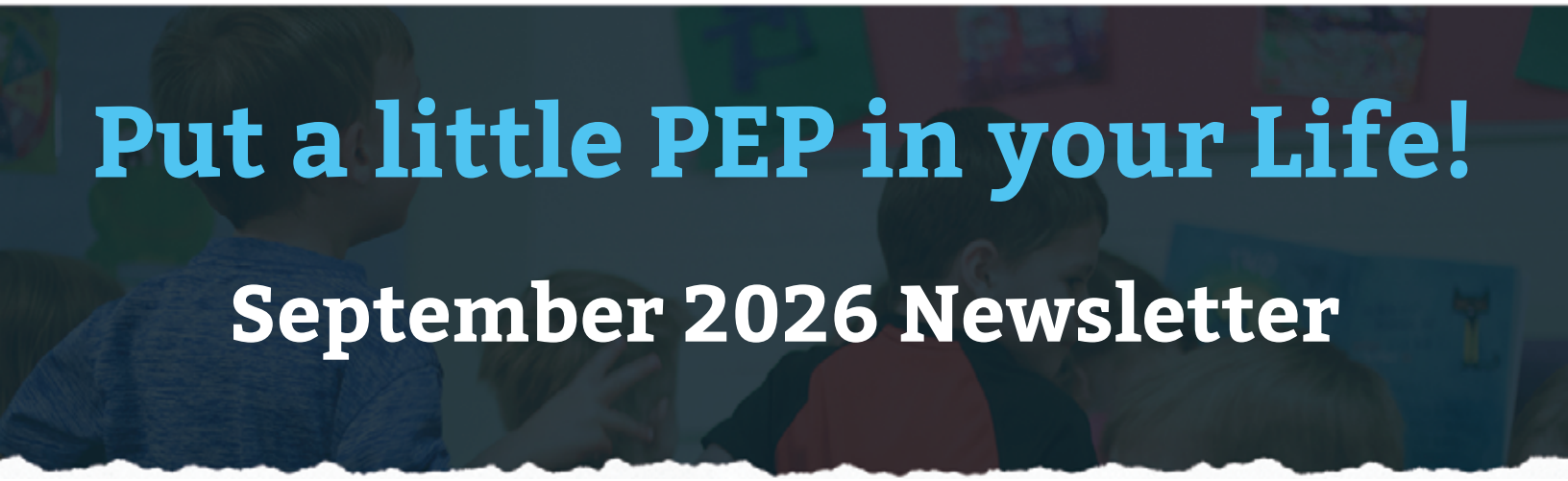
Park's Edge Preschool



Put a little PEP in your Life!

September 2026 Newsletter

A Letter from the Director...

Dear Park's Edge Preschool Families,

"Happy times come and go, but the best childhood memories stay forever." – Unknown

That is our hope for each child as they grow up and graduate from our program. We hope that many wonderful memories were made this summer. From the music of the ice cream truck pulling up every Thursday, to the laughter on the playground as teachers run after the children, to the colorful legs that come home after the chalk has covered them while creating art on the ground, and the sand between their toes after making a sandcastle—we hope these are memories they will remember for years to come. Make sure to check out the pictures up front by the cubbies to share in the fun we had each week!

A huge thank you to all of our families for making alternate arrangements for our Professional Development Day on Friday, August 21. We spent the morning getting ready for fall and the afternoon in training sessions. Our topics included:

1. The Teaching Cycle
2. Portage Assessment Tools
3. EpiPen Training

Did you know that all full-time staff are required to complete 25 hours of in-service training? Every month at our evening staff meetings, we have an hour of training, in addition to our Professional Development Days. These trainings help ensure that we are maintaining the best practices when it comes to each child's individual development.

Mark your calendars for Open House on Thursday, September 3, from 5:00–6:30 p.m. This year, we will have an activity in your child's classroom. The Love Bugs and Beautiful Butterflies will be making a family collage for your child's crib. All the other classrooms will be making a page for a class book. While you are decorating, we will have pizza available to enjoy. We will also have a small scavenger hunt where your child can show you all the different areas of the classroom. It's a great opportunity to meet other families in your child's class, as well as connect with their teachers. We will also have the Portage Assessment Tool available for you to look at. This is the tool we use when planning our weekly lesson plans and setting goals for each individual child. We look forward to seeing everyone!

