



CALENDAR:

April 1,2	Spring Break-School Closed
April 26 th -29 th	Week of the Young Child
May 25 th	Family Night
May 26 th	Rain Date for Family Night
June 4 th	Last Day of School
June 14 th	Summer Camp Begins

OUTERWEAR: Please continue to send appropriate outerwear. Warm jackets, hats and mittens keep children comfortable outdoors on those chilly days. Boots help keep little feet dry. As the weather warms, we ask that you **please do not send your child in "Flip Flops"** as they are not successful on the playground and can be dangerous on the climbing equipment.

CONFERENCES: We want to thank all of you for your participation in the Parent/Teacher conferences. We are always grateful for your involvement and appreciate your input. It is such a pleasure to be able to talk with you about your child's development. We have a great group of children and thank you for sharing them with us.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD: During the week of April 26th we will be celebrating "Week of the Young Child," an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This week is observed each year to honor young children and to thank teachers who make a difference in the lives of young children. The week brings public attention to the needs of young children and their families and recognizes early childhood programs and services which meet those needs.

Each class at Country Day will be initiating some special activity or activities that week. We will also be honoring our staff in various ways.

FOOD DRIVE: In conjunction with Week of the Young Child, we will be conducting a food drive to collect food items and monetary gifts which will be donated to Neighborhood House, a local food shelf. This is a means for our children to help other children whose families may find themselves in a situation, health or employment related, which compromises their ability to provide enough food for healthy development. More information will be coming home with specifics about items needed. The food drive will take place April 26th-30th.

THANK YOU: We want to thank the Shamrock School of Dance for visiting us on St. Patrick's Day and thrilling us with their energetic Irish dances. Thirty dancers between the ages of 6 to 16 entertained us with a wonderful program of dance which was enjoyed by all classes. If you are

interested in obtaining more information about Shamrock Dance Studios their web site is: www.theshamrockschoolofdance.com.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES BOX: PLEASE be sure to restock your child's change of clothing box with weather and size appropriate clothing. Please remember to label everything. Also, **please return and Country Day clothes your child may have worn home.** Thank you.

SPRING CLEANING?: If you are doing some spring cleaning, CCDS can always use: Buttons, yarn, ribbon, fabric, computer paper, old cardboard puzzles (for art projects), etc. Also, we can use old children's boots for spring outdoor exploration.

MUSIC AND SIGN LANGUAGE NEWS FROM SYLVIA: In **Sign Language** the children have been learning the signs for different foods. We've had fun with our puppets, Anna and Robby, reading books and playing games. You'll have to ask your child to sign some of the foods their eating at home. [Click Here](#) to see some of the signs we're learning.

In **Music** the children have been listening to different styles of music and associating each style with the different movement. For example: the song with a lot of short, staccato notes is the song for jumping, the song where the piano uses the pedal and connects the notes is the song where they are a rocking horse, the fast song means to run and the song with the uneven rhythm means to gallop. They love playing this game and their favorite part is being ready to "FREEZE" when the music stops.

We had fun singing some new songs about spring and planting and another all time favorite song was the silly rhyming verses of Down by the Bay, by Raffi. Always know that you are welcome to call me at school or at home if you have any questions about Music or Sign Language.

NATURE NEWS FROM SUMAYAH: What a whirlwind month March has been! With the snow melting, spring blooming and all the excitement of getting to know your wonderful children, there has been a lot of growth and enthusiasm in the nature classroom.

We have been so pleased to see many signs of spring popping up around Children's Country Day School. The snow melted, the air is getting warmer, the sun feels warmer on our skin and the landscape is turning green, it's glorious! Inspired by the change of season, we have begun planning and planting our garden. We started the month by learning about soil, one of the key ingredients to growing healthy plants. We explored sand, clay and top soil; feeling, smelling and observing the similarities and differences between the types of soil. Groups planted corn seeds in each type of soil to watch which soil would grow the healthiest plant.

