



HELEN R. WALTON
**CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT
CENTER**

News & Notes



April 2016
Issue 124



Laura Thompson
Lead Teacher
Pre-K

A WHOLE-CHILD APPROACH



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HWCEC.ORG

Arkansas Children's Week

Imaginative Play: Setting the Stage for Learning

April 10 – 16, 2016

Arkansas Children's Week (ACW) is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood. During the week, we will highlight the needs of young children and their families and thank educators for their involvement in the education and care of young children. Arkansas Children's Week coincides with the national Week of the Young Child™ which is celebrated across the nation by thousands of local educators working to improve opportunities for all children.

Thanks to community partners, we will offer our children a multitude of hands-on learning activities to celebrate ACW!

You are invited to celebrate this special time with us, as your child will be participating in a family-friendly activity each day of the week!

We are thrilled to announce Trike Theatre will be hosting an event for the children and their families! We are excited to have Lowe's Companies, Inc. back this year for a special day of outdoor fun!



Specific event details will be sent out next week via email.

Notes from the PAC

Spring is finally here and with it, lots of upcoming activities at HWCEC!

Thank you to the parents who took a few minutes to write something nice about our treasured teachers! It was great to see the gold coins piling up on the bulletin board across from the front desk. Stay tuned for other opportunities to appreciate your children's teachers.

Our next event is Teacher Appreciation Week from May 9 - May 13. We are planning lots of fun that week to show the teachers how much we appreciate them and we could really use your help! We will be taking financial donations to cover the cost of the events; if you want to volunteer to help during the week, please contact someone on the PAC--there is an updated list of members and contact info on the bulletin board in the front lobby. There will be more information to follow.

And finally—each month, parents have the opportunity to nominate teachers for Teacher of the Month. This is a great honor for the teachers as they enjoy being recognized for what they do each and every day for our children. The honor also comes with a reserved parking space by the front door for the month. Please do not park in that space when dropping off your child in the morning! If the Teacher of the Month arrives while you are parked in their space, they are deprived of the reward they've earned for their hard work. Thanks for being respectful of what our teachers do every day!

Becky Schoewe

Employee of the Month

Laura Thompson, Pre-K Lead Teacher

Ms. Laura has been a trusted and valued educator for 13 years at HWCEC. She has a Child Development Associate and is working on her Bachelor's degree in Early Education.

During parent/teacher conferences, several families provided comments. "Ms. Laura is always prepared. She has great information for me each time. I appreciate the time she takes to prepare for these meetings. Thank you."

"We love Ms. Laura! She is a wonderful teacher and does a great job keeping us informed on what is going on."

A parent shared in the hall that "every child should have an opportunity to learn in Ms. Laura's class". It's a testament to the quality of care and education she strives to offer each day.

Congratulations Ms. Laura!

PAC Meeting

(Parent Advisory Committee)

Wednesday, April 13

11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Sam's Club Cafe

Simple Savings Drive/Moberly Lane

Community Forum

Acorn: An Influence Company held a community forum for our new build! This allowed us to introduce the design team, educate the community about the design process and solicit community feedback.

The panel included members of the design team, all of whom will play a pivotal role in the project:

David J. Lewis and Paul Lewis,

Principles of LTL Architects,

Lanie McKinnon, Landscape Architect at SCAPE

Van Tilbury, CEO of East Harding Construction

Larry Perkin, Partner of Hight Jackson Associates

Larry Lott, COO, Harrison French & Associates,

Carl Crowe, HWCEC Board Member and Vice President of Construction for Walmart

Michelle Barnes, Executive Director

"Very few communities come together around the idea of an early childhood education center because most of them are still thinking about it as daycare," said Lewis. "For us, the most important impression is the commitment to this idea, this project, which is a foundation of education of children...and a testament to the strength of the community that we are thrilled to be a part of."

- David Lewis

