

Benzie Early
Childhood

Early Childhood Year in Review

Play * Learn * Grow

"Play is fundamentally important for learning 21st century skills, such as problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity."

~ American Academy of Pediatrics

Who We Are

- 23 staff members
- 88 students 6 weeks-5 years old
- 25 playgroup participants
- 57 Before/after care students
- 65 Summer Campers, 3 to 12 year olds
- 42 GSRP slots, 14 Strong Beginnings Slots,
12 infant/toddler slots

Grants!

- Provided free preschool for all interested 4 year olds for the past 2 years.
- All staff were able to travel to the Michigan AEYC conference
- Provided for staff wage increases
- Supported the costs associated with staff advancing their degrees.

Lake Ann Elementary



- We have done a clothes study, and are currently doing a water study.
- We invited our families to our classroom for a holiday gathering! We had yummy food, and played a game!
- We can't wait to expand on our dramatic play center more! And we are planning a family game night!

Lake Ann Elementary

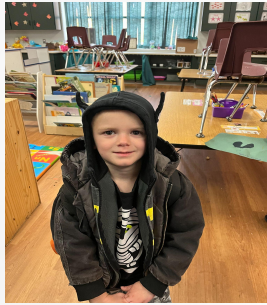


- Currently we're learning about Roads. We have completed the First 6 Weeks + Clothing studies.
- We had a field trip to Nugent Orchards. We went on a corn maze, tractor ride, ate donuts, drank apple cider and picked out our pumpkins!
- We have invited families for different celebrations in the classroom. We have also incorporated families belongings to share their culture with the class.
- We are working on expanding our developmental learning areas within our classroom! Also, a family game night!!

Lake Ann Elementary



- We have done the first 6 weeks study, the clothing study and now are doing roads study.
- This fall we went to Nugents Orchard for a field trip.
- We had a fall celebration and a costume parade for our parents.



Crystal Lake Elementary



- Our Strong Beginnings Classroom has been studying trees, turkeys, and snow!
- In November we did a hide your turkey family project where each student and their family helped decorate/hide their turkey from Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Our Classroom has been practicing how to count to 10 in Spanish and to 20 in English!
- We are looking forward to our Spring Family Carnival!

Crystal Lake Elementary



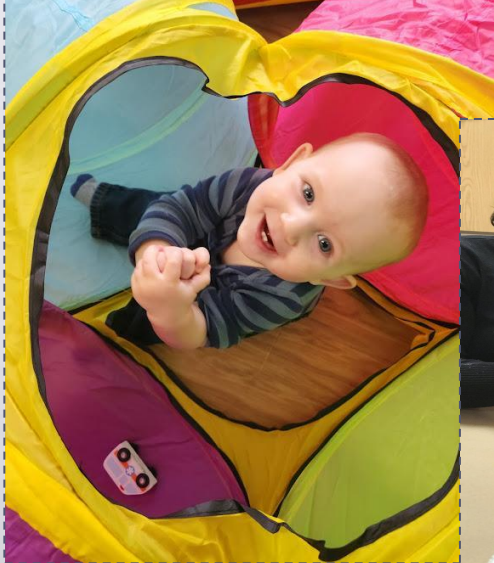
- We have been studying all about pets!
- We plan to visit the local animal shelter soon.
- Our families came to visit the classroom for a classroom holiday celebration!
- We look forward to hopefully more snow and being able to explore it more and use some paint outside!

Crystal Lake Elementary



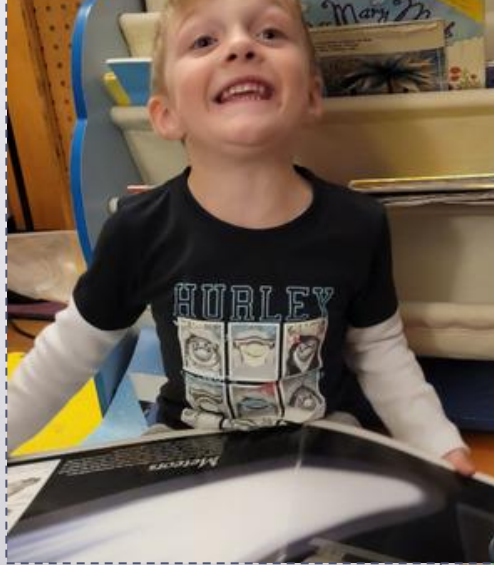
- We just finished a chair study and are starting the light study next.
- We love sensory! The Hot Cocoa Sensory tub was a hit!
- Each family is represented in our Classroom with their own Family Page they created so students can revisit familiar faces daily.
- We look forward to Spring weather and more sensory outside and walks outside!

Playgroups



- Zumbini- Music/Movement program for infant/Caregivers
 - Partner with Local Betsie Valley District Librarian to bring Story Time once a month
 - 5to1 Neighborhood Network Partnership
 - Books for every child to take home at each week
 - Weekly Summer Playgroups at Thompsonville Skate Park
- Summer 2022 Avg group 14 kids*

Special Education



- Supporting teachers and students within our classrooms
- Related Services Model: services being provided at Betsie Valley Playgroup
- We are working on systems of support throughout the district.

What We've Been Up To

- ☒ Summer Camp
- ☒ Half day camp
- ☒ Related Services
- ☒ Community Partnerships
- ☒ MTSS
- ☒ Applied Educational Neuroscience
- ☒ Family Liaison Position

Supporting Our Next Generation of EC Educators!



Christopher White

Summer Camp/After Care

Chris is currently
a senior at BCHS!

I love working with the kids and doing what I do. In the future I want to be an assistant teacher and eventually a lead teacher. My time working in our early childhood and extended day programs have given me the opportunity to gain experience, skills and realize that I truly want to pursue a career in the early childhood field.



Alice Dixon

Strong Beginnings

Alice is a 2020
BCHS graduate!



Autumn Skiver

Preschool Aide

Autumn is a
2021 BCHS
graduate!