

January

Macfeat Family Newsletter

Trust the **MAGIC** of new beginnings.

Director's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope the break provided many opportunities to relax and rejuvenate and you are ready to start a new semester strong! We are rocking and rolling at MacFeat and are excited about the collaborations we have established this semester within Winthrop University and the local community. The project approach utilized as our primary curriculum approach provides students with unique learning opportunities, and I cannot wait to continue to foster these authentic learning experiences. Let's have another remarkable semester together!

Mrs. Sanders



Important Dates

Monday, January 8th - Students Return to School

Monday, January 15th - MLK Jr. Day (MacFeat closed)

Thursday, January 18th - Parent Advisory Board Meeting at 6pm

Monday, February 19th - Professional Development Day (MacFeat closed)

April 1-5 - Spring Break (MacFeat Closed)

Friday, May 17th - Last Day of School

Friday, May 17th - No Afterschool Care (All students must be picked up by 3:30pm)

Parent Advisory Board Meeting

The MacFeat Parent Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, January 18th at 6pm in the music room. Meeting notes from the session will be shared with all families after the meeting.

If you have specific topics or areas for school improvement to discuss, please do not hesitate to reach out to the board president Mrs. Keri Cauthen at keri.cauthen@gmail.com or you are welcome to contact me at sandersm@Winthrop.edu.

January

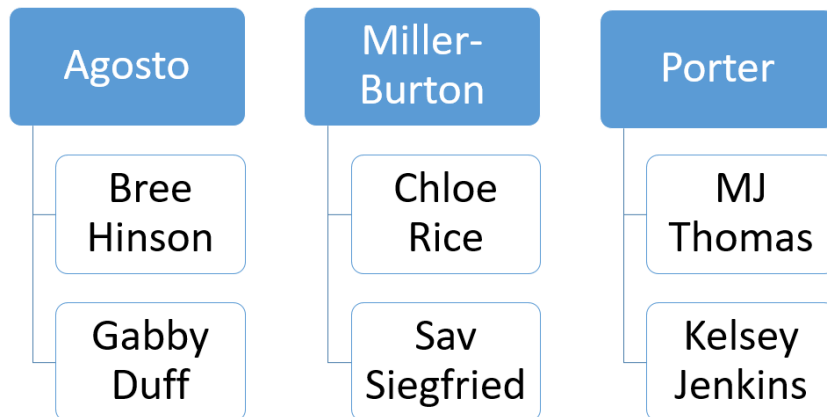
Macfeat Family Newsletter

Trust the **MAGIC** of new beginnings.

Staff Updates

We are so excited to begin a new semester, and with new beginning brings change and adjustment. Our Teaching Assistants and Classroom Assistants are enrolled in college courses, and their schedules change each semester. Therefore, you will notice an adjustment in the days and times that assistants work in the classrooms. We do our best to keep the Teaching Assistants in the same classroom, but sometimes their class schedules do not allow for this.

Below I have provided a visual model to display the Lead Teacher and Teacher Assistants assigned to each class and then provided a detailed written description of each classroom with updated information about the Teaching Assistants assigned to the room.



Miller-Burton- We are so excited that Ms. Miller-Burton will have 2 Teaching Assistants again this spring! *Ms. Chloe Rice* has done a stupendous job supporting the classroom and will continue to work in Ms. Miller-Burton's classroom this Spring. *Sav Siegfried* was also a Teaching Assistant in Ms. Miller-Burton's room but then transitioned as Lead Teacher temporarily in Ms. Agosto's classroom. We are delighted to have Siegfried join Ms. Miller-Burton's classroom again as a Teaching Assistant. Finally, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the classroom assistants who picked up additional shifts to cover this temporary staffing change in the fall. We truly have the best staff who love and support our school community!

January

Macfeat Family Newsletter

Trust the **MAGIC** of new beginnings.

Staff Updates

Agosto

Bree
Hinson

Gabby
Duff

Miller- Burton

Chloe
Rice

Sav
Siegfried

Porter

MJ
Thomas

Kelsey
Jenkins

Agosto- First and foremost, we are delighted to have Ms. Agosto back! ☺ I know the kids have missed her, as we all have! I want to thank Sav Siegfried for a remarkable job serving as Lead Teacher when Ms. Agosto was out! Siegfried will transition back to Ms. Miller-Burton's room as a Teaching Assistant, oversee the afterschool care program, and will also continue to spend some time in Ms. Agosto's room this semester as we recognize strong relationships have been formed with the children in Agosto's class!

I want to give a special thanks to Ms. Bree Hinson, Sav Siegfried, and the classroom assistants who maintained the classroom with excellence during Ms. Agosto's time out. *Ms. Bree Hinson* will continue to work in Ms. Agosto's room, and *Ms. Gabby Duff* will be moving into Ms. Agosto's room to serve as the second Teaching Assistant. Ms. Duff has worked at Macfeat for several years, most of which were spent in Ms. Agosto's room. She worked in Mrs. Porter's room in the fall, but class schedules require her to move back to Ms. Agosto's this spring. We welcome Ms. Duff to Ms. Agosto's room!