With Seth's help, the grow lights were hung and we got busy planting. We will be planting over 50 different types of plants which will make up our rainbow vegetable garden, fairy flower garden, and medicinal, culinary and herbal tea herb pots. Many groups brought back bean seeds planted in "root viewers" to see if they could watch firsthand how seeds germinate and grow.

The spell of warm weather had us headed outdoors in search for traces of spring. We found so many signs when we used all our senses to look, feel and listen closely. We noticed different

types of tree buds, green grass, pansies, busy birds, warm breezes and many other things. Ask your child what they saw!

To finish out the month, we are getting familiar with Robins, one of the quintessential signs of spring. In addition to learning about how Robins live, eat and raise their young, we are making bird's nest and paper mache Robin eggs.

In the month to come we will be diving into the topic of our bodies and health. We will be learning about yoga, our bodies, what makes good health as well as nutrition and cooking. As the soil melts, we hope to be out in the garden, prepping the ground and planting some of our cold friendly seeds! We look forward to this month of personal and hands on discovery

NEWS FROM THE CHICKS CLASS: Wow, how fast March went by. The Chicks explored many different textures in our sensory table, such as:

- Shredded paper
- Water/snow
- Moon sand with dinosaurs and farm animals
- Sheep and Llama fiber

The Chicks enjoyed singing:

- I'm a little Bunny
- I planted a seed

We read many books on springtime and Rainbows, along with creating our rainbow art. We explored and fed the llamas along with the goats as well as enjoyed a few beautiful spring walks with "Spice" our little goat friend.

We kept our bodies busy by working on our large motor development skills such as:

- The pop up tunnels
- The pop up school bus
- The climbing mats
- Balls
- Sledding in the snow

Thank you to all our parents for taking the extra time in the mornings to help your child wash their hands before entering our classroom.

The Chick class would like to welcome Madeline A. and her family into our classroom. She has an older sibling Michael at Children's Country Day.

Thank you to all our parents who were able to come to spring conferences. We appreciate being able to share information with you regarding your child and the time they spend here.

We are looking forward to warmer weather and spring walks exploring the grounds. Our dramatic area for April will be Baby dolls. Themes will be "our body" and "cooking".

-Sandy and Beatriz

NEWS FROM THE DUCKS CLASS: Wow! What a change we have seen during the month of March, from snow on the ground to lots of rain, and then a major melt and sunny 60° days! The Ducks have been so ready to get out and play and have enjoyed every minute of this beautiful weather (as have the teachers ☺)!

We began the month talking about weather. The Ducks loved observing the rain and splashing in puddles. Next we moved onto planting. We sprouted some bean seeds and got to practice planting in the sensory table. The Ducks really picked up on the idea that plants need soil, sunshine and rain (or water) to grow. We also helped plant some red tomatoes in nature that will eventually end up out in the garden. Next we celebrated all things green in honor of St. Patrick's Day. We had a different green snack each day and experimented with mixing blue and yellow to make green. The highlight of this week was when a group of Irish dancers came and performed for us. The Ducks absolutely loved the music and dancing, and some were even inspired to break out a few of their own dance moves as well! Finally, we ended the month learning about eggs, and a variety of animals that hatch from eggs. We also got to try a few yummy snacks made from eggs that come from chickens.

Coming up in the month of April we have lots of fun things to look forward to:

Colors- April 5-9

Our bodies/ nutrition- April 12-16

Shapes- April 18-23

Dinosaurs- April 26-30

We want to thank everyone for coming out and meeting with us this past month for conferences. We always enjoy the opportunity to get to know our families a little better and talk about all the fun developments your child is making at school.

Thank you and happy April!

Nicole and Deidi

NEWS FROM THE BUNNIES CLASS: Beautiful March kicked off the beginning of our planting season. The Bunnies worked to plant a variety of things in our classroom. We started by sprouting seeds in baggies so we could investigate roots and shoots. We also added food color to a cup of celery in water to observe how plants need and use water. Our planting unit continued as we planted individual sunflower seeds, created grass heads in a cup and worked on our rainbow garden with Sumayah during nature class.

