

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

April 2016 * School Newsletter

We are delighted to share all we have learned during the month of March. We enjoyed various celebrations, participating in our Spring Egg Hunt, St. Patrick's Day, and Dr Seuss' birthday! We are looking forward to all the fun festivities we have planned during the month of April. Our upcoming events are listed below

We will be welcoming our new Principal Mr. William Gordon, Monday, April, 4th. We will have goodies in the lobby from 4-6 please stop by and welcome him to our school!!

Friday, April 8th we will be having a PJ Day to raise money for "Cozy for a Cure", donations for participation will go to fight childhood Leukemia.

We will be celebrating Week of the Young Child the week of April 11-15. This is a wonderful week and we celebrate the importance of education for young children. We will be having different themed activities each day, please see the schedule below.

Lastly, we will be hosting a ladybug release party on Earth Day (April 22) at 3pm and all are invited to join us! We are looking forward to a fun filled month!

Week of the Young Child Activities:

Monday: Super Hero or Storybook Character Day (come dressed as your favorite super hero or storybook character)

Tuesday: Child Health Day (Wear your favorite team sport shirt. We will talk about healthy foods, have a health snack, and participate in a group exercise time)

Wednesday: Our Special Class Book Day (Each child will be given a special sheet of paper for you to write "why your child is special" and return it to your teacher and we will create a class book to read)

Thursday: Special Reader Day (We will have a signup sheet at the front desk and will ask a parent from each room to sign up to read to your child's class on Thursday, time of day is optional)

Friday: Trike-A-Thon (bring your child's bike, helmet, and donation for participation that will benefit St. Jude Hospital to school on Friday morning for your child to participate in the Trike-A-Thon)

dates to Remember

April 8th- Pajama Day- fundraiser for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

April 11 – 15 The Week of the Young

April 15th- St. Jude's Trike-a-thon

April 22nd- Earth Day

April 29th- Links to Learning Folders go home

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Why spend your evenings and weekends driving to and from practices and programs when your child can participate in there right here at school? Please see the front desk for more information on any of these wonderful programs!



WEDNESDAYS: Soccer Shots @ 9:30am

Soccer Shots has three rules: Score a goal, be a team player, and HAVE FUN! This is a great way to get some extra physical fitness in and have a blast doing it! Spaces are still available so sign up today!!

WEDNESDAYS: Yogi Bears Yoga @ 3pm

As a yogi with a passion for yoga and all the benefits it offers the mind and body, it is our yoga instructors personal goal to share her practice with our young ones so the each child in time can cultivate his or her own practice.



THURSDAYS: JUMP BUNCH @ 9:30am

Jump Bunch introduces sports and fitness to your child in a hands-on setting. It builds coordination and interest in sports, teaches through constant praise and encouragement, offers a safe, non-competitive environment, and promotes healthy fitness and nutrition!

FROM THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Linking Learning with Nature

Spring is here! Flowers are blooming, days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. Now is a great time for children to explore these environmental changes happening in the world around them.

Not only are children curious about nature, but research shows that it has a profound influence on their problem solving skills, creativity, imagination and cognitive ability. Because of this, our teachers incorporate nature in all aspects of our Links to Learning curriculum.

Below are ways we connect learning with nature, as well as activities you can do with your child at home.

INFANTS/TODDLERS:

In the classroom: After reading a book about springtime, teachers bring children outdoors to explore and investigate objects in nature. The children have fun crumbling leaves, smelling flowers and looking at clouds.

At home: Take tummy time outdoors and allow your infant to explore different sights, sounds and textures. Encourage him to move and grab things by placing objects just beyond his reach. For toddlers, ask questions like, “Who made that chirping sound” or “Can you point to the flowers?”

Recommended reading: *Wake Up! Wake Up! A Springtime Lift-the-Flap Book* by Kathryn Davis, *Welcome Spring* by Little Scholastic

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: Our Beginners read books about seasonal changes, then bring the story to life by going outdoors to find real-world examples.

At home: Help make your child aware of the seasonal changes going on around him. Talk a walk with him and ask questions such as “Why do we see flowers growing now?” or “What do flowers need in order to grow?” Encourage him to use his creativity when answering.

Recommended reading: *Over in the Meadow* by Olive Wadsworth, *Mouse’s First Spring* by Lauren Thompson

INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: Students plant seeds in their school garden and learn about the importance of caring for them. Through this activity, they practice math skills such as measuring, sorting, counting and making predictions.

At home: Set up a bird feeder outside a window that your child can easily see. Let him help you fill it with birdfeed. As the birds come to eat, ask your child to talk about them. “What color are they?” “Are they big or small?” “What are they doing?”

Recommended reading: *Little Seed* by Eric Carle, *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert

PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (ages 4-5):

In the classroom: Pre-K and Pre-K 2 students explore the sounds they hear in nature while playing outdoors. They then use recycled and natural materials, such as string and pine cones, to make their own wind chime.

At home: Reuse junk mail for a fun arts and crafts activity with your child. Encourage him to look through flyers and magazines to find words and pictures that he recognizes. Then, ask him to create a collage by cutting and gluing them to a piece of paper or poster board.

Recommended reading: *And Then It’s Spring* by Julie Fogliano, *About Springtime*, *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis

We provide many opportunities for our preschoolers to think creatively and imaginatively about the world around them. By setting this foundation, children build confidence in their own unique thoughts and maintain a thirst for learning as they enter elementary school and beyond.

– Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education

[Back »](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

- [School Year Calendar](#)