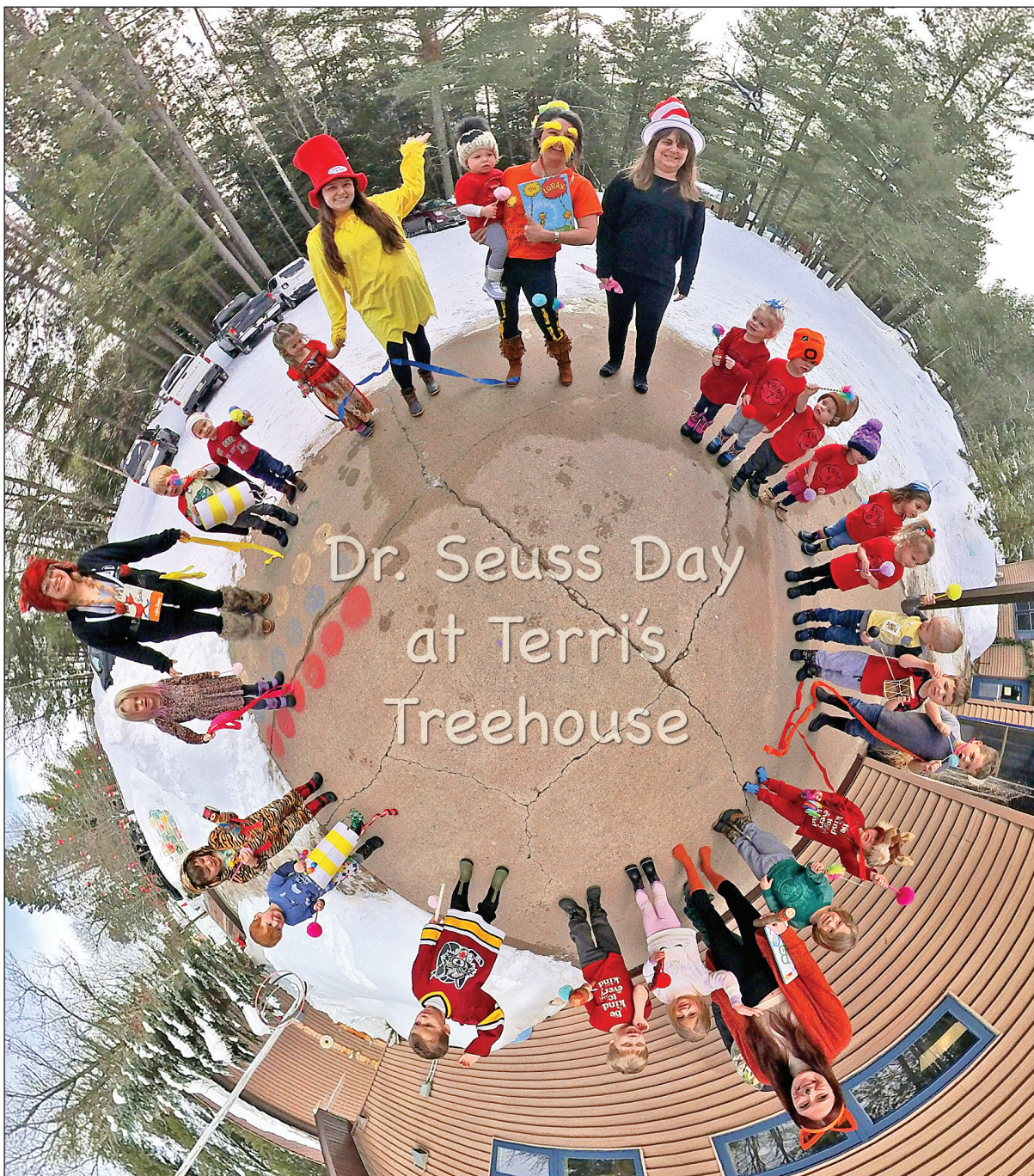


DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

DR. SEUSS DAYS

Kids and staff participated in a Dr. Seuss Parade on Thursday, March 2 at Terri's Treehouse Early Learning Center in Arbor Vitae. The center's program director Emily Mae King-Ryden said "Dr. Seuss Days are a great way to celebrate stories, creative thinking, expression, and gathering. Before Dr. Seuss literature was geared toward practical and what is, Dr Seuss open the door to concrete creativity in the form of written word coming out of an industrial age, America defining itself/priorities, and may have just made reading fun vs everything that was, pedagogical style; 'Dick and Jane,' 'See Spot Run' etc. Although every decade has a stamp of Dr. Seuss it wasn't until later we knew he was onto something, something fantastical took place in the brink of paying homage to having fun and celebrating innovative thinking. Read Across America Day, #TackleReading, #ECEWins, and so much more just may have been Dr. Seuss paving the way and opening the door to stories geared toward nothing but fun and a twisted tongue-tied angle to loving story time! So here's to the birth of celebrating early childhood and Dr Seuss!" Those celebrating Dr. Seuss Days are, from the top and continuing clockwise, Miss Emily Mae King as the "Lorax" holding Stella Lasier, Miss Tammy Garasha, Allison Hinze, Carter Larson, Wally Wizner, Lylah Koch, Haiden Jaramillo, Mackensi Chmielewski, Brecken Achoff, Bennett Troyer, Kamryn Gabert, Bridger Hartzheim, Nikolas Lerch, Miss Kelsey Fox, Gwen Schwingle, Alexander Stenli, Jase Litviouff, Locke Freeman, Aro Ryden, Ava Rickleff, Miss Savannah Hinze, Ivan Fiala, Blazdyn Marineau, Mabel Michleg, Miss Emily Jane Kalmakoff.



Feed your child's imagination through books

Children crawl before they walk. They learn language before they read, and one effective way to set the stage for language learning in children is by reading with them.

Studies show that starting at an early age helps to increase their vocabulary and improves their reading fluency and comprehension. According to a study in the Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to.

"Reading to your child is more than telling them a story. It's a way to bond with your child on a deep emotional level, foster creativity, and help them build and grow their language skills," says Alexis Roy, FNP-C, Aspirus Woodruff Clinic-Maple Street. "It's an activity that should be as vital to your daily routine as brushing their teeth or eating dinner together."

According to the Children's Bureau, some benefits of reading to children include:

- Supported cognitive development
- Improved language skills
- Preparation for academic success
- Developing a special bond with your child
- Increased concentration and discipline
- Improved imagination and creativity
- Cultivating a lifelong love of reading

Roy says, "making story time an essential part of your daily routine will be an investment in your child's education that you will continue to see for years to come."

She recommends the following tips for getting started:

