Moms, Step-Moms, Grandmas, Aunts, Big Sisters, Caregivers, THANK YOU for being there for the little one(s) in your life! We get to see you first-hand every single day when you come to drop your tiny humans off and we see the love you have for them! As mother's ourselves, we know your job does not always come easy: walking on egg shells to see what mood your little one will wake up in, stressing out because their breakfast bar broke in half and now they won't eat it, the joys that come with picking the wrong color cup or plate, tip-toeing past the toy aisle in Target because you just need a couple more items and you HAVE to make it out without a meltdown. WE FEEL YOU! But when they hug your neck and kiss your cheek, it's all so very worth it! Just know, you are amazing and you are raising some very cool children! We cannot thank you enough for sharing them with us each and every week! We appreciate you so much and so do your kids! Have a beautiful and very

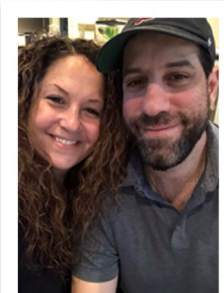
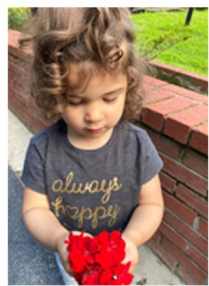
Happy Mother's Day!

### Meet The Stavropoulos Family George, Elenie and Anna

We feel so blessed to have this amazing family at our school. Anna greets us every morning with a sweet smile, loads of energy and excitement to learn. Thanks for all your support!

#### Getting to Know You:

- What activities does your family enjoy? **We love to travel, spending time with family/friends and playing games together**
- What is your family's favorite meal? **Pastichio. It's the Greek version of lasagna**
- What is Anna's favorite school Memory? **Ausland, of course! She absolutely loves her and talks about seeing her every day.**
- Are there any extracurricular activities Anna participates in? **Not yet, but we hope to sign up for gymnastics soon!**
- Does your family have a favorite vacation spot? **Yes! We love traveling to Aruba and Greece.**
- Do you have any pets? **Yes. We have an 8 year-old Havanese named Kiki.**



## Our Staff SHINES the Brightest!

Dear Staff,

Your job has been a whirlwind this past year. You have overcome some serious obstacles with adjusting to new guidelines and regulations during the pandemic. You've had to adjust your ability to communicate with your little one's parents. You've worn masks for a solid year 8-10 hours a day to keep yourself and everyone around you safe. You are what keeps the school going. You are all the backbone of this fun, bright, energetic, innovative operation and we are so thankful we have you! We appreciate all that you do and truly believe we have the best staff in town!

Happy Teacher Appreciation!

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## National Teacher Appreciation Week!

National Teacher Appreciation Week is **Monday, May 3rd through Friday, May 7th**. Star Preschools would like to acknowledge the **AMAZING** staff we have at our program! These outstanding individuals put a tremendous amount of effort into teaching, caring and mentoring your children and they are constantly striving to help them learn and grow all year round! Now more than ever before, they deserve to be acknowledged for all that they do! *Below are the ways you can help make this year's Teacher Appreciation extra special.*

Monday-May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday-May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday-May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday-May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Friday-May 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>You Are A STAR</b>	Lunch On Us	<b>Willy Wonka's Candy Bar</b>	Thankful Thursday	Flower Shower Color
We Are Rolling Out The Red Carpet For Our Teachers And Treating Them Like The STARS They Are! Help Treat Your Teacher Like A STAR and Bring In An Item To Help Pamper Them!	Give A FIVE STAR Lunch And Treat Your Teacher!  \$5 Gift Cards From Local Lunch Spots	Sweets and Treats For Your Teacher  Bring Candy Sweets To Help Fill Our Candy Bar With Awesome Treats!	Bring Thankful Notes To Let Your Teacher Know How Much You Appreciate Everything They Do!	Show Your Teacher How Much You Care And Wear Their Favorite Color

## Mother's Day Muffins With Mom: Reserve the Date

We are so excited to announce that our annual "Muffins With MOM" event is ON this year! This special occasion will take place on **Friday, May 7th**, times are TBD based on each age group so please be on the look out for an email invitation with more detailed information and R.S.V.P. sign-up sheets. *This will be an outdoor event so that we can continue to encourage social distancing and keep everyone safe.* We truly enjoy all of the moms and or significant other who is able to come spend time with their little ones; it's an honor for us to acknowledge your hard work and all you do! Thank you for sharing your children with us and letting us get to know your families. We can't wait to see you at the celebration and Happy Mother's Day!

## 2021 Pre-K Graduates!

Pre-K Graduation Ceremonies and Celebrations are right around the corner! Ceremonies as well as the party will be held outside this year. ONLY primary caregivers are permitted to come to this event, two people max. We will be having a celebration consisting of cake and a special graduation themed ceremony. We are so proud of our little graduates and will miss them dearly as they adventure off to kindergarten! The graduation celebration will take place on **Thursday, May 27** please be on the look out for an invitation email with more detailed information headed your way!



As we honor police officers in May for National Police Week, I'd like to pass on a few tips to teach your children:

- ⇒ **Teach your child to say "No, I don't keep secrets" if a stranger (or anyone) asks them to!**
- ⇒ **Agree on a Family Code Word...if a random person approaches your child and does not know the code word, the child should run and tell a trusted adult.**
- ⇒ **Play the Freeze Game - if a child is lost, teach them to remain in one spot until they're found by their guardian.**
- ⇒ **Teach your child to yell "This is NOT my mommy/daddy, HELP!" if an unfamiliar person tries to grab them by force or tries to make them go somewhere.**

There are several more tips like this that can be found on child safety websites; I encourage you to check a few sites out before you have a safety conversation with your child.

