

## April 2018 Newsletter



### From the Directors:

#### Tuition:

April tuition is due. Please remember we bill on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month and you have until the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to pay. A \$45 late fee will be added onto the account if payment is received after the 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Registration 2018 - 2019 School Year:

We are happy to announce registration for the 2018 - 2019 school year is now open to everyone, including the public. You can create your own schedule by add more than one program to accommodate your needs. You can get the registration forms online or in the office. To secure your child's spot for next year we will need the registration form along with the registration fee of \$125.00.

#### Summer Camps:

We are extremely excited about our 2018 summer camps this year! We kept some of our all-time favorites, but we added some new unique themes as well. Our camps are flexible to fit your daily needs, whether it being morning, afternoon or all-day care. You also have the option of choosing how many days per week you would like to enroll your child(ren) and we offer camps for different age groups. The camps are entertaining, informative and the children will definitely be having a lot fun! Our camps are focused on engaging students to explore, discover, work in teams and use their imagination in a fun and creative way!

**Don't Forget.** . . We are having an **Early Bird Special** right now that will run until April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The special is sign-up and pay for two or more **three day camps** and receive \$20 off on each camp.

#### DTPT Drop Zone:

We know that life can be busy and sometimes you just need a few extra hours in your day. We are here to help by ensuring that your child is comfortable, happy, and enjoying their time at our DTPT Drop Zone. This program was created to allow our families the convenience of leaving your little one at school for the day on a drop-in basis. Your child will stay and play while you get those few extra hours in your day.

**AM: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**PM: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

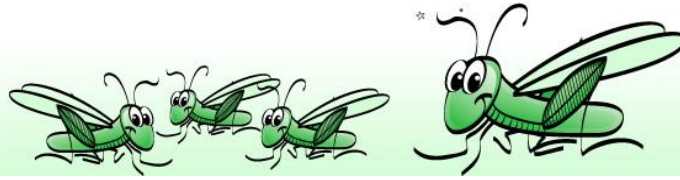
#### Lunch & Learn:

Ms. JJ's **Let's Plan a Garden** Lunch & Learn session has started! This program is based on a 6-week session that has a different curriculum than the everyday preschool class. Your child will be able to eat lunch from 12:00 to 12:30 pm then they will learn about different types of plants and how to take care of them. They will also be venturing outside into our Nature classroom! This enrichment program runs Monday - Thursday from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

#### No School:

We will be closed on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for a Teacher Workday.

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### Ms. Victoria Says...

**Ladybugs:** Happy Spring Break everyone! March went by quickly as break approached, but full of novel methods to learning. We started the month discussing deserts, rainforests, and safaris and learning about the different animals that live in each. Our multi-day art project, a snake, was multifaceted helping us practice cutting and using different techniques to paint. We have been asking questions of the day regularly, pretty much all relating to the weather and what the children love about the different seasons. To get extra practice with our numbers, we are doing number journals which are heavily focused on writing and recognizing the numbers, but still address counting. We finally learned the letter V (which of course I was excited to introduce) along with Q, which were both difficult letters to recognize in everyday life, but with the help of awesome parents, I think the children were able to make some good connections with these letters. To make reviewing letters more fun, we played an Easter Egg hunt game that made finding, recognizing and writing the letters fun. Being that this month is all about vehicles, we have taken a couple of polls which we graphed but also we had a show n' tell dedicated to the many kind of vehicles. We studied different biomes and the weather surrounding us, which was a great segway into the spring and all the beauty that blooms. April will be a fun time, and we will be getting down and dirty planting flowers, well hopefully not too dirty. We will do fun experiments to learn how plants get their nutrients, what plants need to grow, and a lot of hand painting. With Earth day approaching, we will spend a lot of time ensuring we all understand how to help the Earth and what exactly is recyclable. This is something that is near and dear to my heart being from Los Angeles, because this has been something I've learned about seemingly since birth. We'll continue our number journals and begin learning the last letters of the alphabet, X, Y, and Z and begin the vowels with A. We will read many great books, such as "the Hungry Caterpillar" when we discuss bugs and their life cycle. April is the first full month we've had in awhile, and we will use all this time to delve into all the topics that make spring the life-filled season it is.