The planting unit also influenced our artwork. We created seed designs, pasted large sunflowers and painted flower portraits. We also expressed our creativity through coloring coffee filter butterflies, shape shading and dying yarn the colors of the rainbow.

March also brought some special visitors to our school. The Bunnies tried to catch a very stealthy leprechaun, but settled for the delicious treats he brought instead. CCDS also hosted the Shamrock Dancers who entertained us with traditional and contemporary Irish dancing on St. Patrick's Day.

The mild March weather has allowed for a great deal of outside learning experiences. We've explored the Children's Park and llama pasture, went on nature hikes to find signs of spring and returning animals, and rode the big wheel cars for the first time since last autumn!

It's hard to believe there are only two months remaining in our school year. We wish you an enjoyable spring!

-Angie and Hillary

NEWS FROM THE GOATS CLASS: Happy Spring, everyone! The Billy Goats have truly been enjoying a beautiful, early spring. The temperature has been just right for us to get out and reacquaint ourselves with our animal friends and to spend time on both the Upper and Lower Maka.

The month of March kept us busy... We began by celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss. He would have been 104 this year! We shared a number of silly stories written by this well-loved author. We also discussed what an author and illustrator do, learned about rhyming words, and sampled some tasty green eggs for snack. We also started talking about planting, both in our room and during nature with Sumayah. We learned what is needed in order for seeds to grow, we played in the dirt and imagined what our summer gardens will hold. This led into our next theme- Colors! The children all got a chance to share what their favorite color is and added their vote to our color graph. We experimented a little bit with some color mixing, making various shades of red, yellow, and blue. And the best part of our month was finally celebrating all of our hard work from the winter (becoming experts at getting on our own winter gear) with a yummy pizza party. We are very proud of how the Billy Goats have grown!

Before we go, we would like to extend our thanks to all of our families for taking time out of your day to visit with us about your child's year in our classroom. We enjoyed sharing our observations, stories, and samples of your child's work during conferences.

NEWS FROM THE PONIES CLASS: What a wonderful March we had! Beautiful weather and a perfect environment for observing the new spring growth. We took walks outside looking for signs of spring...tree buds, birds, plants popping out of the ground, bugs, etc.

We started off the month learning about seeds in preparation for planting. We learned that every seed contains a baby plant, food and a seed coat. We were able to pick apart lima beans to discover all these parts. We discussed and read about many types of seeds and that whatever type of seed you plant, that's what kind of plant you will get. An apple seed will not grow a bean plant! We had fun at lunch time trying to find seeds in the foods we were eating and adding them to our Seed Collection. Observing, sequencing, charting and measuring were important jobs this month.

The nature room is filled with seedlings. So far the Ponies have planted yellow pear tomatoes and sweet alyssum. In just a few short days we have already noticed sprouts! We will continue to observe and chart the growth.

The beans we planted in the Ponies classroom have grown like crazy! Each morning we are surprised by how much they grew overnight. Our Ponies diligently water them each day☺ The sunflower and oats are also growing; but so far nothing happening with the peas or corn. Disappointing, but a good lesson; not every seed planted will grow into a plant.

April will be spent discovering and exploring with topics on eggs and recycling. We will also celebrate Earth Day and Week of the Young Child. Our Letter of the Week will wrap up in mid-April so be on the lookout for their completed books to be coming home!

We appreciate the time you all took to spend with us at conferences. Thanks for your support, interest and input! -Carrie and Lora

NEWS FROM THE BURROS CLASS: *March Wrap Up:* March was a busy month! With a school-wide theme of planting and growing, the Burros had a lot of time to explore seeds and search for signs of spring. We learned about germination and roots & shoots as we studied parts of a plant. Growing grass heads was a big part of our month. It was fun to observe the changes in the little guys each day. With the warm March weather we spent a lot of time outside going for walks, visiting our gardens and enjoying the beautiful grounds at our school.

