

# ACADEMY OF EARLY LEARNING

## Principal News

Dear Families,

Welcome to March. The winds of the other night certainly let us know March is here. However, the good news is that with the arrival of March, there is a time change on March 24th, where we turn the clocks ahead 1 hour and that also SPRING is just 17 days away!

As we look forward, I hope we can begin to return to a new sense of normalcy with the anticipation of our little ones returning to school. We are very excited to see them back and are working hard to be ready when the time comes. My thanks goes out to the parents, caregivers, and staff at AEL who continue to work endlessly to give our students a rewarding and positive school day experience. I continue to be so proud of the AEL community. We have heard for the last year, yes, literally almost one year to the day, that we are in this together. Indeed we are, have been and will continue on until this craziness ends. Continue to stay safe and healthy.

If you need anything, please reach out to me at [nanput1@gpsk12.org](mailto:nanput1@gpsk12.org).

Nancy Putnam  
Principal



## Dates to Remember

**Friday, March 5**—No school—pre-k only

**March 25 & 26** No School, Conferences



## We still have openings for New Enrollment!

Spread the word! We have slots available for new fall enrollment. If you have family, friends, neighbors etc. with preschool age children who may be interested in enrolling their child in our program in September, please send them our way! They can complete a pre-registration form (found on our website) to start the registration process!

1 Place Terrace  
Greenfield, MA 01301

413-772-1390 (Office)  
413-772-1337 (Fax)

[www.gpsk12.org](http://www.gpsk12.org)

## Returning Students



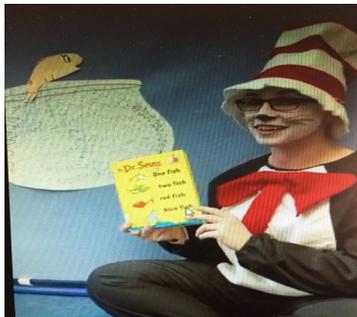
If you plan to have your preschooler return to AEL in the fall, please be sure to complete the "Plans for Next Year" packet that went out a few weeks ago and return it to AEL no later than March 19th. Please feel free to use our secure outdoor drop box. If you have any questions, please call the office.

## Kindergarten Registration



Kindergarten registration has opened! If your preschooler will be moving on to kindergarten in the fall, be sure to register by doing the following as soon as possible:

- Register in person at the central office, daily between 8 AM and 4 PM.
- Register curbside at the central office. Call Sierra Rother at 413-772-1318 to schedule an appointment.
- Use the QR code (emailed out on March 1st) to submit enrollment forms directly to GPS.



Ms. Erin dressed the part to read "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" to preschoolers virtually!

## Keys to Self-Control

From 2014 Resources for Educators

How can you teach your little one to handle big emotions like anger, frustration and disappointment? Work on increasing his self-control with these strategies to help him think before he acts.

### Talk it out

Give your child words to use when he is upset. For example, if you can't find your glasses, you might say, "I feel so frustrated! Where did I last have them?" Then, when he's aggravated (say he misplaced his favorite book/toy) encourage him to use similar words such as "I feel mad because I want my book/toy. I was looking at it in the living room— maybe it's there." He'll learn to talk through his problems and be less likely to yell or whine.

### Think ahead

Prepare for situations where self-control comes in handy. You could say, "We're going to your cousin's house. Let's think about what you can do if she's playing with a toy you want." He may ask her to join her, or he could ask to play with another toy until she's finished. Having a plan can help him avoid grabbing the toy or yelling at his cousin.

### Calm down

When your child begins to get upset, help him find ways to keep his cool. For instance, he might take a deep breath, count to five, or draw a picture of how he is feeling. The distraction may be enough to settle him down. An once he's use to these techniques, he'll be able to do them without a reminder from you.

