



Maple River ECFE/SR Newsletter

ECFE Winter Events

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Pizza and Gym Night January 19 ML, 23 Amboy & GT and 24 Mapleton

Pizza and Gym Night is a night for your family to come and do great developmental motor activities during these winter months and enjoy some pizza.

See the registration form to find out what night it's in each town.

Please register for this event on the registration form within this newsletter. Cost is \$3 each for all adults and children 2 yrs old or older that attend the event.

Science Night—5 Senses Thursday February 9 6:00-7:30pm

All families with children birth to Kindergarten are welcome!!! It will be held in the Commons Area at the Mapleton school.

This event will be focused primarily on preschool age children but infants/toddlers will love to observe. Otherwise infants/toddlers may take advantage of sibling care.

The science night will be set up with different science projects geared toward the 5 senses for the children to do with their parents.

Teddy Bear Picnic Night Week of February 27-March 3

The kids will love to spend family time together when it can involve their teddy bear as well.

So when the family comes to this event, don't forget your teddy bears for you all to enjoy a picnic and some teddy bear fun!!

Please register for this event on the registration form in this newsletter and sign up for any of the 4 towns it will be held in.

Mark Your Calendars:

- January 19, 23 & 24—Pizza and Gym night. Check registration for dates of each location
- Thursday February 9—Science Night
- Week of February 27—Teddy Bear Picnic night in each town
- Week of March 5; Spring ECFE Session begins.
- Spring Early Childhood Screening will be some time in March. If you don't have an appointment set up by March 1, please call us.

Sponsor-a-Child Program Donators

We want to give all children the opportunity to have a quality education, so we run a program that helps families who can't afford to pay for preschool. Giving the children of our community a good start will help our community for years to come.

If you are interested in donating, know of someone that might or are part of a organization/business that we can add to our sponsor list next year, please let one of our staff know.

Our program reaches out to district residence and businesses to support our program by giving donations. We appreciate our donators so much because of their generosity we are able to have 15-20 children in the program every year... WOW! That is a lot of families helped! What a great community to be part of.

We would like to recognize our donators so far this year:

- Back Door Clothes Closet of Wells
- Amboy Presbyterian

- Amboy Fire Department
- Amboy Lions
- Mapleton Chamber of Commerce
- Mapleton Community Chest
- Sertoma
- Minnesota Lake Lions
- Pemberton Fire-fighter Relief Assoc.

Awareness of Early Childhood Education Benefits is Growing

“Minnesota joined nine states Friday in winning a piece of \$500 million in federal money for early education. Nearly half of students aren't ready for kindergarten, a state study found.” is headline of a Star Tribune article from December 16.

“Early learning is absolutely critical for our nation's long-term economic competitiveness,” states U.S. Secretary of Education.

At a news conference, Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius said the grant will help Minnesota families. “We've said all along, our children have to be ready for kindergarten, they have to start the race earlier and get to that starting line, so that they can finish successfully,” she said.

(From Star Tribune article from December 16)

This grant and many more have been arising for Early Childhood programs and the needs of this population. Studies and research are showing up with more and more data on the long-term community/society effects of a high-quality early childhood education; and these grants are proof of that! It is a very exciting time for early childhood education and helping our young community grow healthy, educated and successful.

ECFE Spring Session Classes

Starting the week of March 5

Infant-Toddler Class

This class is for children birth to 24 months old. It is an informal hour for you to spend with your infant or toddler to learn about normal development. It's also a time to experience many new and fun activities. One of the classes will include a visit from a pediatrician. Classes meet for 4 weeks on Thursdays in the Mapleton ECFE/Preschool classroom. Choose from two class times for your convenience; 4:30-5:30 or 6:00-7:00

2-5 Year Old Class

With families today caught up in their busy lifestyles, this program provides a great opportunity for you to spend quality time with your child away from phones, computers and TV. It also helps them become more familiar with the school building and environment.