- Start early. Babies thrive on routine and making story time part of that routine is something they will grow up learning to look forward to. It does not have to be a book specific for young children. Even just reading out loud a novel or newspaper can help foster speech development.
- Find creative ways to incorporate reading. Make a recipe together and have your child read the instructions to you or read them together. Make it a game when traveling to read different road signs and find words that start with every letter of the alphabet. Help your child write their own story to foster imagination and help language development.
- Invest in a reading nook. Make a fun space for your child to go to read. Have a variety of books available to them as well as good lighting. This could be a princess castle, a fort, or just a bench. Wherever it is, it is a dedicated reading space where they can go to have quiet time to read.
- Check out the local library. This is a great, free resource to get books to try. Most librarians can give good recommendations on age-appropriate books as well. Some libraries have seasonal reading programs to keep children reading throughout the year and motivate them to do so.
- Make it a family affair. If you have teenagers or pre-teens, set time aside to read as a family. Everyone can either read the same book or different books, just do so at a consistent time together. Begin by setting the example. You don't need to read for hours. Even 15 minutes a day can make a difference. Try to find something you all enjoy reading and read together. This can further a family bond by leading to discussion.

For more information, tips and tricks on reading and language development, or general questions about pediatrics, schedule an appointment with Alexis Roy, FNP-C at Aspirus Woodruff Clinic-Maple Street. She loves caring for children of all ages, as well as caring for adults. To schedule an appointment, call 715-356-8140. To find a provider near you, visit www.aspirus.org/find-a-provider.

Northwoods Feature Property of the Week

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

The possibilities are endless with this property! Great opportunity for a new business and/or living space in a great location with 330 ft of frontage on HWY 51 and Poplar Dr. There are 2 driveways with direct access to HWY 51. This property was a roadside motel back in the day, with 3 one room out-buildings still remaining. Includes a 26 x 28 multi-purpose shop building with a high efficiency furnace, 12 ft. ceiling and a 10 ft. garage door. There is great space in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath house that can be converted to office space or business along with the shop building. In addition, there is a 1 1/2 car detached garage with a lean-to for additional storage. Minutes from the heart of Minocqua for dining, shopping, amusements, festivals and all the Northwoods has to offer. Easy snowmobile access off of Poplar Dr.

FIRST WEBER REALTORS

Address: 7664 Hwy 51, Minocqua

List Price: \$225,000 **MLS:** 197360

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