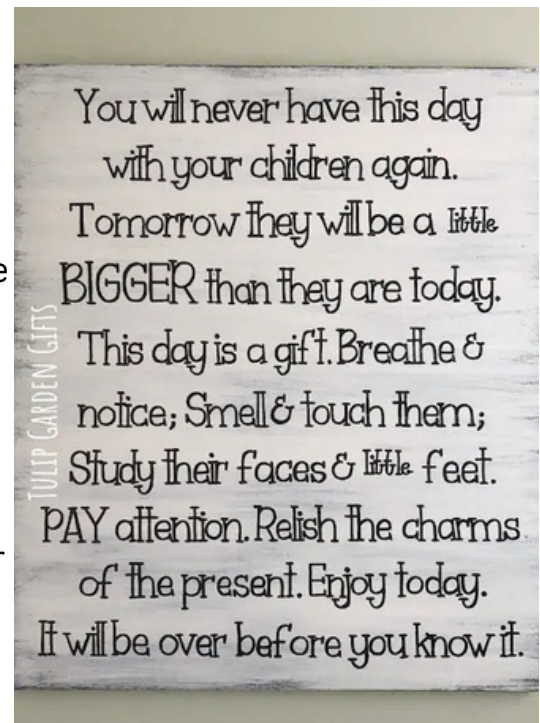




Happy December! We hope this newsletter finds you and your little ones in good health and high spirits as we dive into the festive season. We know December can mean long to-do lists, holiday parties, the end of 2023, and so much more!

As your children have time away from school and are with you for the winter break, the saying “the days are long but the years are short” may ring true! We hope that, amidst all the chaos this time of year may bring, you remember to sit back, relax and find time for reflection, gratitude and appreciation for yourself and all you do!

We certainly want to express our deepest gratitude to you for entrusting us with the care and education of your precious little ones. We wish you and your family a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments.

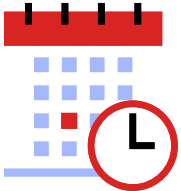


Contents


Upcoming Events.....	2
School Highlights and Features.....	3-4
At Home Fun and Learning.....	4-5
Supporting the Family.....	6
MU Happenings.....	7
Staff Spotlight.....	7




Upcoming Events




Early Learning Academy will be closed the following upcoming dates:
Friday, December 22 - Monday, January 1 - Winter Break
Monday, January 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day




Click [here](#) for the complete 2023-2024 school year calendar. It can also be found in your Brightwheel app under Documents.



ELA will be closing at 5PM on Friday, December 15.
The ELA Staff will be enjoying a holiday party after the school closes that day.



You are invited to our
Winter Sing a Long
on *Wednesday, December 20.*
Classes will be performing on the stage
(upstairs) in the Reinsch Auditorium.
Please arrive by 4:15PM.

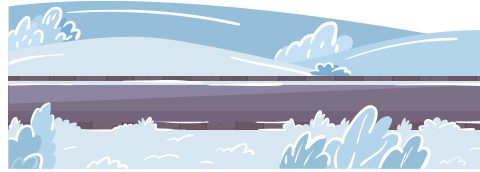




School Highlights and Features

Brrrr. It's getting cold outside

Just a reminder to dress your child appropriately for outdoor play in these upcoming cold winter months. Also, please send cold weather clothing in to change out your child's "extra" change of clothes.



School Closings/Delays

In the event of severe weather or other unusual conditions, the ELA may have a delayed opening or close altogether. The ELA will closely follow Arlington Public Schools' (APS) decisions with regard to schedule changes/closures.

Information about delays, cancellations, and closings will be announced by APS on local radio and television stations and will be confirmed and communicated from the ELA text through the Brightwheel App once a final decision is made.

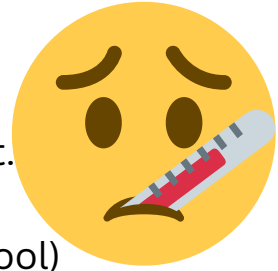
1. Closing for Inclement Weather: When APS is closed for inclement weather, the ELA will typically be closed.
2. Delayed Opening for Inclement Weather: When APS announces a delayed opening due to inclement weather, the ELA will open at 9:30 a.m.
3. Early Dismissal for Inclement Weather: If it is necessary to dismiss early, due to inclement weather, the ELA will notify parents via Brightwheel and parents should pick up students as soon as possible.
4. Closing for Emergency Situations: The Director reserves the right to close school on days outside the approved calendar schedule due to exigent circumstances. The decision shall be made by the Director, with appropriate input from staff, and with the rationale, schedule change, and other relevant information communicated in a timely manner and by appropriate means based on the situation.
5. In the event of a school closing, delayed opening, or early dismissal as set forth in subsections above, tuition will still be paid as required in the ELA contract.



Health Precautions

Children should not attend school if any of the following are present.

- fever of more than 100 F within 24 hours (need to be fever-free, less than 100 F, for 24 hours without medication to return to school)
- vomiting within 24 hours
- diarrhea within 24 hours



At Home Fun and Learning

Ms. Michelle shares some of her favorite books and activities



December reading list

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Illustrator and Creator, James Dean, and Author, Eric Litwin.

The story reinforces that whatever happens in life, you can rise above it. The moral of Pete's story is: "No matter what you step in, keep walking along and singing your song because it's all good."