Take an active part in this learning experience with your child by attending classes under the direction of licensed early childhood teachers. You will also have time together with other parents and a parent educator to have discussions on many different topics regarding parenting.



ECFE Advisory Council

Next meeting is February 7 at 5:30 in the Mapleton preschool room.

All are welcome to meet other parents, gain more knowledge about program and give feedback.

Child care is available.

Friday class will be play time only with the parent piece being incorporated (no separation time) Daycare groups welcome :)

This class meets once a week for 8 weeks at each Maple River site. Sibling care is available if needed for \$2 per class or \$10 per eight week session if paid prior to the start of the session. Reduced tuition available upon request.

See the ECFE registration form in this newsletter to sign-up.

Spring Screening

Does your child need to be “ready” for screening? Does there need to be a concern for you to get them screened?

NO!

They just need to be at least 3 years old. The sooner the better because it gets your child’s information to the school so we can guide you and remind you of all the things that need to be done before Kindergarten.

The screening appointments are scheduled during the day.

If your child is at least 3 years old and not screened you should receive a phone call to set up an appointment. If you do not receive a phone call by March 1 and your child needs screening, please call the ECFE office listed on this newsletter.

What is checked at screening?

Vision, hearing, immunization record, health history, height/weight, and their overall development

Why does my child need to be screened?

Screening can detect possible health or learning concerns, so that children can get help before they start school. It gives the parent more knowledge about their child and how they are developing or what the parent can work on with the child when getting ready for Kindergarten.

Screening is not a test and is geared toward child’s age.

Spring “Little Tikes Dance” Event

Last year we held a dance for early childhood children and their families; it was so FUN!!! This year we will have the Little Tikes dance again with a theme and silent auction. The theme for this years dance will be Princesses and Superheroes! The children could wear a princess or superhero costume to dance away in.

We will be looking into silent auction items and help with this event. So if you’re interested in helping, our program has an Advisory Council that meets in February to begin planning and we’d love to have you part of it! Contact any ECFE/SR staff if you want to help or have a silent auction item.

Look for date in future flyer!

Meet the ECFE/SR Staff

Early Childhood Teachers:

Joan Morrison

Brenda Blank

Laura Walser

Parent Educators/Facilitators:

Stephanie Conrad

Carol Supalla

ECFE/SR Paras

Vicki Ratcliff

Ann Bramer

Donna Robbins

LeAnn Esteves

Preschool Child Care Staff

Donna Robbins

“I really like how creative the teacher is with the projects.”

“I love giving my child the opportunity to get to know future classmates and the school they will go to. They will have more of a comfort level that first day of Kindergarten..”

ECFE/SR Parents

Maple River ECFE/School Readiness
PO Box 515
Mapleton, MN 56065

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone:
507-524-3918 ext 241
507-462-3348 ext 113
Fax: 507-524-4882

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Registration for Preschool 2012-2013

Maple River School Readiness (preschool) is designed to help children 3-5 years old get ready for school success.

Class sizes are limited. Grants and financial assistance are available upon request.

Various classes available throughout the three school sites in district: Kindergarten-Ready, Multi-Age and 3 year old.

Preschool Child Care open Monday through Friday in Mapleton. Times correlate with preschool class times. Open 7:30-5:30

More details on these and all class offerings available, see column on right on how to get information.

*Pre-registration available to current ECFE/Preschool participants and to those who request information on it. Request information by filling out the form in this newsletter. Classes may fill during pre-registration.

How to Get Information on Class Offerings and Registration

You need to fill out the preschool registration form and send in with registration fee for spot to be reserved.
(On-line registration not available)

Either:

Visit our new webpage on-line at the Maple River website at <http://isd2135.k12.mn.us/index1.html> Click on the "ECFE" under the "organizations" tab on the homepage.

Or

Call/email Laura Walser to have them sent in the mail. Office 462-3348 ext 113

Email: lwalsen@isd2135.k12.mn.us