



Week of the Young Child (WOTYC) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child™ in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) laid the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Please join the NELC by celebrating The Week of the Young Child, April 8th-12th with these special events



PINKYSWEAR
FOUNDATION

This year, the NELC is partnering with the Pinky Swear Foundation by collecting and donating food items throughout the week.

The Pinky Swear Pantry is an on-site hospital food pantry at University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital that makes it easy for families to stay near their sick child battling pediatric cancer, and eases the financial cost of food for day and extended-stay treatments.



Items they are collecting include:

- *Chips/Pretzels/Crackers/Cookies
- *Applesauce and Fruit Cups
- * Easy Mac Bowls
- *Pudding Cups
- *Microwavable Soups/Noodle Bowls
- *Microwavable Bowl Meals
- *Granola Bars
- *Oatmeal Bars
- *Microwave Popcorn
- *Beef Jerky
- *Water/Sports Drinks
- *Other Pre-Packaged Foods
- *Protein Bars e.g. Clif and Kind Bars



Wear the Rainbow and Artsy Monday: Each classroom will wear a color from the rainbow because "our future is bright"! **Tweeties: Green, Owls: Blue, Munchkin 1: Red, Munchkin 2: Purple** Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. On Artsy Monday we will celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative art making.



Tasty Tuesday: Learn about the ways we can stay healthy, from buying healthy foods to fun exercises for the body and mind. Cooking together—reading recipes, measuring ingredients, etc.—is a fun and delicious way to connect simple math (arithmetic, fractions) with literacy skills. **Our Tweeties, Owls and Munchkins will have a catered spaghetti lunch from Buca di Beppo in Steiner Hall and our K-6th graders will be making a special afternoon snack!**



Literacy Wednesday: Children who have lots of experiences with books absorb the rhythms and patterns of language and, at surprisingly early ages, begin to imitate the language and gestures their parents and caregivers use while sharing stories. When you share books with your very young child you support emerging literacy as you:

- ✚ Help your child learn that pictures and words are symbols that can be interpreted;
- ✚ Expose your child to new words, thereby increasing her vocabulary; and
- ✚ Familiarize your child with the conventions of print.

A special performance by Merlajean's Parading Puppets will take place at 10am in Steiner Hall.



Work Together with STEM Thursday: When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Each classroom will prepare a special STEM activity for the day! **Miss Emma will be singing some fun songs while playing her violin and clarinet to the preschoolers in the morning.**



Teacher Appreciation Friday: Please make sure to stop in and say thank you to your child's teacher for all of their hard work and efforts in the classroom. We will provide a special lunch and gifts for all of our teachers today!