Throughout the month we had several visitors. We're guessing you've heard all about our little leprechaun friends. It certainly was a magical St. Patrick's Day with some amazing Irish dancers.

A **special thanks** to...

- Michael's Grandma, Gigi, for reading us St. Patrick's Day stories
- Ava's family for the yummy snack, projects and sunglasses
- Leo's mom for reading us stories and bringing a treat for Leo's birthday
- Jason's parents for Jason's birthday treat
- Lucky and Hobbs' family for coming in to celebrate Mommy Beth's birthday
- Will W's mom for Will's birthday treat and for spending the morning with us
- Bella's dad for reading us a Skippyjon Jones book
- Theo's mom for spending a morning teaching us about birds
- Maik's dad for teaching us some Vietnamese words
- The leprechauns for leaving us treats ☺

Next Month

Our Upcoming Themes:

- April 5-9: Recycling
- April 12-16: Healthy Bodies/Nutrition
- April 19-23: We Love the Earth
- April 26-30: Week of the Young Child

Upcoming Birthdays

- Liam: April 13th
- Sophie: April 13th
- Anna Sophia: April 16th

- Jacob: April 25th
- Ben: April 29th

Be sure to check your child's binder for their **spring break homework**. After break they can return their white bag with unwanted items from around your home (see letter in white bag for more details). We will sort all of our treasures and make artwork with our recycled materials. Also, throughout the month of April please send in **cereal boxes** to use for the project as well. Feel free to e-mail Laura with any questions laura@childrenscountryday.org

Thanks for taking the time to meet with us for conferences. It was great to catch up with you! Happy spring! ~Kelly, Denise, Britini, & Laura~

NEWS FROM THE LLAMAS CLASS: We would like to thank each of you for the opportunity to conference with you. We truly did enjoy sharing your child's day with you. If at any time you should have a question or a concern, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We hope that each of you has a happy, safe and relaxing spring break filled with special family time as well as an abundance of sunshine!

Looking back, we would like to thank Connor's mom and brother for celebrating Connor's summer birthday. We enjoyed the "I Spy" Book, as well as the "summer" snacks. We would also like to thank Autumn for bringing in the two large branches from an Aspen tree. We enjoyed making comparisons between the "soft" open buds, and the "hard" unopened ones. It was kind of you to give each of us one bud to take home. Thanks also to Nate for bringing the sea shells back from your trip to Florida.

We are so excited that our Llama Families Books have arrived! Each of the children put a great amount of time into making their pages unique; from the drawings of their families to the words that describe how truly special their family is to them. We are proud of each of them and their hard work as together they now have a published book. Congratulations to all!

The children have had a wonderful opportunity to work with clay this past month. For long periods at a time, many of them kneaded, poked and pulled at the clay. Their final "masterpieces" were truly works of art.

We have been busy planting with our theme color of "orange". Over the next few weeks we will continue to plant seeds that we will be able to care for as well as watch for signs of growth. The children are anxiously awaiting the first signs as we will be charting the dates, heights and other important information.

Now that spring has officially arrived and the weather is beautiful, we will be spending more time outside. Please help your child remember to bring his or her water bottle on a daily basis. It's finally time to put away those winter jackets and snow pants - oh, happy day! Please remember to label "new" jackets, so they won't be left behind.

We are looking forward to the additional outside opportunities, enjoying the wonderful space we have. During April we will continue to care for and plant our "sprouts". We will also be

discussing Earth Week, and how each of us can help make the earth a happy and healthy place, not just for us but for the plants and animals as well. We will talk about the importance of Earth Day being every day. After that we gear up for the Week of the Young Child which is a week to celebrate each and every one of the children who help make Country Day the special place that it is. We thank each of you for sharing your "little sprouts" with us! Happy April, happy adventures!! - Nancy and Elizabeth