We are excited about fall, and the teachers have been very busy changing their classrooms from summer to fall. Classroom staffing will be as follows:

Love Bugs: Ms. Terri & Ms. Gina
Beautiful Butterflies: Ms. Julie, Ms. Holli & Ms. Paige
Darling Dragonflies: Ms. Ruslana, Ms. Brooke & Ms. Morgan
Busy Bees: Ms. Emily, Ms. Jacque & Ms. Briana
Upstairs Float Staff: Ms. Ruslana & Ms. Gabi
Sunshine Room: Ms. Alexis & Ms. Nadine
Fantastic Frogs: Ms. Sandra, Ms. Shanda & Ms. Sarah
Shining Stars: Ms. Kasey & Ms. Hannah
Purple Moons: Ms. Maria & Ms. Alex
Slithering Snakes: Ms. Maria (a.m. bus), Mr. Cody (4K & p.m. routes) & Ms. Nicole
Lower-Level Float Staff: Ms. Eryn, Ms. Savannah & Ms. Aubrey
Cook: Ms. Briana
Support Staff: Ms. Kelly, Ms. Alora & Ms. Maddy

With school back in session, if your child is riding the bus, please arrive by 8:00 a.m. to ensure that everyone is ready to go by 8:15 a.m. Please drive safely throughout the parking lot, as we have children entering and exiting the buses.

Friendly Reminder: The annual registration fee will be charged to your account on Tuesday, September 8, for continued enrollment in the fall. The fee is $100 for one child or $150 for a family.

Park's Edge Preschool will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Regular charges will be applied.

Have a restful holiday weekend after a busy summer!

Kristin Burr
Director

Happy Birthday!

Kennedy K.	09/01/2021
Calvin O.	09/04/2022
Robbie S.	09/05/2025
Rohan T.	09/07/2023
Kaden D.	09/09/2023
Kinsley Y.	09/09/2024
Aaron B.	09/13/2022
Finn V.	09/14/2020
Lyla L.	09/14/2022
Logan D.	09/19/2018
Camryn M.	09/19/2022
Vivian S.	09/22/2015
Connor M.	09/22/2023
Lucinda W.	09/26/2018
Renee B.	09/27/2022





Important Dates:

Tuesday, September 1st–
First Day of School Whitnall School District

Thursday, September 3rd–
Park's Edge Preschool Open House - 5:00-6:30pm

Monday, September 7th–
Center Closed for Labor Day Holiday
Regular tuition rates apply.

Friday, October 2nd–
No School Whitnall District
Sign up for care in downstairs classroom

Thursday, October 22nd–
Trunk or Treat- 5:30-7:00pm

Love Bugs

What's an elephant's favorite vegetable?
Squash!

Welcome, September! We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with lots of memories!

Our Child of the Month is going to be Makai. He is sitting up by himself, and he just started army crawling!

Charlie is working on his tummy time and can roll from side to side. Eventually, he will roll all the way over, which is his next goal!

Callum has found his voice and has been cooing at his teachers. His next goal is to reach for toys that are just out of his reach.

We would like to welcome Wyatt, Shea, Eliza, Ember, and Chloe to the class, along with their families. We are so excited to get to know everyone!

In this classroom, tummy time is an effective way to strengthen muscles such as the neck and core. We will be doing lots of tummy time, along with plenty of floor time and opportunities to look at themselves in the mirror. We will also be doing fun crafts throughout the month!

This month, we will be creating apples, leaves, and pumpkins using their feet! Many parents love these crafts as special keepsakes.

We will read the books Mouse Loves School, It's OK to Make Mistakes, Spot Starts School, and Pete the Cat: Too Cool for School throughout the month!

Happy September!
Ms. Terri, Ms. Gina, Ms. Ruslana






Beautiful Butterflies

As quickly as the seasons change, the children are growing and changing every day! We had so much fun this summer, but we are looking forward to all that this fall and the new school year have in store.

This month, Robert is turning one! Happy Birthday, Robbie! He will also be our Baby of the Month for September. Robbie enjoys outside walks, art, and music. He loves making clicking noises with his tongue and finding new ways to make his teachers and friends laugh.

The children really enjoyed our dinosaur theme! They love using our Velcro theme pieces, taking them on and off while developing their fine motor skills. They are very proud of their artwork and love looking at their creations, as they should be!

