

YOUNG CHILD ACADEMY APRIL NEWSLETTER 2007



YOUNG CHILD ACADEMY

Points of Interest

April 2: Mariner's win season opener! Half of YCA student body plays hookie to see the game!!

April 5: Haircuts with Lee Anne

April 6: Firefighters visit and presentation

April 9-13: Chia-Pei takes over the noon soccer match, thinking she will have more luck than Tracy in opposing the kindergarteners.

April 22: Earth Day

April 30: Class (not individual) Pictures

August 24: Summer BBQ and Graduation ceremonies at Lower Woodland. Please save the date!!!

Notes From the Director Tracy White

Thank you to all of the parents who opted to participate in the annual parent/teacher conferences. I hope this interaction with your child's teachers proved beneficial. It is useful for us to receive feedback from parents as well as to provide input onto what transpires during the learning process throughout the day. Thank you again.

Spring is finally here, at least the seasons have officially changed. We are hoping to enjoy more outdoor adventures or, at least be outdoors as much as possible. If your child does not have a signed form filed, authorizing the use of sunscreen at school, you will receive one shortly. Please look for such pertinent information in your child's cubby. Some items located in the cubbies are neglected (accidentally, I'm sure). Please remember, some of the treasures found in your child's cubby, are actually really important and we need you to take these valuables home every week. Like the bedding, all paper and art works needs to be removed on Friday. Please help us with this; It makes our mandatory weekly cleaning so much easier.

We need to mention an issue that poses a potential safety concern. We have noticed some parents send their children in, unattended in the morning, to put their belongings away. Children must be accompanied by an adult upon entering the building. They may not go into the building unattended. Please understand this regulation is not meant to challenge you, but to keep your child safe. We have an obligation first, to the children. We greatly appreciate your understanding.

Already, we are planning our summer graduation festivities. This year's annual barbecue will take place Friday, August 24 at Lower Woodland Shelter #6. For those of you, new in attendance here, Young Child Academy closes early on the day of the big BBQ. We will close at 3:00 that day. Please plan accordingly. We hope to see you all there!

Summer is always a difficult time of year for me as I lament the loss of the children moving onto elementary school. Working with children is hard, not because of the energy required. But because children grow, and then they leave. Each year, our hearts break a little (or a lot). Perhaps this is one reason why we've opted to instill a fabulous elementary program. We can hold onto the children for awhile longer! As we look forward to inhabiting a new facility for our elementary students, we are thankful Stacy continues to provide an exceptional primary program in the space we currently occupy. She does a fabulous job and we are fortunate to have her.

Have a wonderful spring. Perhaps you can go root for the Young Child Academy T-Ball team on Queen Anne one afternoon!

(Look for our next art gala at the Seattle Center in June)

Waddler

Susan and Maya

Hello parents!!! This month, our theme is Spring. We will be learning about weather changes, spring friends (ladybugs, butterfly, etc), gardening, and mother Earth. We have a ton of fun-filled activities planned but feel free to let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Our parent-teacher conferences were a huge success so thank you to all the parents who took some time to pop by and chat for a bit!! We would like to welcome Nola, who is now an official member of the Waddler Room!!

***Please remember to keep your child's nails trimmed to prevent accidental scratching.**

Toddler

Sue Anne, Liz, and Dehab

Spring is finally here! We've been busy little bees with art projects like making daffodils, bees, tulips, dragon flies, planting a chia donkey and putting leaves onto bare winter trees. We've also been kept busy with our sensory like water with dishes, carrots, bananas, playing on the piano and cardboard. The children have been ecstatic about the bubble machine outside and that is all that they talk about. With the wonderful weather, we are hoping to get out for more walks.

We also have a wonderful addition to our toddler staff! Liz has been with us for about a month and she is excellent with the children. They really have become attached to her and Liz has brought a lot of sunshine into our class.

We are always looking for anything interesting that parents can bring in for sensory, art projects or anything else that the children could play with. We could use toilet paper rolls, magazines, extra clothing for dress up and etc... Thanks to the parents with the conferences. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk and they all went very well.

