



April 11th

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### April Snack Schedule

Second time published. Our cupboard is bare. Please send an extra box of crackers if you missed a snack. Thanks!!!

### Bringing Toys and Personal Items to School

Recently, the toys that have been coming to school has increased. Some of these personal items are being traded here at school. At this age children don't understand the implications of trading and will exchange something and shortly thereafter want it back. By that time the child that got the toys sees it as their own or has lost or broken the item. Please make sure your child leaves their valuable and valued items at home. Thanks!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Cecelia's B-day	Aliyah	Sabrina	Elijah	Stephanie	14
15	Rex	Johana	Anjali	James	Trey	21
22	Morgan	Sam	Calvin	Devi	Aaron	28
29	Bridgette					

### Construction



Construction - We are starting a study of construction and will be exploring different aspects of building. The children will have opportunities to develop scientific habits of mind during this study. The activities in this study will encourage children to explore, experiment, share results, modify their ideas, and work together to try different solutions to different problems.

The activities are varied. Free exploration in the block area gives children an opportunity to create different structures and to experiment with ways to solve problems in creative and thoughtful ways. It has often been said that young children's play is their natural work, and much of their learning takes place during play as they carry out their ideas and adjust them through trial and error experiments, just as adults scientists do in their laboratories.

Children will also learn some basic information about building a house and a bridge, experiment with building with many different materials, notice and consider various architectural features, learn about simple machines such as the lever and the pulley, and experiment with what makes structures weak or strong.

If you have any connections with family or friends that have architectural or building experience would be welcome visitors.

We would also like to take a trip to an active construction site if possible.



## August To June



Thursday night our school will be hosting the showing of the film "**August To June**" followed by a discussion lead by the teacher, Amy Valens, whose class is documented.

She will be joining us at the Open Conference on Friday and Saturday and has agreed to share on Thursday as well. The staff has had the opportunity to view the movie. Personally I found the film revitalizing and affirming. It is a powerful discussion starter that supports further growth and thought about next steps for Ann Arbor Open @ Mack School. If at all possible take advantage of this special opportunity to talk with another open educator.

## Strong Arms and Mulch Needed



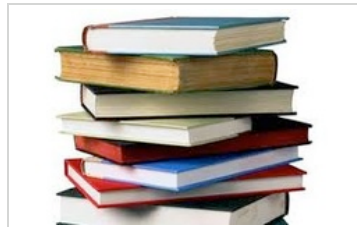
The garden outside our classroom door will need to be made ready for our veggie plants in the next few weeks. We need someone to turn the front part of the garden and we need some mulch to help keep the moisture in the soil and to keep the weeds down. Consider purchasing an extra bag of mulch and bring it too the bed. We will need about four bags of shredded mulch. Please bring shredded not chips. The mulch brakes down more quickly, which is what we need in the garden.

## Class Needs



**Liquid Soap Pumps Update** - As you empty a liquid soap pump at home please wash it and send it to school. We need the kind for thick soap. This is a project for the future and **we will need one pump per child** in a few months. At this point we have 12 pumps. We're getting close. Be sure and keep what you have and send them to school. Thanks!

## Book Organizer



There are some new books that need to be unwrapped and labeled with stickers. It needs to be done at school and can be done during class since it is in another room. Basically it is putting dividers between titles and labeling the books. Let me know if you can help us out.