



# EXPLORE & GROW

CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER



We are a "growing by loving" ministry, serving families with children between the ages of 2½ to 12 years old.



It's official...summer has arrived! Summer is a time to enjoy sunshine, cookouts, time with family and God's abundant beauty in Michigan! As summer starts please pray for the many students that will be transitioning from the school year into our Summer Explorers Program. May their transition be smooth and may they experience an authentic Christ-filled summer here at Explore & Grow.

Explore & Grow has so much to be thankful for this season. We take a moment to thank the 'Preschool Only' families as they take the summer off. Thank you to the dedicated teachers that have spent all year pouring into these children. They will shift over to summer mode, and now work with our many school age children. Thank you to KCC! We love this place that we call home. A place where serving children (and families) is a priority!

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"Not my will, but Yours will be done." Luke 22:49

Blessings,

Kelly Ashley

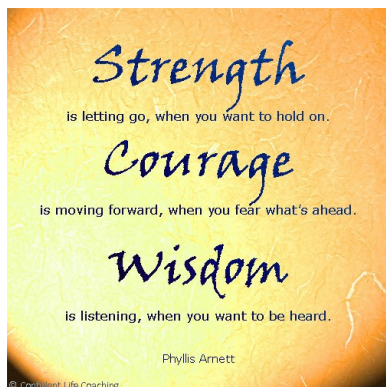
Program Director [kashley@kcconline.org](mailto:kashley@kcconline.org)



## Growing Grateful Kids

Teaching Children about Wisdom

## Bible Verse:



While many say that wisdom only comes with age, we think it's possible to help your kids live with wisdom far before they get old and gray. Here are some ideas to help you train them to make wise choices.

1. Be a model.
2. Teach them to STOP and THINK.
3. Give them a standard to live by.
4. Teach them humility.

More found at:

<http://www.imom.com/good-character-for-kids-how-to-teach-wisdom-to-your-kids/#.WSNXDuv1Bpg>

## Dinos

Dear Parents,

We had so much fun in May learning about BUGS! We learned what makes a bug, fun bugs, scary bugs and where bugs live! We went on several nature walks to find the bugs we were learning about! We are currently reviewing the alphabet and will continue this through the summer. This summer we will study, camping, Michigan and summer games!



We will be learning about Michigan! Our summer program field trips are already planned and we are so excited to go on at least 1 a week!

June brings us lots of sunshine and fun indoor and outdoor activities. Please bring sunscreen to leave here as well as a water bottle (please label). It would be great if sunscreen was applied before arriving to school. Please remember that children must have closed toe shoes as well as a spare set of clothes in

their backpacks.

Other items to work on from home are, asking to be excused from the table, saying please and thank you and sharing.

As we finish the school year, it has been a pleasure learning alongside your children. For those that are not remaining for the summer program we are sad to see you go. For those that are staying with us we are so excited for a summer of fun! Stay tuned for all that we will be doing.

Ms. Emily,  
Ms. Samantha  
and Ms. Karen

## Owls

Dear Parents,

June brings us lots of sunshine and fun indoor and outdoor activities. Please bring sunscreen to leave here as well as a water bottle (please label). It would be great if sunscreen was applied before arriving to school.

Spanish will not be taught this summer. Ms. Jacqui will be working with School age children, thank you for teaching us!

Bible will continue as usual. We

read devotions to the children and they have the opportunity to pray for their family.

There are at least two field trips for the summer for each month. Please look at the



E-mail Blast as well as the class door for information.

Studies for June are as follows:

Balls, Father's Day, Sun and More Flowers.

Please remember that children must have closed toe shoes as well as a spare set of clothes in their backpacks.

Thank you for bringing your child to E & G. We love each and every one!

Ms. Jan, Ms. Morgan & Ms. Karen

## Rainbows

We have been discovering what is in our Michigan woods. We went on a few nature walks and we went to Blandford nature center. If you haven't been to Blandford nature center, go, it is wonderful. Our children benefit from the calmness of nature, to walk and listen to birds, so allow me to encourage you to take a walk in the woods.

Summer is upon us. We will be going on many field trips. I will put the bus permission slips on the parent board

every Monday so please make it your practice to look there. Our summer study is science and I will start with geology or in kid language "rocks". Sounds fun to me.

Many of you have brought sunscreen and signed permission forms. We apply sunscreen both morning and afternoon when



we go outside. A water bottle is a good suggestion since it can get hot on that playground. Please label the bottle and location because even I don't trust my memory.

Thank you for all who supported our fund raisers. Our summer field trip gas money

has been pretty much provided for.

Ms. Debbie, Ms. Karen, & Ms. Donna

## Penguins

Dear Penguin Parents,

It is so hard to believe that our official school year has come to an end. What a fun-filled year of learning! It is always such a privilege to be a part of the learning process. Thank you so much for sharing your children with us.

We sadly say good-bye to some of our class who will not be staying with us this summer. We pray that you will enjoy your summer with family and friends.

We had a fun filled May with learning about Ponds and Insects. We enjoyed a fieldtrip

to the park and celebrating our Wonderful Women in our lives. We also had fun with our annual Spring Sing. The children did a great job singing.

We have a fun-packed summer planned for those who will be staying. Several field trips are planned along with many "summer" activities here.



Be sure to check the email blast.

