

March 2018 Newsletter



From the Directors:

Tuition:

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

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.

School Pictures:

We are thrilled to announce our school pictures will be held on **Monday, March 12th, Tuesday, March 13th and Wednesday, March 14th**! Lifetouch has only scheduled us for these three days, so if your child does not attend school on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and would like a school photo then you are more than welcome to bring your child(ren) after 12:30 pm to get their picture taken.

If you would like a sibling picture taken you can bring your children to the school after 12:30 pm on Wednesday, March 14th.

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 will be starting on Monday, March 19th! 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.

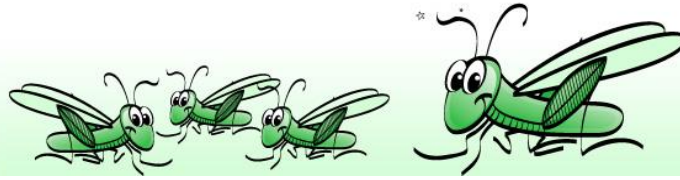
Inclement Weather Policy:

Please remember we follow Prince William County Schools on closings and delays. If the county is closed, we will be closed. If the county has a 2 hour delay, we will open 2 hours late as well. Our morning classes will run from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and our afternoon classes will run from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Spring Break:

We will be closed on March 26th - March 30th, 2018 for Spring Break.

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Ms. Victoria Says...

Ladybugs: In February, we had a lot of fun learning about Mardi Gras and New Orleans, a place near and dear to my heart. The kids, well most of them, really enjoyed the king cake. We had a student away on vacation in New Orleans, during Mardi Gras and upon her return all the students were able to have a conversation about the holiday, from different perspectives. With all that king cake and Valentine's day goodies, it's good that we also had a tooth fairy visit us to talk about the do's and don'ts when it comes to taking care of our teeth. We did some other experiments with fake teeth to practice the brushing and flossing techniques, even did art with a toothbrush so we could really perfect the circular brushing motion. We focused on dinosaurs all month, and the kids were very inquisitive about all the dinosaurs and their names. They did an excellent job of repeating them after me, even though most are quite difficult. Dr. Seuss week continued the fun with all the crazy dressing, the amazing field trip, and rhyming books. We added L and R to our letter repertoire, and making sure to practice letters from the past. In March, we will learn V and Q, and we will work with those letters in depth especially because kids at this age are less familiar with these letters. It will be a month full of learning about different ecosystems-- desert and rainforest-- and weather, so we will expand our knowledge on topics new and old. Transportation and vehicles will be addressed throughout the month, even down to the games we play in the classroom. We will do a couple of experiments, like learning how cactus can survive in the desert and how thunder is formed. I'm excited for March and Spring Break is right around the corner!

Ms. Lisa Says...

Frogs: First, I would like to congratulate all the students with their progress in Hooked on Phonics. As we sit back and listen to some of them read, it makes us proud to know we are installing a love of reading in them. We love seeing their determination in moving further along in the program. In Language Arts, we learned the letters "L, R, and T". We continued our discussions on short vowels. We practiced in centers changing the beginning and ending consonants to form other words. In Math, our new concept was telling time. The students are learning how to tell time by the hour. We reviewed number recognition in the teens, number words, and bar graphs. In Science, we traveled back in time 250 million years ago, and learned about Prehistoric Animals, including the children's favorite, dinosaurs. They learned the difference between meat eaters vs. plant eaters and that dinosaurs came in different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some of the students were shocked to hear that there were swimming dinosaurs and dinosaurs that even roamed our skies. The children really enjoyed becoming paleontologists and digging for bones. We had two different sensory bins in use during these themes. The first one was rocks, volcanoes, and dinosaurs. The second bin was a little bit messier than the first, but the children had a blast! We used rocks, dinosaur fossils, shaving cream, paint brushes, goggles, and a water bottle! Along with Prehistoric animals, we also talked about Volcanoes. In Social Studies, we talked about Presidents Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. They learned who these Presidents were and the impacts and contributions they made for the United States of America. The students were able to see pictures of these two Presidents, their memorials, and the money they are featured on. We also discussed Ground's Hog Day. We found out Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow, so there will be another six weeks of winter. We talked about the different types of community helpers. The children came to the conclusion that our community would not be able to thrive without community helpers.