We are also hearing lots of sounds and words as the children mimic what they hear and repeat new words. They are beginning to recognize some colors, with blue, green, and yellow being some of their favorites.

The children love participating in group art projects using markers, crayons, and bingo daubers on butcher paper. They also enjoy group singing and story time. During our walks, they especially love looking for basketballs along the way!

Happy September!
Ms. Julie, Ms. Holli, and Ms. Paige






Darling Dragonflies

August was such a fun and busy month in our classroom! We explored dinosaurs and dug in the sand for fossils. We painted with feathers and even painted our very own DINO EGGS! We enjoyed our "What a Sweet Summer" theme and had lots of fun with beach toys. Our little ones loved getting messy, creating artwork, and exploring through hands-on activities. We've been having so much fun learning and growing together!

September is here, and we are excited for a new month of learning and exploring! We will be welcoming the new school year with lots of opportunities to learn through play. We will continue practicing following one-step directions, building our fine motor skills, and learning to safely go up and down stairs with guidance.

We LOVE to get messy in our classroom, so get ready for lots of painting, creating, and sensory fun! We are looking forward to another wonderful month filled with learning, laughter, and lots of smiles!

We can't wait to see what September has in store for our Darling Dragonflies!

Ms. Brooke & Ms. Morgan






Busy Bees

Bye-bye, summer! We had a blast!

We had so much fun learning about camping with our fire sensory bin filled with red and yellow noodles! We then got to learn about dinosaurs for two weeks. We did all sorts of fun activities, such as stomping dinosaurs in paint, painting dinosaur feet, making volcanoes, and working on matching dinosaurs. It was a roaring good time!

We are so excited for the beginning of the school year! Ms. Jacque will be joining us again, and we will be welcoming some new friends to the room and center as some of our other friends spread their wings and move to their new classrooms.

We will be learning about Back to School with our Open House. Please come in and enjoy the activities in all the rooms! We will also be learning about Our Families, Favorite Books, and Apples.

If you haven't already, please send family photos to Kristin@Parksedgepreschool.com so we can add them to our family tree.

Just as a reminder, potty training does begin in this room since we do have a potty available. However, it is not a requirement to be potty trained to move to the next classroom. We follow each child's lead and allow them to decide if they would like to try using the potty.

We are also working on encouraging independence by cleaning up toys in the classroom and following safety rules, such as walking in the classroom and being safe on our slide. Please practice going feet first on slides at playgrounds, as this helps encourage them to do the same at school!

We are so excited to see what this school year has in store!

Ms. Emily, Ms. Jacque and Ms. Briana






Sunshine Room

What kind of shoes do mice wear to gym class?
Squeakers!

As summer is wrapping up and the children are returning to school, we want to give a big thank-you and shout-out to everyone who made this an unforgettable summer! From Granny's Treats every Thursday to the bounce houses and water days, we had so much fun! We can't wait to see what the school year holds for our friends! :)

Throughout the month, we had our last summer adventures. The bounce house was so much fun—we bounced higher than ever! Inside the bounce house, there was a slide and a basketball hoop! So many slam dunks happened that we couldn't keep track. Everyone was a basketball star that day! :)

Towards the end of the month, we had our final swim day with the bubble machine. The bubbles tickled us as they dissolved into the air! :) We had such a blast this summer and can't wait for the next one!

This month, we put the focus on numbers. During group time, we worked on counting and number recognition skills. The children's confidence has been skyrocketing as they state the correct number!

Outside of group time, we have been encouraging the children to count more on their own. We help them start at 1 while allowing them to continue counting independently. In the mornings, we started playing a new game where we find a certain amount of an object. For example, we might ask a friend to find three ducks. They first have to find the correct object and then count the correct amount.

The kids have loved exploring the room in a different way while still having fun learning. It's incredible to see their counting skills strengthen throughout the month!

Just a few friendly reminders: Please check your child's cubby to make sure they have appropriate backup clothes. We are also running low on spare clothing, so please return any clothes your child has borrowed. If you would like to donate any gently used clothing, we would gladly accept it for the classroom.

Lastly, please make sure your child has a water bottle for the day. :)

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us through the app, during drop-off or pick-up, or by calling between 1–3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Thank you!
The Sunshine Crew
Ms. Alexis and Ms. Nay-Nay






Fantastic Frogs

Even though summer is coming to an end, that doesn't mean our fun did! We kicked off August with a week of camping!