Porter- Ms. MJ Thomas has worked in Mrs. Porter's class for the past three semesters, and will continue to work alongside Mrs. Porter as she finishes out her last semester before graduating! We had an open position and hired Ms. Kelsey Jenkins to serve as the second Teaching Assistant in Mrs. Porter's room. Ms. Jenkins brings with her an extensive dance instruction background, and we are so excited to see how this talent is utilized in the classroom. I know first-hand Mrs. Porter is already dreaming up some ideas to integrate dance this semester! We welcome Ms. Jenkins to Macfeat!

Afterschool Care- Sav Siegfried will resume the position of Afterschool Care Coordinator beginning Monday, January 8th.

January

Macfeat Family Newsletter



In a world where you can be anything, be kind.



Parent Survey

Macfeat is a laboratory school that provides learning opportunities for our young children and college students learning to be educators in the future. However, it is crucial that we also provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn more about the topics specific to their child. I have three children, and each one has taught me something completely different! We are always growing as individuals, and this growth extends into our parenting as we are continually faced with new challenges as our children grow. ☺ The struggles you have in parenting now will shift as your child grows, and we are here to partner with you through this development!

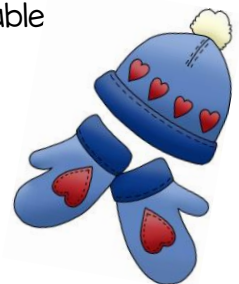
Although I have an idea of topics relative to this age of development, I would like to gain additional insight into the specific areas of need you have and would like to learn more about. Our school is located on the Winthrop University campus, affording us great access to many remarkable resources. Once I have an idea of the topics of greatest interest, I will then set out to establish resources for our parent sessions. This spring we will offer two different parent sessions based on the results of the data.

Thank you for completing the Parent Session Survey **by Friday, January 19th** using the survey [link](#). Thank you!

Season Changes



Please be sure to change out your child's extra clothing outfit in the classroom to reflect the changing weather conditions. Also, we will go outside as much as we are able so please dress your child accordingly and be sure to include hats and gloves. Thank you!



January

Macfeat Family Newsletter



Be a no drama llama.



Community Collaborations

As a Laboratory School, we pride ourselves in modeling expert teaching practices. In combination with this effort, course collaborations with the College of Education, Sports, and Human Sciences are a perk to our learning community. Students have the opportunity to engage in unique learning opportunities through these collaborative experiences. Below I have provided an overview of the course collaborations we have this semester to provide you with a preview of the authentic learning opportunities students will receive.

Early Childhood Field Opportunities- Macfeat provides field placement and observation opportunities to students studying Early Childhood Education.

In the course ECED 395: Culturally Relevant Instructional Methods for Children Ages 3-5, college students are placed in a classroom to observe and engage for a total of 8 hours, and then after this field experience they apply the knowledge learned to plan and teach a lesson to the children.

Students in the course ECED 300: Foundations of Early Childhood Education spend two hours in our school observing the value of play in early education, and use these observations for a course assignment. I cannot think of a more suitable place for college students to observe children learning through play!

Dance Education Collaboration- I am so excited to announce that we will partner with the Dance Education department and work with students in the Creative Movement course. Dance Education students will spend time observing each class to gain first-hand insight into the development of young children and then use this insight to plan and teach two movement activities with the students.

Garden Initiative- This spring we will revisit the gardening initiative with tenacity. There were many factors that either delayed or complicated the success of the garden project in the fall. The reconstruction of the garden took longer than expected and we planted way too late in the season. However, this spring we have partnered with the Call Me MISTERS and Master Gardeners of York County and are so excited to learn all about gardening and healthy eating!

January

Macfeat Family Newsletter



In a world where you can be anything, be kind.



Nutrition



Getting Kids in the Kitchen

Cooking with your kids is a good way to help them build healthy eating habits.



Getting your child actively involved in cooking is a great way to spend quality time together and reinforces literacy and language skills. When children create a recipe, they have pride in their product and are more likely to eat the food. Cooking with your child is a great strategy to introduce new and healthy foods into their diet. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute published the article titled ["Parent Tips: Getting Kids in the Kitchen"](#) that offers parents tips for cooking with children at different ages.



January

Macfeat Family Newsletter

Love is the key to the problems of the world.
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Resources

Community Resource Guide

Indian Trail 2024 Program Guide

Rock Hill School District published an expansive list of resources available within our Rock Hill and surrounding community. This list is widely diverse and includes resources that can be utilized by all. You can access the resource guide by clicking the following [link](#).



Community Resource Guide



Are you looking for fun and family-friendly community events, unique date night ideas, or programs and summer camp opportunities? Check out the [Find It Fun 2024 Program Guide](#) for an extensive list of resources within Indian Trail, SC.

26 Indoor Play Spaces

The weather is chilly, making it challenging to find opportunities for your child to engage in active play. Macaroni Kid published a guide titled "MacKIDs Top 26 Places to Play Inside" that lists indoor play spaces in the Rock Hill and surrounding community. Click on the following [link](#) to check out this great resource!