### Ms. Maureen Says...

**Frogs:** I feel truly blessed to be teaching our wonderful class of Jr. Kindergarteners! I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the parents for their warm welcome and continuing support of our program. March has been a busy month! The children have helped me get to know them and their daily routine. They have not lost a beat with the curriculum. In Language Arts, we have studied the letters V and Q by practicing writing them in journals, looking for pictures of items that start with V and Q, identifying their sounds and finding them in printed text. I have introduced a "big book" for each letter we study that features short poems about words that start with our letter of the week. The goal is for the kids to listen for rhyming words and really focus on the sounds they hear. In Social Studies, we learned about the rainforest and the desert and tried to compare and contrast them. We've learned about the types of animals and vegetation in each. We created a graph by asking the question, "Where would you prefer to live?". We also learned about different types of transportation and created some interesting vehicles with Legos. We made a graph of our favorite ways to get around town! Making graphs to share information and classify objects has been a focus in math. They children have picked up on these more difficult skills very quickly! We have also learned about money, specifically types of coins and their values. We also worked on adding pennies, nickels and dimes and came to understand quantity and the term "how much". We started to work on the concept of measurement which we will continue throughout the spring months. Students learned that they can describe things in different ways by measuring them. We learned such terms as length, height, width and weight. Math is my favorite subject to teach so I try to incorporate it into my instruction throughout the curriculum. In Science, we have learned about the topic of weather. Specifically, we have discussed wind and water in all its forms with a lesson about the water cycle. We will certainly extend these topics into our studies next month when we learn about our beautiful planet Earth and the topics of "Earth Day", recycling, plants, insects and lifecycles. I love working with your children and look forward to seeing their smiling faces each and every day!

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### Ms. I Says...

**Inchworms:** Last month the Inchworms loved working with playdough scissors, getting a chance to paint with an unusual material (bubble wrap), and working on a little performance we have planned in the near future (but that's a surprise). In March the Inchworms had a blast playing in sensory bins, sorting by colors, sizes, and sizes. They also enjoyed the Dr. Seuss books I read to them. Dr. Seuss was such a fun author that knew how to catch his audience attention with his silly rhymes and made up words. Their favorite craft this month was painting with bubble wrap. Not only it was a different material than the normal paint brush, but the children loved hearing the bubble wrap pop. This month the Inchworms are going to be exploring the world of Recycling and learning how to be eco-friendly. They are already pretty good about disposing their trash in the correct bins (recyclable / non-recyclable) in the classroom. But after this unit they (fingers crossed) will be even better. Our themes this month will be recycling, bugs, plants, different lifecycles and Earth Day. We have plenty of fun and exciting activities planned, such as a counting worms themed sensory bin, potato stub lady bug painting and flower color sorting activity. The letters we will be focusing on this month S, T, U, V, and W. Our book of the month will be *I Can Save the World*, it's a new "green" series about a little monster who learns how to do the 3 R's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. I chose this new book series because it will not only educate children on what they can do to become eco-friendly, but the book itself is made from recycled materials. I can not believe it is already April. It feels like the school year just started a few months ago. I want all my parents to know I am very proud of all my students. Everyone is doing a phenomenal job and progressing in the right direction. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come and speak with me at any time.



### Ms. Robin Says...

**Ladybugs:** March - in like a lion and out like a lamb - but in true VA style we still never knew what the weather would be from one day to the next, however, there is a silver lining to each cloud. Because the weather was so wishy-washy, the children were better able to understand water cycles; where the water on the ground comes from (collection), how the water on the ground goes back into the clouds (evaporation), how clouds are formed so evaporated water has a place to live (condensation), what happens when water droplets become too large and heavy to hold and fall back to the earth (precipitation). Did you know we share some of the very same precipitation as the dinosaurs? I know, mind blowing, huh. In keeping with the water cycle, the children made 2 terrariums. One dedicated strictly to a rainforest atmosphere (all 4 water cycles should come in to play so the rainforest is self-staining) and a desert terrarium atmosphere (because the water cycle is much slower, non-water loving plants were added. For the next 2 months the children will have the opportunity to contrast and compare growth and life in both atmospheres. Oh, and the rainbows!!! We read about rainbows, painted rainbows, and learned 1) no two people can look at the exact same rainbow and see it exactly the same way because of our individuality, 2) one can see more than one rainbow at the same time, and my personal favorite, 3) rainbows do not form in the shape of an arch. They actually form an infinite circle. The only reason we see an arch is the bottom half of the rainbow is blocked, from our visual plain, by the Earth. Finally, the children focused on letters V and Q and had one review before spring break. In April, the children will focus on letters X, Y, Z and (our first vowel!). The children will continue to work, diligently on their name work and gaining confidence in their writing. Watching them realize how letters "work" with each other to form words just makes me all warm and tingly inside. Oh, and if you happen to see a familiar looking bunny hop by, in disguise, April 1<sup>st</sup>, don't be alarmed. For the first time since 1956 (not my lifetime - this will be my first) Easter falls on April Fool's Day. This anomaly occurs very rarely; the next time won't be until 2029! Have a Hoppy one!