We ate outside, "camped" in a real tent, and even roasted marshmallows over an open flame. Not to worry, parents—the logs were paper towel rolls, and the flames were made from tissue and construction paper. Safety first here at Park's Edge Preschool! The absolute joy it brought the kiddos was 100% real, though. What a creative idea—thanks, Ms. Sandra!

Then we stomped our way into the second week, learning about those terrible lizards. Of course, we're talking about—DINOSAURS! We learned all about the letter "D" and practiced tracing it to a T. Or, I should say, D! Our handmade dino tails fit right in with the Jurassic Period. The dino track paintings the kids made could hang in the Louvre itself! The children also had a great time using bubble wrap to make patterns that looked like dinosaur eggs. I swear, they looked so real that paleontologists stopped by to study them! And no week of dinosaurs would be complete without Dinosaur Pizza Bites. They were big enough to satisfy a Brontosaurus's appetite!

During our third week of August, we took a little trip—to the zoo! Not literally, though. We learned and did so many things pertaining to the zoo that you would have thought we were zookeepers. The kids learned all about the animals that call the zoo home. We even took a survey to see which animal would win as the favorite. Lions, penguins, and elephants were the top three contenders. All great choices for number one!

Using black paint and forks, the children made their own zebra stripe paintings. They turned out really well! Playing Zoo Charades was a personal favorite of mine. Although, I can't figure out why no one could guess my armadillo. I guess we just need more practice…or maybe just me!

Playing with Ms. Sandra's oversized Barrel of Monkeys was as much fun as well…A BARREL OF MONKEYS! And, of course, the bounce house was a hit as usual. I think the neighbors almost called the cops for breaking the giggling ordinance!

We look forward to closing out August by reminding ourselves how sweet summer can be. There will be watermelon tasting, popsicle matching, making our own flip-flops, and, of course…the Bubble Machine!

Summer flew by, but we have so much more to explore here at Park's Edge Preschool. Parents, be sure to check out your child's folder the next time you are in the classroom. All their beautiful artwork is just waiting to be displayed proudly!

Ms. Sandra, Ms. Sarah and Ms. Shanda






Shining Stars

Holy Smokes, It's September!

Boy, did this summer fly by! Just like that, school is back in session, and we are ready for another year of fun and learning!

August was jam-packed with field trips, bounce houses, ice cream treats, camping, dinosaurs, and picnics. We loved seeing some of you at our cookout! Thank you for taking time out of your day to come hang out with us.

The kids loved stirring up some yummy treats for our bake sale and putting together a fruit salad. Thank you to everyone who brought in fruit!

We are ending August and kicking off September with our "Mixed Emotions" week, where we will talk all about various emotions. We'll then get into school mode during our "Back to School" week, learn more about our families during "All About Me and My Family" week, and end September by discussing our favorite books during "My Favorite Book" week!

We have so much fun planned for the fall, and we are excited to welcome some new faces to our classroom!

Last but certainly not least, at the end of August, we said, "See you later!" to our wonderful Ms. Mariah. She was truly such a joy to have at Park's Edge, but there is no doubt in our minds that she will continue to do wonderful things at her new school. She loved each and every one of your children so much and brought such a light and creativity to the classroom.

But have NO fear! Ms. Kasey, Ms. Hannah, and Ms. Savannah are here! We are so excited to work together as a team to create a safe, nurturing, and fun environment where your children will feel loved, supported, and encouraged to learn and grow every day.

Have a blessed September!

Ms. Kasey, Ms. Hannah, and Ms. Savannah






Purple Moons

August is always a bittersweet month as we wrap up summer and get ready for big school. We continued our science fun by making s'mores, excavating chocolate chips from cookies like real archaeologists, creating a tar-pit edible snack, making fruit salad, and baking delicious banana and pumpkin bread for our bake sale. We explored Whitnall Park and Froemming Park, visited the Milwaukee Public Museum, stretched with dino yoga, and had a blast with the bubble machine. Watching The Land Before Time while enjoying popcorn quickly became a class favorite.