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Ms. I Says...

Inchworms: I cannot believe it is March already! It feels like the school year has just started a few months ago and now we only have about 3 more months until the school year ends. Time really does fly when you are having fun! My little Inchworms have had a dino-er-ific month! They learned that dinosaurs come in different sizes and how some were more aggressive than others. One activity the children enjoyed was going into the music and movement classroom and pretending to be dinosaurs. Hearing the children try to roar, was just too cute for words! They also had a terrific time pretending to be paleontologist and digging through shaving cream to discover fossils. This was a good activity not only for strengthening fine motor skills, but also working with a different texture! Some of the children were skeptical at first, but after watching their friends have fun everyone decided to join in on the fun. Another topic we learned about was volcanoes. The students made playdoh volcanoes and enjoyed watching them explode using baking soda, vinegar, and food dye. Speaking of playdoh, Ms. Adriana purchased scissors specially for playdoh that are safe for the children to use. These scissors will continue to help strengthen their fine motor skills, develop control as well as improve their dexterity. Lastly for February, in Language Arts the children were introduced to the letters N, O, and P and in Math were introduced to numbers up to five. For March the Inchworms are going to be learning about the Rainforest, the Desert, Weather and the Water Cycle. These will be great topics to learn about because they will be exposed to other types of environments around the world. A sneak peek into some of our upcoming activities this month: painting their own rain sticks, making an anaconda, painting a cactus with a fork, and much more! The children will learn the letters Q and R and will also have a review week before Spring Break. I hope everyone enjoyed the field trip to the discovery museum in Winchester. The pictures that were taken turned out great. As always please feel free to come and speak to me with any questions or concerns. I have truly loved being your child's teacher this school year and watching them flourish. I cannot believe in just a few months they will leave me to become Busy Bees!

Ms. Robin Says...

Ladybugs: February is at an end and was full of events and holidays. The children learned, sadly, the Groundhog saw his shadow leaving us all with 6 more weeks of deep winter weather. Clearly, Punxsatawney Phil hasn't spent a lot of time in VA. In a singular week we celebrated Mardi Gras, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year, which introduced the children to other traditions and cultures. We celebrated Presidents day with a day off, however, upon returning to school the children learned what Presidents day represents and what a President is and does. Our final celebration was the Winter Olympics. What an opportunity we had; an introduction to the children's very first Winter Olympics. We read stories, completed worksheets and created art projects. The children made torches, for the opening ceremony, each child made their own representation flag, and a math project where each child created their own set of Olympic rings. Aside from the frivolities, we spent the month learning about people in our community and the jobs they perform, and we learned about the importance of dental health. I think our favorite part of February, however, had to do with dinosaurs and volcanoes. During the month, the children learned about kinetic sand, as they dug for dinosaur fossils, created their own dinosaur claw from sand and plaster of Paris and erupted volcanoes in as many colors as possible. The children focused on letters L, R and T with one review and were introduced to Hooked on Phonics. Let's not forget about Dr. Seuss Spirit Week! Every month we learn about so many wonderful things, however, February has to have been our favorite month so far! In March, the children will focus on letters V and Q and will have a review right before break. Science will focus on Weather, Weather Cycles and comparing/contrasting weather patterns in deserts vs rainforests. Different types of transportation will be our focus in Social Studies. Our theme for March is Somewhere Over the Rainbow. In addition to learning about these beautiful spectrums of color, while studying weather, I have around the 17th of the month, rainbows (and leprechauns) will become very popular. The school year seems to be flying by, but every day I spend with your child(ren) never ceases to amaze.



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Ms. Shawna Says:

Ladybugs: We are now MARCH-ing into spring, and excited for the warm weather to come! Show and Tell will be held on Fridays. Please have your child bring in an item to share with the class that starts with the letter of the week. Place the item in a bag with 3 clues about the item. Students will use their investigative skills to determine what is inside of the bag

February Recap: We time traveled back to prehistoric times and discovered dinosaurs, prehistoric animals, and volcanoes. We enjoyed pretending to be dinosaurs in the jump room, with our Dino, Dino, T-Rex Game and demonstrated awesome team work with our Dino Dominoes Matching Game. The students enjoyed working together to paint our giant Brontosaurus on our bulletin board, and dig for dinosaur fossils in our prehistoric sand pit. The Tooth Fairy stopped by to visit, and we learned about healthy teeth and gums!

Language Arts: The children will be working on letters Vv and Qq for this month with a review week to study all the letter we have learned so far. We will also be introducing sight word flash cards that will help students with letter and word recognition.

Handwriting: Students will continue to practice writing their First, and Last names daily. The class will practice writing words that begin with the letter of the week, and continue fine tuning our letter writing to perfection.

Math: We will learn about time this month and how to read the hands on a clock. Students will be working with Number 15-20, identifying and practice writing them.

Art: The students will continue to practice our cutting and pasting skills. We will focus on crafts and projects that relate to the material studied this month. Nature art will be a fun activity we will introduce this month to go along with our science activities.

Science: We will study rainforests, deserts, and weather. Students will learn about the climates, clouds, weather patterns, and water cycles. We will be conducting lots of hands on experiments and discovering the outdoors on our nice days.

Social Science: We will talk about transportation types and all the many ways to get around town. We will explore older transportation methods as well as new tech transportation.



Ms. Teresa Says...

Busy Bees: February brought us a lot of weather extremes from the frigid cold to the ice causing cancellations and delays, but not too much snow. So, the Busy Bees used some newspaper snowballs and created their own snowball fight in our Music and Movement classroom! They had so much fun, and we were able to burn off a lot of extra energy too! The class also created their pink hearts by mixing red and white paint, which was a great discovery for them. We had a great time sharing our Valentines with our friends. We discovered dinosaurs, and discussed how they were different from each other. We discovered some were carnivores (meat eaters), and some were herbivores (plant eaters). The children were able to excavate some dinosaur's bones, and then we made our own fossils. They made a paper volcano, and then they created their own eruption in the classroom volcano. They became scientists when they learned about "chemical reactions", mixing the baking soda and vinegar together. They really enjoyed watching the "lava" pouring out! We talked about eating healthy food, and how to keep our teeth healthy by brushing our teeth at least two times a day. Everyone enjoyed celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday, and reading some of our favorite Cat in the Hat stories. We discussed and learned the letters Ll, Rr, and Tt, and their sounds. In March we will be having more fun themes. We will be learning about the rainforest and deserts, and about some of the animals that live in both environments. We will be learning about the weather and the effects it has on our environment and the animals around us. We will also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day too! We will be learning the letters Vv, and Qq, and going over their shapes and the sounds they make. We will continue to review the months, days of the week, our colors, and counting. We do patterning on our calendar every day. The children are practicing tracing the letters in their names, using upper and lowercase letters. As spring is approaching a reminder to check the clothes that are in your child's backpack to make sure that they still fit. Thank you for your support at home and school! I am looking forward to another great month and I hope everyone enjoys their Spring Break!

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Ms. JJ Says...

Busy Bees: If February was full of kindness and love, then March should be filled with good luck (even if you're not Irish ☺). March also means spring is inching closer, thank goodness because we will venture outside once again! First, I would like to thank you for all my wonderful valentines, I felt so loved! The children had a great time participating in their Valentine card exchange. I'm sure they were excited to show you all their loot. They did a great job handing out their cards and enjoyed receiving them as well. For February, we created dinosaur fossils out of Q-tips and read some great books about dinosaurs. I think the class favorite was "The Cat in the Hat's Oh Say, Can You Say Di-No-Saur". It's a great book for kids and adults alike because it spells out the dinosaur names phonetically. To be honest, the book helped me with pronouncing the dinosaur names. Some of those dinosaur names are tricky! We also had a lot of fun exploding our volcano and making our paper ones. The children always have the best facial expressions when they see the volcano erupt. Last but not least, we had our unit on dental health. We talked about how it's important to brush our teeth every day to keep our mouths healthy and our smiles beautiful. They also explored a sensory bin that had a playdoh dental play set. I believe we may have some future dentists in our presence. The children loved this sensory bin. In February we introduced the letters L, R, and T. In March we will discuss the letters V and Q and have a week to review. We will be covering our units on rainforests, deserts and weather. Our March book of the month is "We're Different, We're the Same...And We're All Wonderful". It's a book that explores our differences, while explaining all the things we have in common. For example, our eyes may be different colors, shapes, and sizes but we all use them the same way - to see things. We are going to continue working on using our pincher fingers to hold our writing utensils. I will be introducing new tracing centers and have the kids continue to trace their names. I'm starting to see improvement in their tracing skills and will keep focusing on this for the remainder of the year. Please remember my door is always open should you have any questions or concerns.

Ms. Lindsey Says...

Ladybugs: February has been a busy month! Throughout February, we discussed the themes Dinosaurs, Prehistoric Animals, Dental Health, and Dr. Seuss. We celebrated Valentine's Day by making Valentine's Day wreaths, enjoying a sweet treat, and exchanging Valentine's Day cards with our classmates. The children enjoyed our book of the month, The Cat in the Hat, and completed The Cat's Hat with the students' names written on each stripe. It was displayed on our classroom door during February. The children also enjoyed the rhyming in all of the Dr. Seuss Books. The highlight of the month was Daytime Playtimes sensory bin, "Digging up Fossils". Students were able to use paint brushes and water spray bottles to dig up the dinosaur fossils that were covered in shaving cream in the bin. The children loved playing with the shaving cream and it was a great sensory activity. If you take a look at our artwork on the walls in the hallway or on our classroom bulletin board, you will see we have been focusing on scissor skills. The children have been cutting everything on their own. They are doing a great job and I am so proud of them! In language arts, we focused on the letters Ll, Rr, and Tt. 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. The students were also challenged to go on a letter hunt and find the letter of the week in a book they were reading, earning a sticker as a reward for success. This was a popular activity! In March, our themes will be the Rainforest, the Desert, Weather, the Water Cycle, and Transportation. Our book of the month will be, Rumble in the Jungle. This book will lead us into our Rainforest theme and we will continue to practice rhyming and pre-reading skills throughout the month. The children are doing a great job of being able to recognize their last names. We will continue to work on writing our last names this month. We will also have a St. Patrick's Day Party in March. Please look out for a signup or an email. I am looking forward to watching your children's growth and progress over the next few months. Your children are doing a great job in preschool!

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Ms. I Says...

Busy Bees: The Busy Bees are just Marching through this year with ease! We are more than half way through the school year and I couldn't be any prouder in each and every one of my students than I already am. Last month the Busy Bees had a blast learning about Dinosaurs, Prehistoric animals, and Volcanos. They had an absolute blast pretending to be archaeologist and digging through shaving cream to discover fossils. Another great activity that they absolute loved was making volcanos with playdough and watching them erupt and also watching dinosaur eggs hatch (melt), the Busy Bees really got a kick out of both of those activities. The letters we focused on last month were L, R, and T with a review in between letter R and T, the Busy bees are really starting to understand the letter sounds. This month the fun won't stop! And the Busy Bees are going to be learning about the Rainforest, the Desert, and Weather and the water cycle, which will be nice because now they really get a chance to learn about some of the different types of environments around the world. With just a sneak peek into some of our upcoming activities this month the Busy Bees will be making their very own Rain sticks, getting a chance to play in a rainforest themed sensory bin, making a snake out of both play dough and a paper plate, and making a cactus. So, we will definitely be having a busy month. The letters will be focusing on will be V and Q with a review week. Another skill we will be focusing on is cutting and continuing learning how to hold and pencil and writing. Our book of the month will be If I Ran the Rainforest, a Dr. Seuss book, where The Cat in the Hat takes good old Sally and Dick on yet another adventure through the emergent layers of the rainforest. They will come across all different types of plants, animals, and native people along the way. I figured this would be a neat way to discover the rainforest and to celebrate the magically world of Dr. Seuss all month long. As always you can come to me with any questions or concerns, we are still working on making our classroom goals and we have come a long way since September! I am so happy to be able to teach each and every one of my Busy Bees!

