

April 2022

Dates to Know:

- ◆ **April 3-7**– Week of the Young Child
- ◆ **April 9**– Easter Sunday
- ◆ **April 10**– No Public School
- ◆ **April 24-28**– Family Appreciation Week
- ◆ **April 26, 27, 28** – Kinder Prep Parent Teacher Conferences
- ◆ **April 27** – Progressive Dinner
- ◆ **April 28**– Unslumber Party!



We are so excited to combine our buildings and provide high quality care to our families under one roof! We have started working on clearing out clutter and getting ready for our big move. The support that we have received from our families and staff is absolutely amazing! This move is going to allow stronger relationships between staff and families and so many more benefits.

With this move we have taken a dive into researching building security. Small Wonder has purchased Ring doorbells to put at our entrance and one for UMC to utilize at their entrance. With these doorbells we will be able to lock our doors during operating hours and still be accessible for families and visitors. The plan is to keep the doors unlocked during the high traffic hours of drop off and pick up, and then the rest of the day the doors will be locked. We have purchased monitors to go with the ring doorbell so we can see who is at the door prior to going down and opening it. We will also have a note on the door with our phone number in the chance that we have stepped away from the office and the door isn't being answered in a timely manner. The goal is to have this in place no later than the beginning of May.

This is a new process and we will need to work out some kinks in the beginning, but we do feel that this is our first step of creating a safer environment for the children, families, and staff.

Small Wonder is still looking into a long-term security system, and will continue to research the products available and choose one that fits our program and families' needs. Please feel free to give us feedback on what is working and what is not working while we implement the Ring doorbell.

Kids Club Pizza Party

The Kids Club group were the winners for the Cookie Dough/Candle Fundraiser competition! I have to admit that with everything being delivered right before the holidays that I dropped the ball and completely forgot to follow through with this Pizza Party. We will be having the Pizza Party for Kids Club kids on Wednesday, April 19th during snack time at 3:30 pm. The kids worked so hard to sell all the cookie dough and candles and they deserve their party! I truly do apologize for this being pushed off, because the children deserve to be celebrated for all their hard work they put into this fundraiser.



STAFF CORNER



Aaryn Bell has graciously accepted Small Wonder's offer for the Community Outreach Coordinator position. She has an immense background in teaching, mainly Kindergarten, and has even taught at our own Garfield Elementary. Her knowledge of the education world allows her to impact different projects, especially grant writing, with the importance of Early Childhood Education at the forefront.

Aaryn is currently working on many projects to benefit Small Wonder. We are applying for the TIF grant to help with the fencing costs, along with the Little Caesars fundraiser. The TIF grant is a matching grant and we want to make sure that we will have our share of the cost ready to go as soon as we get quotes back and can move forward with that project.

Aaryn has also spent time building relationships with other professionals and entities in the Early Childhood world. She met with some of the Central Montana Childcare Alliance members to see how we can utilize their grant money in the most beneficial way. Small Wonder has not applied for CMCA grants yet, simply because we have been working on the move from the Infant Center and want to make sure we include any additional supply needs we may have relating to this transition without requesting duplicates of items we already have.

She is coordinating other fundraising and outreach initiatives as well including the Night of Wonder and meeting with Early Childhood leaders in Montana, such as Rachel Supalla of Discovery KidZone (Helena), to help grow Small Wonder services and opportunities.

Research on security system options is also on the top of Aaryn's priority list right now. She is looking for technology grants while learning about all the different systems available and consulting with field experts to decide which direction would be the best for Small Wonder.

Aaryn is also our main media manager so be on the lookout for updates on Facebook and our website highlighting Small Wonder activities and events. Currently, Aaryn is living in Great Falls and working remotely. She has site visits 1-2 times a month so please give her a warm welcome when you see her next. If you have any questions or suggestions at any time you may also reach her at smallwondercommunity@gmail.com or 406-380-2920.