Little Preschool

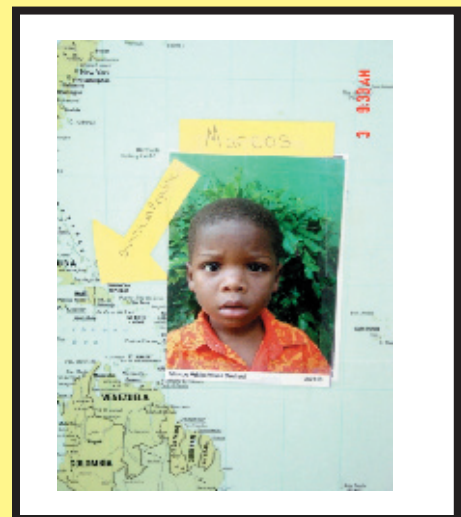
Teacher Erin and Teacher Shelly

Little Preschool is very excited for spring! There are many fun activities that we will be working on in April. We will be making gifts to send to our friend Marcos in the Dominican Republic. We will also be making projects that teach us about weather cycles and spring life cycles of plants and insects. We will even get to plant our own plants for the classroom and to take home!

Little Preschool visits Merrill Gardens again on April 11, and we will be taking small outings in the neighborhood as nice weather becomes more frequent. We are also excited for an educational visit from the Fire Department on April 6.

In addition, we all had a wonderful time at the Children's Museum "Bob the Builder" exhibit on March 30 and we hope to go on another field trip as summer approaches. We'd like to go to the zoo, but if you have any exciting ideas for different field trips please let us know!

Thank you to everyone who attended a parent-teacher conference in March. It was so wonderful to "catch up" with everyone, especially with those of you we often miss during the regular workweek. Also thanks to all families who contributed art supplies and dress up items to our classroom! We really appreciate your involvement and generosity!



Big Preschool
Teacher Megan and Teacher Laura

The month of March was spent exploring “Where We Live”. We took time to find where we live on a map of Seattle, and we also worked very hard at making our own map of Seattle, complete with roads, transportation, skyscrapers, homes, boats, people and even the Space Needle! Make sure to take a look at it when you can. Where we live there are many community helpers, as we all know, and here are some community helpers the Big Preschoolers look up to:

Thank you to our Big Preschool parents. You all are community helpers too :-)) We especially enjoyed our time to conference with you. It was very helpful and fun to get a chance to chat; we hope it was beneficial to you as well.

Here are a few important reminders: please remember to take your child’s sheet and blanket home every week to wash it (licensing requirement!!!), Please do some cubby “spring cleaning” and make sure your child’s extra clothes are appropriate for spring weather, and please try to have your child arrive by 9:00. This is when our special classes start and it’s unfortunate to miss those.

We look forward to welcoming more flowers, baby animals, and insects in April! Among other things, our class is going to experiment with growing plants and raising butterflies. This should be exciting!



Lainee “I want to be a builder with my whole family!”
Annay “A teacher, to help the kids!”
Peter “I want to be a builder!”
Audery “A dentist so I clean your teeth, kids’ teeth!”
Matteo “I want to be a builder, baker and a firefighter”
McKenna “A mom so I can have a baby!”
Masha “I want to work with Barbie”
Stella “A police officer so I can help people when there’s a problem”
Kyle “I want to be a police officer!”
Noa “A dentist so I can take care of your teeth”
Maui “I want to be a builder, a firefighter and a police officer”
Xahria “A teacher, to teach people gymnastics”
Charlie “A firefighter to spray water and put out fire!”
Hayden “A zookeeper, I wanna keep animals in their cages in their home”



Pre-Kindergarten
Miss Amanda

Pre-K has been doing a lot of exciting and interesting activities. We recently planted marigold and snapdragon seeds. As they grow we will be engaging in some scientific observations in order to create a seed journal. The students are very excited! We've continued to create weekly language development stories. I am so fortunate to have such imaginative and creative students.

Spring has sprung which means we will be taking more walking field trips to the Seattle Center. Trips to see the fountain are always enjoyable. Parent volunteers to accompany us on our outings are always welcomed and appreciated.

Some things to remember

- *An extra change of clothes
- *Bedding must be taken home every Friday
- *Class activities begin at 9:30
- *Due to licensing requirements, pillows are no longer



Story Writing

*"If you give Calista and Carter a cat they will be friends and the dog will be friends with the cat. Then the doggy had a puppy and the cat had a baby cat and it will be spring."