[Amazon](#) [Youtube](#)

Goodnight Moon written by Margaret Wise Brown. Illustrated by Clement Herd. This book is about a bunny who says goodnight to the things loved the most as we unwind and prepare to rest our bodies at night. We also trust that a care-giver will keep us safe as we sleep in the dark.

[Amazon](#) [Youtube](#)

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom written by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert.

Chicka-Chicka Boom Boom is about alphabet letters that climb up a coconut tree. The lowercase letters climb up the tree, the tree bends, and the letters fall. The uppercase letters help the lowercase letters climb back up into the tree.

[Amazon](#) [Youtube](#)





Activity for home

STEM: Rainbow Spaghetti

Supplies Needed:

Spaghetti Ziplock bags Food Coloring

Water Colander Container for the Rainbow Spaghetti

How to make Rainbow Spaghetti

STEP 1: Prepare supplies

Organized Spaghetti, Ziplock bags, Food coloring, Water, Colander, Container for the rainbow spaghetti so they're at hand.

STEP 2: Cook spaghetti

Cook the spaghetti following the instructions on the pack. Drain and rinse the spaghetti.

STEP 3: Add spaghetti and coloring to zip lock bags

Put the spaghetti into zip lock bags. You will need one zip lock bag per color. Add food coloring and a few drops of water to each bag.

STEP 4: Mix coloring and spaghetti

Zip the zip lock bags up and mix the spaghetti and food coloring together (your child can help with this part). Squash it, squeeze it, throw it in the air, just keep moving the color around the bag until all of the spaghetti is totally covered. Repeat with each color.

STEP 5: Rinse colored spaghetti

Once all of the spaghetti is covered in food coloring, put each color into your colander and rinse the spaghetti under the tap. This step is really important. If you miss this, your child will end up covered in food dye!

Put the rainbow-colored spaghetti into a container and it is ready to be played with.

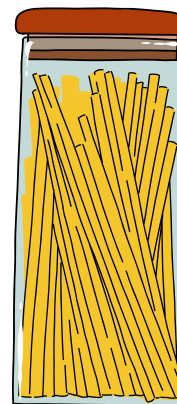
Rainbow spaghetti sensory play

Now that you have made your colored spaghetti, it is time to invite your child to indulge in some sensory play.

If you are doing this sensory play activity with a toddler or preschooler, a small container full of rainbow spaghetti on the table works well.

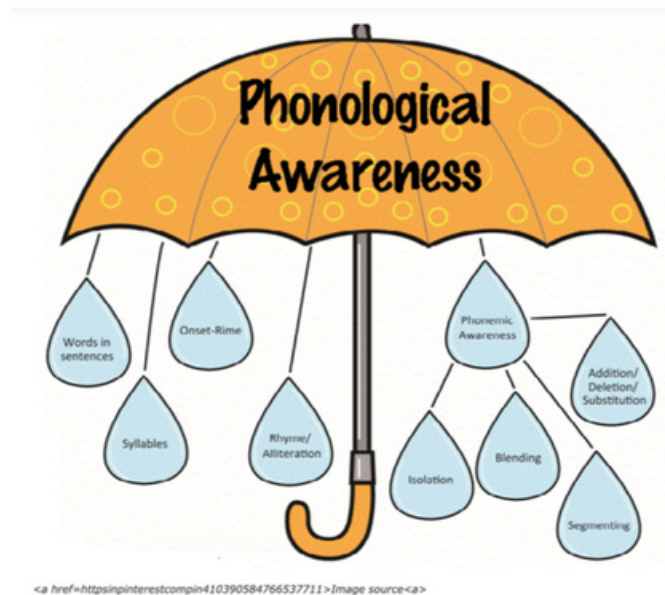
Playing with rainbow spaghetti is a great sensory experience for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. It feels slimy and slips through their fingers easily. It's also a great activity for helping little ones to learn their colors.

As the spaghetti and food coloring used to dye spaghetti is edible you don't need to worry about young children putting it into their mouths.



Supporting the Family

Supporting your emerging/beginning reader
by Dr. Courtney Kelly, Associate Professor of Education, Marymount University



Before becoming skilled readers, young learners need to master phonological awareness, which serves as the foundation upon which our young ones learn to read. Below are some excellent resources that suggest activities that can be integrated at home to help support your growing readers:

5 IMPORTANT LEVELS OF PHONEMIC AWARENESS

BASICS: PHONOLOGICAL AND PHONEMIC AWARENESS

TARGET THE PROBLEM: PHONOLOGICAL AND PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Never forget the value of reading aloud! It helps inspire the love of stories, story-telling, and early reading! Below is a list of popular read-alouds for beginning readers:

Read-Aloud Favorites for Grades PreK-3

MU Happenings

Friday, December 8 at 5:30PM

Marymount University invites you to their annual Christmas tree lighting with caroling and hot chocolate on the front lawn.



Staff Spotlight

Flor Peña-Gonzalez- Assistant Teacher

Favorite food: Mexican, any kind of sweets

Favorite hobby: Painting, Drawing, Skateboarding

Favorite Preschool book: "We're going on a bear hunt" by Micheal Rosen

Favorite color: Blue and White

Favorite place to visit: Mexico and Italy

Fun facts: I love being creative, I enjoy painting, drawing, coloring and making things out of clay in my free time! I love listening to music and enjoy going to concerts to listen to my favorite artists live!

For more information on Ms. Flor and other ELA staff members, please see our website.



Play
with purpose

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<https://marymount.edu/academics/early-learning-academy/>