



Merryhill Newsletter

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From the Principal's Office



Dear Merryhill Families,

We had a Marvelous March and we are looking forward to an Amazing April! April is full of exciting activities. Make sure to check the events board in the lobby to stay up to date with the fun days we have planned each month.

Week of the Young Child will be April 13th – 17th. Our theme this year is Eric Carle “Celebrating Children’s Creativity.” We will have tons of activities during the week for the children to enjoy! Let’s not forget about spirit week!

Our school is going to be working on a garden project for both playgrounds on Earth Day Wednesday, April 22nd. We start planting our garden at 10:00 A.M. If you have any ideas for the garden please feel free to share with us.

If you would like to come and help us for any of our April events, parent volunteers would be greatly appreciated ☺ Just let Ms. Jande` or myself know what day you would like to come and help.

We are looking forward to a Awesome April!

Blanca Prieto-Preschool Principal

Calendar of Events

April 3rd - Spring Fling Class Parties
Egg Hunt Schedule



Toddlers: 9:45
Beginner A & Beginner B : 10:45
Intermediates: 9:45
Pre-K & Pre-K2: 11:00

Sat. April 11th - School Carnival 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.—Wonderful Family Event!!

April 13th – 17th Week of the Young Child- We will have various Spirit Days all week.

April 13th- Dress like a Farmer or Farm Animal

April 14th- Wear your Favorite Color to school

April 15th- Safari Dress up day

April 16th- Wear your Favorite Sports gear or Sports Team

April 17th- Wear your Tie Dye Shirt

April 22nd - Earth Day Celebration- Plant School Garden & Ladybug Release at 11:00 a.m.



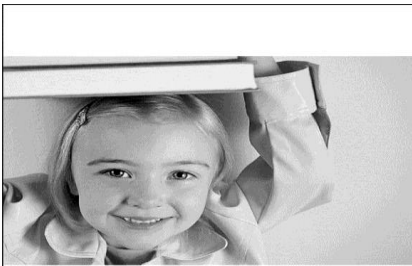
Inside this issue....

**Appreciating the Wonders of
Mother Nature**

Our Staff Members

A big Happy Birthday
goes out to

Ms. Blanca – 7th



Share our story.

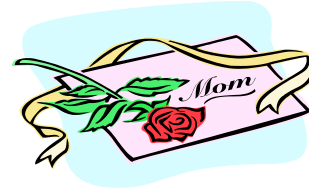
Bring a friend to our Open House and share our school's success story. It's a great opportunity to meet our principal, tour our school, and see firsthand how we make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

OPEN HOUSE

May 21st
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

May 5th- Happy Cinco de Mayo

May 8th- Mother's Day Tea Party at 3:30 p.m.--Moms, Aunts or Grandmas please come and join us for tea & cookies



May 11th-15th - Teacher Appreciation Week

Monday: *Together We Make Our School Shine* -candles

Tuesday: *Thank You For Your Sweet Inspiration*- candy bar, chocolates, gift card for ice cream, or anything sweet

Wednesday: *Thank You For Helping Young Minds Grow*- have your child bring a flower for their teacher-vases will be on front counter

Thursday: *You Have the 'Write' Stuff* -personal appreciation note from the family or picture drawn by your child-mailboxes for each teacher on front counter-gift ideas: post-its, note cards, cute stationary, etc...

Friday: *Thank You For Feeding Our Children With Knowledge*- bring in your favorite dish to share with the teachers! Sign ups will be in the office.

May 21st- Open House 5-7 p.m. For new start parents-send your friends and neighbors to check out our school

May 25th - School Closed- In observance of Memorial Day

For Parents

Merryhill School has a family referral plan.

By referring a family to any of our Merryhill schools you are eligible for a free week of tuition. To learn more please see the office staff.



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From the Education Department

Spring is here and Earth Day is right around the corner, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect children with nature and reinforce the importance of preserving and protecting the world around us. Our Links to Learning curriculum uses hands-on activities to cultivate a deeper connection to the earth and foster academic, physical and social skill development.

Below are activities we implement in our classrooms to get children excited about nature, as well as activities and books to read with your child at home.

INFANTS/TODDLERS:

In the classroom: Our teachers provide natural objects, such as leaves, pinecones and flowers for the children to see and touch. We help children associate words with the concrete objects they represent.
At-home activity: Allow your child to experience different textured fruits, such as an orange, watermelon and cantaloupe. Talk about what he sees, smells, tastes and feels.

Recommended reading: Colors from Nature from PlayBac Publishing and The Earth Book by Todd Parr

BEGINNERS (Ages 2-3):

In the classroom: Around age two, children begin to understand interdependencies in nature. For instance, they learn that ladybugs feed on insects that are harmful to gardens, trees and shrubs. On Earth Day, many of our students have the opportunity to release ladybugs to help local gardens.

At-home activity: Take a walk outdoors with your child and play a game of "I Spy." Ask him point out objects found in the springtime, for example a red flower, a blue bird or a colorful butterfly.

Recommended reading: Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration by Alyssa Satin Capucilli & David T. Wenzel and The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

INTERMEDIATES (Ages 3-4):

In the classroom: As our Intermediates gain a greater understanding and appreciation for how living things grow, the class may adopt a pet such as a fish or bunny. Students develop math, science and language skills by measuring the pet's food, observing the pet's behavior and habitat, and learning new vocabulary. Research shows that when children have the opportunity to care for animals, they practice nurturing behaviors that help them interact in gentle ways with people also.

At-home activity: Create a small garden and allow your child to help you plant and water seeds, either outdoors or indoors. Ask him to predict what the plant will look like by drawing pictures in his journal. Check the plant regularly so he can observe and measure changes in growth. Discuss the importance of watering and caring for the plant.

Recommended reading: Our Earth by Anne Rockwell and the poem "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out!" by Shel Silverstein

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

In the classroom: Teachers encourage our older preschoolers to reuse recyclable materials in fun and unconventional ways. For instance, our students use cardboard boxes to create a castle, milk jug lids to sort and match, and plastic bottles to create beautiful, unique artwork.

At-home activity: Set up a recycling station using cardboard boxes, and label each box with the words "metal", "plastic" and "paper". Throughout the month, ask your child to help sort your family's recyclables by placing the items into the correct box. Explain that recycling is just one way that we can be kind to the earth. Ask him to name a few other ways, such as conserving electricity, picking up litter and planting a garden.

Recommended reading: A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry and The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

We create a path for lifelong learning by providing numerous opportunities for children to study and explore nature. These hands-on experiences lead to growth in all areas of development as students transition into elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD- Director of Early Childhood Education