

With April showers come beautiful May flowers! We are so excited to see the weather get warmer and the season begin to change. With spring in the air, our theme this month is "Animals, Animals, Animals." The students will be learning and exploring: Bees, Bugs and Butterflies, Farm Life, Animals of the Jungle, Deep Blue Sea, and Birds and Feathers! This month is going to be hands on FUN!

Teacher Appreciation Week

We celebrated National Teacher Appreciation Week May 2nd to May 6th. Our teachers' make our school! We appreciate all that they do and words can not express our gratitude. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our teachers in your own special way. We really appreciate everything you did for us!

Week of the Young Child, Spring Break Camp & Earth Day 2016

All of our busy activities for the month of April were a HUGE success with the children. They had a blast making their tie dye shirts, painting flower pots and planting flowers and of course our ladybug release! It was an exciting week and the children looked great in their tie dye! Thank you for your participation! Please check out our great pictures on our digital frame and on our CBA Facebook

Scholastic Book Fair

We want to thank all the parents who supported our Scholastic Book Fair Fundraiser. We really appreciate all the donations of books as well! We collected a total \$1900 and bought school books and supplies from the sales. Thank you so much!

SHOES & CLOTHES

With the warmer weather, please note the importance of sending your child to school in safe closed toed shoes.

We are very physical and busy during the day. Toe injuries are a top injury which can be prevented with proper foot wear.

SUNSCREEN

It is that time of year again. Please supply your child with sunscreen and complete the required permission slip. Please see your classroom teacher if you need another form.

May

- 05.02.16-Teacher Appreciation Week
- 05.06-16
- 05.05.16 Cinco de Mayo
- 05.06.16 Parent Date Night
6:30pm-10pm
- 05.07.16 Joy of Dance Recital @
2:30pm in Clifton
- 05.08.16 Mother's Day
- 05.10.16 Mother's Day Afternoon
Tea and Cookies @3:45pm
- 05.31.13 Memorial Day Closed

June

- 06.10.16 PRE-K2 Graduation
Ceremony @ 3:30pm
- 06.17.16 Final Progress Reports
- 06.17.16 Donuts for Dad's Day
- 06.19.16 Father's Day
- 06.27.16 Summer Camp KICK OFF
WEEK!-Summer Camp
Activity Fees Billed Out

SAVE -THE- DATE: Pre-K2 Graduation

I cannot believe the time that has passed this school year. The children will be headed to Kindergarten soon! Please mark your calendar to celebrate their success! We will have a special Graduation Event on June 10th in Pre-K2 at 3:45pm.

May Education Article



Building Your Child's Sense of Family Belonging

Relationships with family members play an important role as children begin to develop a sense of self. When they feel a sense of identity and belonging within their own families, children are better able to grow emotionally, make friends, and appreciate and accept the diversity of others. With Mother's Day right around the corner, it's a great time to share activities that celebrate the importance of family.

Below are age appropriate activities that we implement in the classroom, as well as activities you can do with your child at home.

INFANTS/TODDLERS:

In the classroom: Teachers use baby sign language to help children identify and eventually verbalize names for their family members. When parents enter the classroom, teachers say, "Look! Here's Sophia's mommy," while also signing "mommy." They work with parents to learn specific names used at home, and then use those names in the classroom.

At home: Use baby sign language as you come across names of family members in books and songs. To sign "mommy," tap your thumb on your chin repeatedly. To sign "daddy," tap your thumb on your forehead repeatedly. Remember to say the word aloud as you sign.

Recommended reading: *Spot Loves His Mommy* by Eric Hill, *Are You my Mother?* by PD Eastman

BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: By age two, children begin to learn the names of extended family members, such as grandmother, uncle and cousin. They practice using these words as they talk about their families. After sorting stuffed animals by type, teachers might say, "This is the horse's family. He has a big family. Who's in your family?"

At home: Give your child play dough and encourage him to create the members of his family. Afterward, ask him to count and name them. This activity helps him conceptualize that multiple people make up his entire family and gives you insight into what family means to your child at his particular point in development.

Recommended reading: *On Mother's Lap* by Ann Herbert Scott, *Oonga Boonga* by Frieda Wishinsky

INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: As children read stories about diverse families, teachers encourage them to share unique details about their own families. For example, teachers might ask, "Who has a sister?" or "Who has a pet?" Afterward, students create charts with the information.

At home: Have each member of your family make a thumbprint using finger paint on a piece of paper side by side. Then, ask your child to compare the various sizes, and guess which thumbprint belongs to each person. As they talk about their family members, they begin to appreciate what makes their family unique.

Recommended reading: *Clifford's Family* by Norman Bridwell, *What Mommies Do Best* and *What Daddies Do Best* by Laura Numeroff

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

In the classroom: Our older preschoolers begin to understand that their parents have more than one role. Family members are invited to visit and talk to the class about their roles inside and outside of the home. Students are encouraged to write and draw their family members in the different roles they serve. For example, "Mommy is a doctor."

At home: Go on an uninterrupted family outing with your child. Try to avoid checking work emails or answering unimportant phone calls. Afterward, ask your child to write about his favorite parts of the day in his journal.

Recommended reading: *Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too?* by Eric Carle, *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood

All of our schools will be celebrating families in really fun ways this Mother's Day season, and we hope that you do too!

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education