

# CCMCDC Newsletter

January 2023

@countryclubmethodistcdc



## NURTURE IN NATURE

Imagine being two years old. You step outside to play and discover that the air is white. Cars and buildings just appear as shadowy forms and you can't see as far as you normally can. Why is that? Why is the air white? You also notice that the slide has water on it, even though it didn't rain. How did that water get there? You walk down the sidewalk and discover leaves on the ground. The damp air and damp leaves smell a bit funny, too. What is that smell? Suddenly you see a squirrel chasing another squirrel up a big tree! You hear a noise....what could it be? It sounds like a lawnmower but you can't see any people. Where is the noise coming from?

Suddenly a simple walk down the sidewalk is full of a multitude of learning experiences and opportunities to think critically. And immersing children in the outdoors not only creates new contexts for learning; it also anchors children to the real world around us. It invites collaboration, encourages observation, and supports STEM skills.



## IMPORTANT DATES

2/5 PS Sunday    2/10 PD Day    2/20 Presidents Day

# RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINES

Our Pre-K teachers noticed that students have been intrigued with cars and ramps, so they added marbles into the mix to see if the interest was solely with ramps (cause and effect) or cars (motion). From there students have been creating their own versions of Rube Goldberg machines, and experimenting with force of motion. Materials added to the room include ramps, magnet tiles, wooden blocks, film rolls and other loose parts to help spark creativity when building machines.



## PARENT CONNECTION

Conscious Discipline tells us that the power of Free Will is important to children. The goal is learning to connect and guide our children instead of force and coerce. We can do this by providing Two Positive Choices.

### *Two Positive Choices Step 1:*

Breathe deeply and make a conscious decision to focus on what you want the child **to do**.

Focus on the behavior you want to see, rather than the undesired behavior.



### *Two Positive Choices Step 2:*

Tell the child, "You have a choice!" in an upbeat tone.

Our positive attitude will lighten the situation, especially if the child is resistant.



### *Two Positive Choices Step 3:*

Clearly state two choices that will achieve the goal.

Say, "You may \_\_\_ or you may \_\_\_." For older children, you could say, "Feel free to \_\_\_ or \_\_\_."



## PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

## FEBRUARY 5TH 9:30AM

Come join us Sunday, February 5th, celebrating the season of love! We will have Valentine making stations, sensory bins, and muffins!