Inside the classroom, we built an amazing campsite using blankets, chairs, and plenty of imagination. Our creativity didn't stop there — we used our imaginations to design spectacular art projects and practiced writing more letters to get ready for the school year ahead. 4K and Kindergarten, we are ready for you. Bring on September!

Ms. Maria and Ms. Eryn






Slithering Snakes

Hello! And welcome to the beginning of a new school year! We can't believe that summer has already come and gone, and while we will miss the activity-filled, full days with our class, we are looking forward to a more consistent schedule. This school year, as many before it, will be a wonderful chance to expand the scope of your child's knowledge and understanding of the world, and we are proud to be a part of it. Our regular bussing schedule will begin on Tuesday, September 1st, in tandem with the beginning of Whitnall's school year, and Mr. Cody can't wait to be back behind the wheel! We know the start of the school year can be stressful, and that you may have questions or concerns, but we are always available to help and will do our best to allay any concerns and answer all questions. We are here to support you and your child, and take that responsibility seriously, knowing full well the irreplaceable foundation that elementary school provides.

During the school year we will be going back to our abridged lesson plans, as they are more able to demonstrate the limited amount of time your child will be in our care, as well as providing a more attainable set of daily activities. Please look for them, as well as our snack menu, on the chalkboard to your right as you enter Kurth Hall. Our lesson plans for September will highlight the return to school, the importance of self and family, and Mr. Cody's personal favorite, our favorite books and authors. We are always looking out for new books to add to our shelf, as well as any opportunity to espouse the infinite value of reading, and the importance of literacy. A rule in our room is that the completion of homework should be done after snack, but before play, so as to provide more time at home, as well as allowing your child the option of help from a teacher. If you would prefer to do homework with your child at home, please let us know! The school year, much as summer, comes quickly and leaves just as suddenly, so we hope your family enjoys the school year and gains not only a more rounded academic base, but a true appreciation for the intricacies and nuance of knowledge, and their limitless applications.

Sincerely,
Ms. Nicole and Mr. Cody






Themes with Christian Sub Themes

09/07-09/11 Back to School
Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance (proverbs 1:5)
"Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still" (Proverbs 9:9)

09/14-09/18 All About Me and my Family
James 1:19-20 "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires."

09/21-09/25 My Favorite Book and Other Authors
Timothy 3:16:17 All Scripture is God- breathed and is useful for teaching
One of the best-selling books is the bible.

09/28-10/02 Gods Helping Hands Manners Matter
"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up." Proverbs 12:25

A Back-To-School Prayer

Guide and protect all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Give wisdom, patience, and joy to teachers as they serve their students.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.



NAC Nook

For this month's NAC Nook, the standard we will elaborate on is C8: The program provides resources on the importance of health and developmental screenings, as well as available community resources.

At the front office, to the left, there is a Parent Resource Center. There is information about vaccination schedules, safe sleep, Emanuel Church, articles on tummy time, and our accreditation. Articles on various topics related to child development are switched out every 3–4 months. Topics vary from why tummy time is important to how play supports development.

There are also health-related resources and articles from the Hales Corners Health Department available in the Parent Resource Center.

Park's Edge Preschool collects health reports and immunization records every six months for children under 2 years old. Children ages 2–5 years need an updated health report and immunization records every two years, and children older than 5 years need an updated health report and immunization records every five years. An after-visit summary can be submitted in place of the health report form. Most after-visit summaries include immunization records. This helps ensure that wellness visits are being conducted, and this documentation is required by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF).

If you have any further questions about the available resources, please let us know!

Happy Anniversary!



Happy Anniversary to Our Beloved Ms. Kristin!

Kristin started her career at PEP 26 years ago as a co-op student in high school. From there, she moved around to each classroom as a float teacher. She became a lead teacher in the Shining Stars room, where she remained for six years. After gaining years of experience and knowledge in the classrooms, she naturally moved into the role of Curriculum Coordinator. After years of shaping the curriculum at PEP, she accepted the role of Assistant Director. Two years ago, Ms. Kristin accepted the role of Director of Park's Edge Preschool.

Kristin is an exceptional leader who is always looking for ways to make Park's Edge better. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the center runs smoothly and that our teachers have the support they need to provide the best care possible. She takes the time to listen to her staff, families, and children and genuinely cares about their experiences at PEP. She leads with compassion, thoughtfulness, and a commitment to doing what is best for the children and families we serve.