-Nurse Terry

## **Early Preschool A Parents, Don't Forget to Potty Train!**

We only have about four more months until your child is expected to transition to Preschool, can you believe it? One of the suggestions for our Preschool Program is *everyone should be potty trained*. If your child is not yet potty trained, now would be a great time to start putting it on your radar. When you choose to take this step with your child, please communicate openly with your child's teachers in regards to what does and does not work or motivate them. Potty training is a TEAM effort, so you and your child's teachers' must be "all in" and fully committed to a plan for it to work at both school and home. This will also prevent any confusion for the child. Below are a few helpful tips to keep in mind once beginning the potty training process:

**\*\*\*Clothing:** Pack plenty of extra clothes for school. Mostly underwear, shorts or pants and socks. Please keep in mind, they will be pulling their own pants down and up, as this is part of the learning process. Therefore, trying to avoid tighter fitting bottoms is a huge advantage for the little ones.

**\*\*\*Shoes:** Sometimes, accidents tend to make it all the way down to their shoes. Please try and bring your child in easily wiped closed-toed shoes (such as Crocs or rubber water shoes). If this is not possible, please understand there is a possibility their tennis shoes may need to be washed and fully sanitized at home.

**\*\*\*Wipes:** Once your child is successfully potty trained, you will then provide 2 packages of flushable wipes and one package of non-flushable wipes each month to your child's class. The flushable wipes will be used to start teaching your child the right way to wipe his or herself after a BM. Non-flushable wipes will continue to be used for wiping hands and faces.

**\*\*\*Is Your Child Struggling?** It's ok! Everyone learns at their own pace! Some things that may help are a potty chart (have the children add a sticker after successful attempts), take your child to actually pick out their very own underwear (make it a HUGE deal), allow them to practice flushing the toilet so they can overcome that fear if it exists, allow your child sit on the potty with a small toy or books for entertainment. Last but not least, you can NEVER praise them too much for sitting on the potty, even if they don't actually go potty, this experience HAS to remain positive! :)



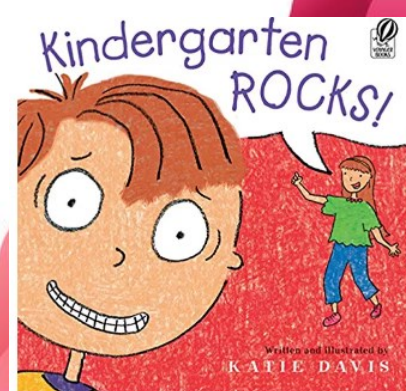
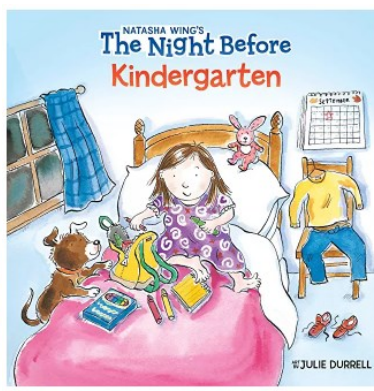
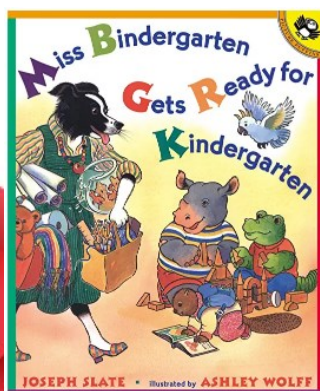
# CURRICULUM CORNER

## **Off to Kindergarten!**

Your little one has finally conquered Pre-K and is headed for Kindergarten in August! YAY! What's the next step? Although your child may be familiar with typical school routines, Kindergarten will still be a change. Your child will be adapting to a lot of new faces, a new building, and several new rules. The good news is, our Pre-K teachers did an outstanding job prepping them academically, so that specific familiarity will be a HUGE confidence booster! Below are some helpful tips while trying to adjust your little one to the new kinder routine.

- ⇒ Try and go tour your child's new classroom if you can! Check out the playgrounds, the library, the cafeteria, etc. Exploring the building can help dissolve the anticipation of not knowing what's to come and puts the imagination to rest.
- ⇒ \* Read *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn a few days before school starts and again the night before the big day. As an extension of the book, put a kiss on an index card and send it to school with your child.
- ⇒ \*If your little one is feeling anxious, remind them of all the positive and fun experiences to come from making new friends to learning new things. Make sure they know how excited you are to hear about their day and reassure them you'll see them soon.
- ⇒ Let them be a part of the school supply process, they will love picking new things out and knowing it will be a part of their school experience.
- ⇒ Make sure your child knows how they will be dropped off and picked up from school. Whether they should expect to be taken to bus lanes, parent pick-up or going to an after school program will help ease their minds and make their transitions a little easier.
- ⇒ Last, make sure that YOU are emotionally prepared. It will not be easy to walk away from your child, especially if they are crying, but if you stay it can escalate the situation and only make it harder. Simply say your goodbye and reassure your little one that you will see them soon and can't wait to hear all about it!

## **Book Suggestions When Prepping for Kinder:**



# ***Congratulations, Pre-K Grads!***



114 Industrial Park Rd  
Plymouth, MA 02360

Phone: 774 234-7827

Our Principals Email:

nicole.g@starboardacademy.com

## May's Important Dates:

Monday, May 3rd - Friday, May 7th:

Teacher Appreciation Week

Friday, May 7th:

Mother's Day Celebration

Friday, May 28th

Pre-K Graduation

Monday, May 31st:

CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day

## Looking Forward to June:

Tuesday, June 1st:

First Day of Summer Camp

Stay Tuned For Our Father's Day Celebration!

## Connect with US!



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