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### Ms. Shawna Says:

**Ladybugs:** March has been a fun month, but we are excited to get outside and explore more this April. Everyone has been doing an excellent job writing their full name each day. They are so excited to show off daily as the children too can notice their progress. In March, we explored the rainforest wearing our handmade safari vests (for the letter V) and our camo decorated binoculars. We made rainforests animals in art and group rainforest murals which have been hanging in our classroom. The children learned about the dry desert through our cactus experiment and desert terrarium demos. We focused on weather and climates, plant and animal life and where these regions are located. Along our journey we even put on our cowboy hats and danced to some country western music. Everyone was excited about St. Patrick's Day. We made green shamrocks to lure in the leprechauns and enjoyed a few audio books about leprechaun tales. The seeds we planted have now sprouted and the children learned about the water cycle and plant life with our hanging Ziploc seedling garden. We all fit together for our class quilt for the letter Q hanging in our hallway. In April, we look forward to getting outdoors more and investigating bugs and plants, along with a little earth day planting ceremony. Recycling is a main topic we will be focusing on to go along with taking care of our Earth. In Language Arts, we will be reviewing all the letters and continuing to perfect those uppercase and lowercase letters. In Math, we will focus on reviewing numbers 1- 20 in English and in Spanish and begin time concepts. I am so excited to be your child's teacher and I have truly loved getting to know them as well as you. Please let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns at any time.



### Ms. Teresa Says...

**Busy Bees:** In March we learned about the desert and the types of the animals that live there. The class enjoyed gluing their lizards and cactus to their backgrounds. They learned about some of the different cactus names. Their favorite name for a cactus is "Teddy Bear", even though they said they would not want to hug it! We also discussed the rainforest and some of the animals you would see there. They were all in agreement that the monkeys were the best, and that almost everyone in class likes bananas too! They learned that there are different types of frogs, from regular tree frogs to the brightly colored poisoned dart frogs. They learned how the frogs will climb the trees to lay their eggs inside the bromeliad. We talked about how beneficial bats are. They were amazed that the bats eat insects and that some are even fruit eaters. Other favorite animals were the tiger and jaguar. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day and learned a song about a leprechaun. We discussed the weather. We discussed how we might not like the rainy weather, but it is very important to us and everything around us - for our drinking water to taking care of the animals and plants. Our letters were Vv and Qq. We went over their shapes and sounds, and reviewed numbers 5 and 6. In April we will learning about Spring, Earth Day, bugs and insects, and more about plants and how they grow. We will be making a wind sock to watch it blow in the breeze. We will be learning about the lifecycle of a ladybug, and making some bumble bee crafts! Earth Day is April 22, so we will focus on recycling. We will be planting seeds in some recycled containers for the children to bring home and watch them grow in a sunny place. Our letters for the month will be Xx, Yy, and Zz, and we will focus on their shapes and sounds. We will be going over the numbers 7, 8, and 9. We will continue going over the months of the year, days of the week, colors, and counting. Also, with the weather getting warmer again we will be going outside as much as we can. The children are working on putting their coats on and taking them off by themselves. Thank you for your support at home and school! I am looking forward to another great month.



