

during the year. Your tax-deductible donation to the TAC supports the full-time and part-time teachers, and the kitchen and maintenance staff. Be sure to look out for email messages from our PTA with information on how to give.

NAEYC's 2018 Annual Conference

Several administrators and the mentor teachers traveled to Washington, D.C., November 14-17, 2018 to attend the NAEYC conference. The 2018 Annual Conference brought more than 9,000 early learning professionals to Washington, D.C. to champion the profession. Attendees were energized, motivated and encouraged to "Get Loud" for early childhood education through advocacy opportunities. Educators, students and advocates enjoyed hundreds of sessions on topics that impact early childhood programs across the world, endless networking opportunities, expo activities and more. The session topic included information on the subject areas listed below and many more.

Mathematics - Sessions on this topic address math experiences in the early childhood curriculum.

Physical Development - Sessions on this topic address children's physical growth including fine and gross motor skills.

Play - Sessions on this topic address investigating the world and building meaningful knowledge through open-ended, firsthand experiences.

Social/Emotional Development - Sessions on this topic address how children learn to understand and manage emotions and develop relationships with others.

Teaching & Instructional Practices - Sessions on this topic address the use of effective teaching approaches that enhance children's learning and development.

The curriculum coordinators attended a preconference session entitled "Making and Tinkering". The session was focused on teaching and challenging children to use everyday materials and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) concepts to design and build solutions to problems faced by characters in their favorite books. They received information on the following topics listed below. They will be working with the teachers to incorporate these, and, and ideas into lesson plan activities.

- 25 engineering design challenges appropriate for children ages 3–8
- Suggestions for creating a makerspace environment where children can tinker with materials, use tools to make creations, and improve on their ideas
- A list of 100 picture books that encourage STEM-rich exploration and learning

- Questions and ideas for expanding children's understanding of STEM concepts

Inclement Weather Policy

During times of inclement weather, it is our goal to remain in operation to serve families to the best of our ability. We will be staffed by as many employees as possible, depending on the number of employees who can safely travel. However, in the event that BOTH Emory University and the CDC close or announce a later opening time or an early closing time, we will do so also. In the event that the weather should turn dangerous or icy during the day, we will request that families pick up their children as soon as possible so that everyone is able to travel home safely. This information will be relayed through our calling post, Brightwheel, email listserv, posted on our website and Facebook page, and when possible broadcast on Channel 2 Action News.

Reminder: No Idling

Please be mindful to SLOW DOWN when driving through the school parking lot and always be on the lookout for children. Please do not leave your vehicle idling during drop off and/or pick up.

Idling vehicles contribute to air pollution and emit **air toxins**, which are pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. Children's lungs are still developing, and when they are exposed to elevated levels of these pollutants, children have an increased risk of developing asthma, respiratory problems and other adverse health effects. Limiting a vehicle's idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants and children's exposure to them.

Sick Child Policy

As cold and flu season continues to gain momentum, please remember that it is not too late to get a flu vaccination. Also, please be mindful of our sick child policy and keep children who are too sick to participate in group care at home until they are well. Our policy is stated below:

Children excluded from the program due to a fever may not return to the program until they **are fever-free, without fever reducing medication, for 24 hours**. If your child is sent home due to a fever, he/she is not permitted to return to the program the following day at a minimum.

A fever is defined as a temperature reading on a thermometer of at least 101 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Staff will add a degree to temperature readings taken under the arm, therefore a thermometer reading of 100 degrees will be documented as 101 degrees.

Important Dates

- Friday, December 7th First Friday Coffee
- Parent's Night Out Saturday, December 8th 10 AM to 2 PM. Please sign up at the front desk
- December 24th and 25th The Clifton School is closed.
- January 1, 2019 Closed for New Year's Day
- January 21, 2019 Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday