



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

APRIL 2021 245TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

Happy Spring! Boy did March fly; I'm still having trouble remembering that we are already in April! I have been enjoying this beautiful weather, but it looks like April showers are approaching.

I want to thank everyone who donated eggs for our Egg Hunt. Without the help of the parents, we would not be able to do these extra activities for the children. It ended up being a beautiful day and all the kiddos had a great time! I know it must be hard as a parent to not be able to attend our events, but I thank you all for being so accommodating. I have begun to send out the pictures from the hunt, but some got returned to me, so I will be re-emailing those out again. I hope you all had a fantastic Easter!

As I had mentioned in the previous newsletter, but I plan to do a Spring Picture Day again this year. Unfortunately, it looks like the pandemic might have affected our usual photographer and he won't be able to come in and take the children's pictures. That being said, I plan on taking the Spring portraits this time around! That's right, Miss Kelly! I may not be a professional photographer, but I do enjoy taking photos and I know all of your kids. The pictures may not come out as great as Jason would have done, but the best part about doing it this way is you will receive all the digital copies of your child(ren)'s photos for FREE! I will still be sending out a permission slip, in case you are still not comfortable with this, but another bonus with me taking the pictures is no outside person will be coming in. Hopefully we will be able to find a great photographer to do them when it is time in the fall. Spring Picture day will be Thursday, April 29th. I will post the background on the wall outside of my office once we decide.

Lastly, we will start off with a fairly simple task. On Monday, April 12th, please tell Miss Carol that "Today, I saw a robin". For my friends who arrive after Miss Carol leaves, you may tell the infant room as you pass them up the hallway. Your name will then be entered in a raffle. Good luck!

MANNERS MATTER

04/05/21 - When you receive something, do not insult the gift or the giver.

04/12/21 - Do not slurp.

04/19/21 - Do not ask for a reward.

04/26/21 - Do not play with your food.

THEMES:

- Space
- Pets
- Earth Day/Recycling/Creation
- Zoo Animals

Staff Birthday

Miss Shelli - 4/27

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

April 29th - Spring Picture Day

May 31st - CLOSED for Memorial Day

June 7th - First Day of S.U.M.mer Camp

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS

We are all growing and learning so much here in the infant room. Declan has mastered walking, and he loves playing with balls. Caymi can walk, but still usually prefers to get around faster by crawling. She loves playing with rattles. Leah loves to talk, wave and clap. Jules loves to be standing, and she is starting to enjoy feeding herself. Emmett is always on the move, crawling all over the room. He enjoys doing art, and is upset when his turn is over. Hayden enjoys eating table food, and she keeps busy crawling all over to explore. Tyler has mastered sitting, and is just starting to find the joy in self-feeding. Ronan loves to talk, and has lots of big smiles for us. He also likes being in the saucers to watch all his big friends.



Now that the weather is getting warmer, we would like to start trying to go out for walks as much as possible. Please make sure that your child has a light jacket or sweatshirt here every day and that it's labeled with your child's name.

With most of your children being mobile now, make sure that your house is baby proofed well. Remove any breakable objects from areas where your child plays. Another helpful tip to keep in mind when your child is eating table food, is the difference between gagging and choking. Gagging is part of how a young child learns how to move the food around in their mouth. They are making noises, and they can get the food in the right place on their own. Choking is when they aren't coughing or making any noises and they stop breathing.

MISS PENNY AND MISS AMY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Hello Families!

The teachers in the Young Toddler room hope everyone has a fantastic Easter. The kiddos had a bunch of fun collecting eggs during our center wide egg hunt. CONGRATULATIONS to our 2 Golden Egg winners: Anders S. and Isabella H.!!

They say "April showers bring May flowers." Let's hope there aren't too many "showers" this April, because we can't wait to spend a lot of time outside!! The young toddlers are looking forward to the month of April. We will be looking at a ton of all different kinds of animals during our "pets" and "zoo" themed weeks and we will also go on a rocket ship ride into space and talk about things like the earth and recycling during April as well. It should be quite an adventurous month.

As the weather gets warmer the toddler teachers will be going outside more often. Please consider sending in a light jacket or sweatshirt instead of a heavy winter coat for your child to wear especially during the morning hours.

Our star of the month for April is Penelope "Penny" G. Penny just recently turned 2 and has been here at COF since she was a baby. Penny loves to dance with her friends and she is great at building a very tall tower during block play. She is one of our best eaters and always has a smile for her teachers every day.

We hope everyone has a great month! As always, thank you all for sharing your children with us each day!

Miss Amy and Miss Penny

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Purple

Name eight pictures correctly

Walks upstairs holding railing, alternating feet

10-19 cube tower

Using words to express needs

Plays alone for short period of time

Easter



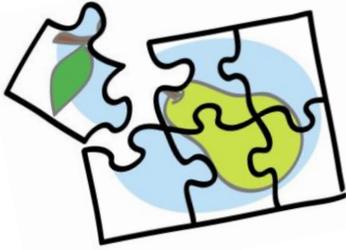
Happy spring everyone!! It's been so nice to get outside and look at all the flowers that are blooming and watching how excited the kids get when they see the flowers bloom more each day. We love to go for walks and look at all the new signs of spring popping up around the neighborhood!

This month we have a variety of themes that we'll be introducing and learning about. During space week we will watch a space shuttle launch to learn how astronauts get to space and we have a star lantern project planned. Next is pets week, it's always a fun week getting to hear about what kinds of pets our friends have at home. We'll get to learn about all kinds of animals that could be pets and talk about all the animals we wish we could have as pets. Having a lion or a dinosaur for a pet is sure to come up! During creation/earth week we'll talk about how God created a beautiful place for us to live and it's our job to help keep it clean. Our last lesson of the month is zoo animals and we have a few fun animal crafts planned to finish up the month.

Our friend of the month is Grayson A. Grayson is going to be a big brother this month, YAY!! We wish his family all the best with their new little addition to their family. Grayson told us that his favorite color is orange and that his favorite song to sing at circle time is Old McDonald. He told us that his favorite foods are bananas, fruit and mac and cheese. Grayson told us that when he plays toys at home he likes to play with his cars and animals. Grayson also shared with us that he likes Batman, Spiderman and he likes to watch Team Umizoomi.

We hope you all get to enjoy some family time outside especially when we're blessed with those warm sunny days! Stay healthy and have a great month.

MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL



FOCUSES

Mental – Letters S, T, and U / color purple / number 8 / oval shape

Physical-Hopping on one foot / drawing shapes

Emotional-Forgiving others

Social-Dealing with our emotions

Spiritual-Risen Jesus / Jesus goes home / Creation story review / A

good neighbor

Happy Spring (finally)!

We have made it to April, and hopefully through to the end of the snow!

I hope that everyone had both a good St. Patrick's Day and a good Easter. It was nice being able to celebrate both of those holidays a little different than we were able to last year. If you were here last spring, you probably remember that the center closed on Monday, March 16th, and we were not able to reopen until June. What a strange time!

The leprechauns were able to travel and visit us once again this year. As they have in years before, there were a few messes left in our classroom. After the children taught them a lesson in manners, things worked out much better.

I would like to thank everyone who donated items for last month's egg hunt. As we seem to be getting quite used to, the egg hunt was a little different than in the past. Hopefully all of our holiday activities will be back to normal soon.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone, now that the weather is getting warmer, that our class's morning outdoor time begins at 9:30. At this time of year it is sometimes still quite cool, at that time of day. Please make sure that your child still has a jacket or sweatshirt on cool mornings. If it is colder than usual in the morning your child is encouraged to bring a heavier coat for the morning and a lighter jacket or sweatshirt to wear outside in the afternoon. Thank you!

I would also like to once again remind everyone that independence is greatly encouraged in the preschool classroom. Please encourage your child to put on their own outerwear, when leaving for the evening. Please also encourage your child to carry at least part of their take home items, including their backpack. My job as a preschool teacher is to begin to get your child ready for kindergarten, and independence skills are a big part of that.

Our star of the month for April is Cayla! Cayla's favorite color is blue and she likes to eat broccoli! She enjoys singing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and she likes to read the animal book. Her favorite activity is playing with cars. Cayla would like to say "I love you" to Naomi!

Have a great month!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Happy Spring from the Prek room! We have been having so much fun observing the changing seasons. We did an art project recently; I asked each child to draw a picture that completes the prompt "Spring is...". The pictures are hanging on our classroom bulletin board and range from "flowers" to "beautiful" to "Phillies baseball". You would not believe the excitement that the phrase "no coats needed today!" can cause!

We have an April birthday. Mckenzie's special day is the 20th. Happy birthday, friend!

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for the first week of April. We will meet in the Youth room, where we can keep the correct distance while sitting at a table. Please remember that masks are mandatory. Please wait in the lobby until the family before you has left the room and are on their way out of the building. I look forward to meeting with you!

I've been offering suggestions for reinforcing your child's self-help skills to prepare for kindergarten, and I hope they've been helpful. This is the time to assign simple chores for your child to do, if you haven't already. Did you know that many household tasks can help with math readiness? Setting the table strengthens the concept of one-to-one correspondence. Feeding a pet requires measuring and timing. Sorting socks from the dryer gives practice in matching and pairing. Trips to the grocery store offer opportunities for counting ("Please place four lemons in the bag"), comparing ("Which box of cereal is larger?"), and observing the use and purpose of money. Chore-sharing also imparts a sense of responsibility and reinforces the concept that the members of a family work together.

Some gentle reminders during this time of COVID: please limit your time in the hallway. It's pleasant to run into friends but please don't use the hallway as a place to chat; of course you may do so in the parking lot beside your car! Please make sure your child's mask is close-fitting and completely covers the nose, mouth, and chin. Do not try to adapt an adult mask by tying the ear loops. Also, clean masks **MUST** be worn each day.

I hope that you all have plenty of opportunities to get outside and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Have a lovely and blessed Easter!

Until next time, Miss Cathy