January

Macfeat Family Newsletter

Love is the key to the problems of the world.
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Connections

Literacy Calendar

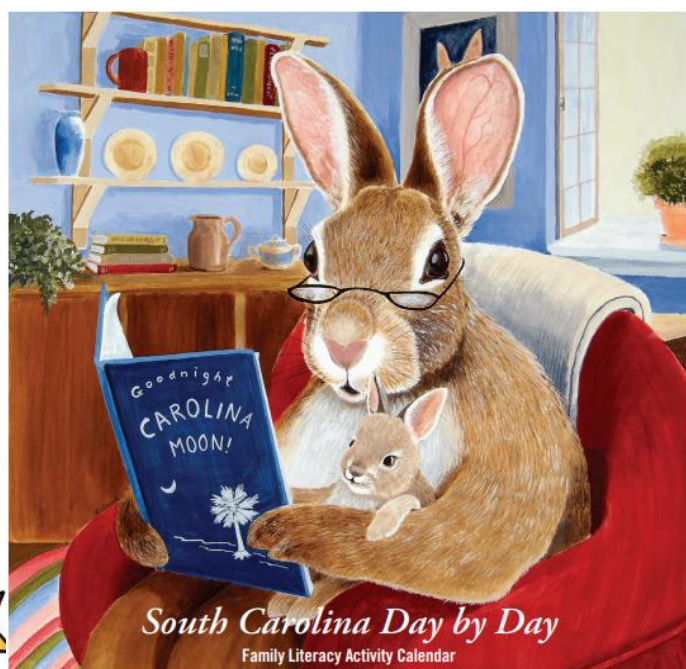
The SC Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), provides caregivers with a daily activity to complete with your child to promote literacy at home. These activities are quick, fun, and directly aligned to all domains of the SC Early Learning Standards. I highly recommend you check this resource out!

Daily Activity Calendar

Daily Fun with Your Little One!						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Reading On New Year's Day, read <i>How to Party Like a Fool</i> by Hesse. Help and help your child have a "quiet party" of their own.	2 Rhymes How many words can you and your child think of that rhyme with "new" and "year"?	3 Math Have your child tell you three wishes he has for the new year. Tell him three of yours. How many total wishes is that?	4 Play Find some colorful socks and put on a puppet show.	5 Math Use leftover popcorn to do simple addition and subtraction problems.	6 Songs (Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques") Snow is falling (2x). From the sky (2x). Let's go build a snowman (2x). Winter's fun! (2x)	7 Play On Bobolink Day, have a dance party or play a game while building your heads, back and forth like the classic toy.
8 Stories After watching a movie together, have your child tell you in her own words what happened.	9 Science On Static Electricity Day, have your child rub a balloon on her shirt or hair for 30 seconds, then watch it cling to the wall. Talk about why it sticks.	10 Play Ask your child to teach you his favorite game. Let him make up his own rules!	11 Writing Have your child paint a picture by dipping cotton swabs into paint.	12 Math Give your child an object that's easy to carry. Go around the house and ask your child to find objects that are bigger or smaller than the object.	13 Rhymes Go to the library and ask the children's librarian to recommend a rhyming book or two.	14 Stories Show your child several pictures and have her tell you a story based on what she sees.
15 Reading Open a book. Ask your child how many words he can pick out on the page.	16 Math At breakfast, have your child count the number of eggs in the carton.	17 Play Make a snowman out of cotton balls and glue.	18 Songs Make up a song about yesterday's cartoon ball snowman and sing it to a familiar tune.	19 Reading Get 26 plastic eggs and write one letter on each (A-Z). Line them up and give your child a small ball to kick or throw. Ask her what letter(s) she knocked down.	20 Science Check out a nonfiction book about your child's favorite animal. Look at the pictures and read the captions together.	21 Sounds Bundle up for a nature walk and talk about how the sounds are different from other seasons.
22 Writing During Crayola Creativity Week, create an art station at home where your child can draw a picture of their day each day.	23 Writing On Handwriting Day, have your child practice printing her name in different colors.	24 Songs Sing while you do everyday activities like making breakfast or driving to the store.	25 Play Get silly on Opposite Day! Have dinner for breakfast, say "good morning" at night, and say "hello" when you leave the room.	26 Sounds Use household items as instruments!	27 Stories Have your child tell you a story about what his stuffed animals do when they are home alone.	28 Reading While shopping, read boxes together as you look at different items.
29 Math Go from room to room counting different objects, such as chairs or books.	30 Songs Make up a new song about a snowflake and sing it to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot."	31 Rhymes Write a rhyming poem together.	Help your child get ready to learn to read! Each day features a fun activity that will help your child build pre-reading skills. Activities are color-coded by skill. Ask your children's librarian for more ideas on how to help your early learner's skills with daily activities at home.			

demco

January 2024



South Carolina Day by Day
Family Literacy Activity Calendar

DEMCO, an education supplier, has also created a daily calendar filled with developmentally appropriate activities. Each month new activities and book suggestions are provided and offer inspiration for parents. The January calendar is shown above and hyperlinked to a printable version, and the following [link](#) takes you to the website where calendars for all months can be accessed.