

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

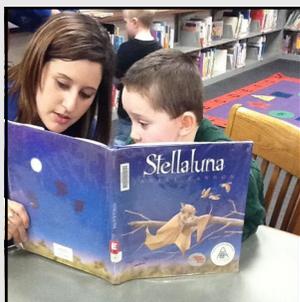
September 6, 2013

On Monday, the youngest students at Pickaway-Ross will start the 2013-2014 school year when preschool begins.

Broken into a morning and afternoon session, the 40 preschoolers will be taught by our 32 Early Childhood Education students.



Seniors work with children in the morning program, supported by Early Childhood Education Entitlement funding from the Ohio Department of Education, and juniors work with children in the afternoon session.



The year ahead will be full for the preschoolers, who get to visit our library and take part in a weekly music program held near the reception area. Other activities include learning about the importance of washing their hands from our Allied Health students, having a Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Commercial Food Careers and hosting a canned-food drive.

But a favorite for Pickaway-Ross students of all ages – and staff – is the preschooler’s annual trick-or-treat trek through the building.

“It’s a lot of fun for everybody,” said Connie Page, who with Missy Brown leads the ECE program.

For students in Early Childhood Education, the program is a steppingstone for those who want to pursue a career in teaching, child psychology or nursing. “This class is as valuable to them to figure out what they don’t want to do as what they do want to do,” Missy said.

Missy said the students spend time observing and documenting the children’s learning, which also results in a memory book for parents.

For some Early Childhood students, they will spend both of their Pickaway-Ross years with some of the same children and attachments will develop.

But the presence of the children is felt by students outside the Early Childhood program.

“I’ve seen high school students carry themselves differently when the children are walking through the hall or watching the Physics 500,” Missy said. “The children help the high school students be accountable.”

This is just another shining example of one program and the numerous positive effects it has on others at Pickaway-Ross.