We will also be reviewing

all the skills that we will need to know to move on to Kindergarten or Young 5s.

We will be spending lots of time outside so here are some reminders:

- Be sure that we have sunscreen and a signed permission sheet
- Bring a water bottle that is clearly labeled with your child's name
- Be sure that your child is wearing closed-toed shoes
- Girl's please wear shorts under skirts and dresses
- Have a swimsuit (one piece for the girls), towel and a change of clothes left here in your cubby

Happy 5th Birthday to Ella (6/28).

Ms. Becky, Ms. Tina,  
and Mr. Gary

## Honeybee's



Dear Honeybee parents,  
It is so hard to believe that the school year has come to an end. What an awesome year we

have had! It was such a privilege to be part of their learning process. Thank you so much for sharing your little 3 year old with us.

We had a fun filled May with Tie-dying tee-shirts, talking about our pets and ending the year with our spring sing and luau

party. We pray that you will enjoy your summer with your family and friends.

Blessings,  
Mrs. Vicky  
& Ms. Morgan

## Frogs

Dear Parents:

Our whole month of April was so much fun. We had the first week off for Spring Break. The rest of the month was Easter, Farm: with a fun field trip to see cows, and then finished up learning about frogs.



I can't believe that this is our last month of school. It saddens my heart to see the year come to an end. We have thoroughly enjoyed your child in class. We will miss all the children. Getting to know your family has been such a joy for us.

We have a fun month ahead; we will be finishing up the rest of the alphabet and reviewing our numbers. We have our Spring Sing coming soon. Watch the Email Blast for information on that and also our end of the year field trip.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Bev and Mrs. Sarah

## Young 5's

Dear Parents,

Wow! May is already upon us. We have become excellent earth care takers. We enjoyed studying the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We really enjoyed the field trip to the Grand Rapids Recycling Plant. It was fun to see where our recycled products go after we drop them off. Did you know that carpet can be made from recycled plastic bags? We are continuing to learn and develop our pre-reading skills. It is fun to put sounds together to form words! This month we will begin a study about our great state of Michigan. We will also be honoring the Wonderful Women

in our lives. We will be sending out an invitation for these special women to join us for a special treat. We are enjoying Cultural Class. We have made our way to Mexico and are learning about the culture and traditions there. We were even able to use some of the words that we are learning in Spanish Class! With Spring comes the nicer weather. We do try to get out every day so please send a light jacket as the mornings are still a little cool.



Our Class will be participating in the Spring Sing program on Tuesday, May 23, please plan on coming to that. It will also be our official graduation from Y5s into Kindergarten. Thank you so much for sharing your child with us. It has been such a privilege to watch them grow, learn and explore together.

Ms. Lorianne & Ms. Vicki

## Safari Club and School Age

Dear Families,

Summer is upon us. We hope your ready. The fundraiser for Pizza and the Basket Auction



have been a great success. Thank you all for your

participation. These fundraisers will help offset the mileage cost for all summer field trips.

**June 7, will be The Culvers Family Night. Come inside and join the fellowship and Dinner From 5 to 9. We hope you can come.** Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. We must have shoes for the gym. Dress boots or any other boots are not allowed in the gym. Please help them re-

member their shoes every day!

Time is upon us so make sure those summer contracts are in. We are still taking them. You can come in and pick up your packet The first week of June.

Adventure Club, Safari and Turtles Staff would like to Welcome you to our summer Program. We are so excited to get started.

## Reminders:

- Please remember not to park in the bus/fire lane, we have busses that need to use lane.
- Anytime the weather is decent we like to go outside to play. Please make sure your children are dressed for the Michigan ever changing weather. Thank you.
- Shoes must be worn in the classrooms and the gym. Please change out of boots before going into the classrooms.



1200 60th Street SE  
Kentwood MI 49508

Phone: 616.455.0690  
Fax: 616.827.3280  
E-mail: [gjohnson@kcconline.org](mailto:gjohnson@kcconline.org)

## Cultural Connections

In April we began a study of Mexico. Mexico has a rich culture and has lots of interesting and fun things to learn. We made some piñatas and the children are anxious for them to dry so they can be filled for our upcoming fiesta in May. We also painted some ponchos to wear at our fiesta. We enjoyed listening to some mariachi music while we painted and also while we colored our own maracas. We are looking forward to the chance to dance



to some Mexican music and shake them! Coming up in the month of May, we are going to decorate a paper sombrero also to be worn at our fiesta. We

also have a couple of Mexican

This year of Cultural Connections has gone by so fast. It has been fun getting to know all the Explore & Grow children. As this school year comes to an end, Cultural Connections also comes to an end until next fall. We will enjoy a fiesta to celebrate the end of the year. In celebration we will break open the piñatas we helped make. What a great way to celebrate our fantastic year together!

Ms. Darla (Cultural Guide)

folktales to enjoy.

## Spanish

Wow, it has been quiet a year this school year! We are ending the school year with a fiesta for each classroom. Spanish and Culture will combined as well for some more fiesta fun! The kids have learned so much throughout these past few months in Spanish class. It has been such a pleasure to be able to challenge and watch the children grow in their love for the Spanish language and culture. There will be no

Spanish during the summer months. With that being said, please keep practicing your Spanish! Que tengas un excelente verano. (Have a great summer!)

Senorita  
Jacqui