Kristin's love for children and passion for early childhood education are unmatched. She believes in the impact that quality early childhood education has not only on the child, but also on the community they will grow to serve and be a part of in the future. She believes every child and family deserves support, respect, and love. She loves giving tours of the facility to new families because she truly believes in our program and knows that we are unparalleled when it comes to providing education, love, and care for children.

Ms. Kristin is happily married to her husband, Jason, and has three wonderful children who have all grown through the PEP program.

When Kristin is not working, she is mastering world class cuisine in her kitchen. Her friends and family call her "Martha or Betty Google". She is obsessed with her dog, Barkley, and takes him on marathon walks around the park. She is a sports mom through and through and can be found every weekend or weeknight cheering on some form of sporting event—or now, band event—for one of her kids. She also loves spending every Friday evening with her husband for their date night.

We are so thankful to have Ms. Kristin here at PEP and wish her the happiest of anniversaries!



Happy third anniversary to the wonderful Ms. Haley.

Ms. Haley started in the program as our Assistant Director. She came to us with years of experience in the Early Childhood field. She has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Ms. Haley is one of those people who brings energy, laughter, and heart wherever she goes. Her sense of humor can brighten even the busiest day at Park's Edge, and she has a wonderful way of making the people around her laugh and feel at ease. Whether she is sharing a funny story, joking with her coworkers, or being silly with the children, Ms. Haley brings a special kind of joy to our PEP family.

As our Assistant Director, Haley is always willing to jump in wherever she is needed and is someone our teachers can count on for support, encouragement, and guidance. She leads with both confidence and compassion and truly cares about making sure our teachers and children have what they need to be successful. Her leadership plays such an important role in helping make Park's Edge the special place that it is.

And while Ms. Haley loves her PEP family, there is no question that her favorite role of all is being Mom to her two-year-old son, Cole, and wife to her husband Tyler. She absolutely adores them and loves sharing in all their adventures. Haley also loves trying new restaurants and new foods and loves sharing recipes with her lucky coworkers.

Thank you, Ms. Haley, for your leadership, your laughter, your experience, your passion, and the love you bring to Park's Edge.

Happy Anniversary!



Happy two year anniversary to our beloved Ms. Shanda!

Ms. Shanda started her career at PEP as a teacher in our Busy Bees classroom. After spending time with our smallest kids, she wanted to branch out, and try something different. She moved to our Fantastic Frogs classroom and has remained there ever since.

Ms. Shanda is one of those unique people who has a way of making everyone around her feel loved, welcomed, and cared for. Her caring heart and genuine love for children shine through in everything she does at Park's Edge. She has a special way of connecting with each child and making them feel safe, valued, and important.

Ms. Shanda also has an incredible gift for making the people around her feel special. As a member of our Sunshine Committee, she goes above and beyond to make sure her coworkers feel celebrated and appreciated. She puts so much thought into each person's birthday, taking the time to pick out thoughtful treats and special surprises that she knows they will love.

When Shanda is not at work, she spends all her free time with her favorite little guy Levi, her two-year-old son. You can find them at the park most days, or glamping in the summer. She also loves good deals and is an avid thrift store shopper.

Thank you, Ms. Shanda, for loving our children so well, making us laugh, celebrating your coworkers, and being such an important part of the Park's Edge family.



Happy Third Anniversary to the Always Cheerful Ms. Savannah!

Ms. Savannah started her career at PEP as a volunteer for the National Honor Society. She came in and helped organize our library. After spending time in the building and meeting all the children, Savannah decided to come work for us as a Program Aide. Two summers ago, Ms. Savannah moved into the role of Assistant Teacher. She is currently enrolled at UW–Milwaukee, majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Every day, Savannah walks into the building with a huge smile on her face. No matter what room she is helping out in for the day, she is excited to be here. She brings kindness and love to every classroom that has the privilege of having her as a teacher. The children think she is funny and cool and love getting to spend time with her. She is the ultimate selfie taker with her classroom. Savannah embodies all five of our core values, and we are so happy she is part of our amazing team!

When she isn't working, Savannah loves spending time with friends and family. She loves a good game of sand volleyball. She looks and acts sweet, but she will bury you on the volleyball court! She is also a world-class napper and considers it her favorite hobby.

Thank you, Savannah, for all your hard work and commitment to Park's Edge.