### Ms. JJ Says...

**Busy Bees:** I hope everyone is having a wonderful spring break! I know I am looking forward to spending some time with my family and friends during the break. March sure was the perfect month to learn about the weather. Mother nature wanted to make sure we experienced all the different types of weather in one month, which went hand in hand with our weather unit. We talked about the wind storm we had, the beautiful sunny 60 degree and we even talked about the possibility of snow - which we had in "Spring". We also discussed the weather in different climates around the world such as the rainforest and desert. We also talked about all the different plants and animals that's live in each region. The kids loved exploring the rainforest sensory bin and finding all the animals hidden in the trees. Then we traveled to the desert and talked about how plants and animal survive in that harsh environment. We created saguaro cactus artwork and even covered it with sand. In Language Arts we learned the letters V, Q and had a review week. In April we will cover X, Y, Z and start on the vowels, starting with A. Just so you are aware the letter book of the week will be combined for x, y and z. In addition to the letter books, we will also be working on some worksheets on number and letter tracing. The children have been doing a great job with tracing their names. Some have even begun using the whiteboards and writing the letters in their names independently! Please continue working on writing and scissor skills at home. In April we will discuss recycling, planting, and insects. We will be going outside more so please make sure your child always brings a jacket and an extra pair of clothes with them each day. We will be getting messy in April with our planting and bug unit. As always, let me know if you have any questions!

### Ms. Lindsey Says...

**Ladybugs:** March has been cold, fun, and exciting! Throughout March, we discussed the following themes: *Rainforest, Desert, Weather, The Water Cycle, and Transportation*. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a special green treat, creating a *Pot of Gold* craft, and making a pattern Fruit Loop necklace. The children enjoyed our book of the month, *Rumble in the Jungle*, and completed different Jungle Animal crafts out of paper plates and brown paper bags. These crafts are displayed on our classroom bulletin board, *Wild about Spring*. Our classroom is bursting with excitement for the first day of spring and the onset of warm weather. In preparation, we have made big colorful flowers to decorate our classroom bulletin board. The children used markers to rainbow color coffee filters and then sprayed the coffee filters with water to create a tie-dyed effect. The flowers are beautiful! The highlight of the month was our science activity, creating *Rain Clouds in a Jar*. The students had so much fun pouring the water, spraying the shaving cream for the cloud, and then watching the food coloring saturate the shaving cream cloud and cause it to rain. This sensory activity helped the children cooperate to create something colorful and learn about weather at the same time. In language arts, we focused on the letters Vv and Qq. The children had fun brainstorming together to find words that start with these letters. We also made a class list with different words and pictures that start with our letter of the week. When writing, we always sing our *Letters at the Top* song. This song is a great reminder that when forming our letters, we start at the top. In April, our themes will be: *Recycling, Bugs, Plants, Life Cycles, and Earth Day*. We will be planting grass during the month of April as well. The children will also begin to understand a little bit about how important recycling is to our world by completing a hands-on sorting activity about reusing common things in daily life. I am looking forward to doing more classroom activities outside once the weather warms up! I can't wait to see what these last few months have in store for us!



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### Ms. I Says...

**Busy Bees:** The Busy Bees had so much fun in March learning about the rainforest, desert, weather and transportation. Out of all the crafts we created I noticed the two creations the children loved the most were making their rain sticks and their desert scene. It was fun to see how each child put their own spin on their rain stick. The desert scene was fun for the children because they used forks to make the thorns on their cacti's and glued actual sand onto their picture. In Language Arts the children learned the letters V and Q and had a review week as well. We have been practicing the correct way of how to use a writing utensil and they have been practicing their names as well as letters/numbers on white boards. This month we will be exploring ideas on how to Save the Earth! The themes will be recycling, bugs, plants and different types of lifecycles and as well as Earth Day. I have plenty of fun and exciting activities to keep the Busy Bees interested. Such as making plastic out of milk, sorting through recycling, painting on different materials, and learning the life cycle of a butterfly. Not to mention getting a chance to play in different types of sensory bins. The Busy Bees will also get a chance to plant different flowers in our Nature classroom (finally some warm weather)! The letters we will focus on this month will be X, Y, Z and A. Our book of the month will be *I Can Save the World*. It's a new "green" series about a little monster who learns how to do the 3 R's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. I chose this book because it will not only educate children on what they can do to become eco-friendly, but the book itself is made from recycled materials. Lastly, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to always come and speak with me. I know it is crunch time with it being the last few months of school remaining, but I can assure you that all my students are doing amazing.