-Calista

"If you give Calista and Carter a cat we are going home. we didn't have a car so we got a taxi."

-Owen

*"If I saw Amanda at the aquarium I would play with her and do princess stuff."

-Bridget

*"When I grow I'm going to be a tired man."

Class Quotes

*I just hate peppers! They're so rude to me

-J.S.

*You know who's my best friend in the whole stinkin' world? My goldfish."

-Jack

*"I touched a real octopus once. It was slimy like a jelly jiggler."

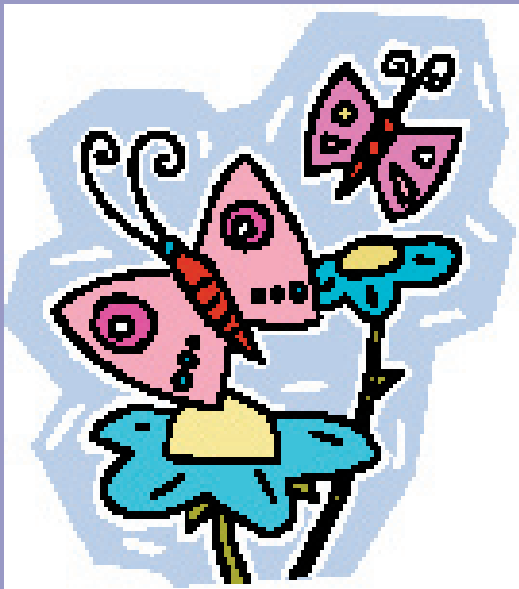
-Morgan

*"Yana we're all out of clam chowder. You'll have to have chicken hotdog soup."

-Megan



QUEEN ANNE
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL



“If we want education to improve the community, then it is essential that those we teach, embrace the community.”

Kindergarten
Miss Stacy

Spring is my favorite time of year at school. There is so much to discover, investigate, do and create! Not only is our paper apple tree covered with blossoms inside, but outside nature offers an abundance of topics to draw, write, learn and talk about. Another reason I love this time of year is that I’m able to sit back and be amazed at how much these kids have progressed. Rather than feel pressure to “squeeze everything in” before summer, I’m able to relax and enjoy the fact that my students have, once again, exceeded my expectations academically. Each one is on his/her way to being a successful reader and writer. Such bright futures! So far the new season has inspired us to fill the kitchen with a field of lucky four-leafed clovers and some colorful umbrellas. The rest of April will see us busy writing poetry, crafting bugs, creating rainbows, painting flowers, planting seeds and becoming budding entomologists as we raise some live butterflies!

According to the kindergarteners.....

You know it’s your lucky day when you get to eat a doughnut for breakfast.

You know it’s your lucky day when you find a piece of cake in your lunch box.

You know it’s your lucky day when you get a special package in the mail.

You know it’s your lucky day when your grandparents show up for a visit.

You know it’s your lucky day when you find a buried treasure.

Spanish
Teacher Jon

In Spanish this month, we've been having a lot of fun with our new "Spanish for Children" book and CD, which reviews a lot of grammar and vocabulary the kids have already been learning, like, "Donde esta...?" ("Where is...?"), "Tengo __ anos" ("I'm __ years old"), and "Me gusta..." ("I like..."), and opens new territory with food vocabulary and magic songs. For the infants and waddlers, I've found a great CD Spanish program called, "Baby's First Steps in Spanish". I recommend buying this CD and playing it at home for your newborns through two-year olds. According to the research cited by the "Baby's First Steps" program, there is a critical window between the ages of 6 and 12 months, during which babies start to decide which vowels and consonants they're going to distinguish (like the Spanish "v", "r", and "rr"). Even passively listening to a foreign language CD during the 6 to 12 month period has been shown to help babies hear (and later speak with) native pronunciation.

Learning Enrichment
Miss Kelly

Pre-K

Language Arts

The students are becoming more and more familiar with the ABC's and their corresponding sounds. We are currently working on identifying colors, spelling color words and identifying first and last names.

Math

We have been working on recognizing odd and even numbers, as well as adding and subtracting pictures or objects. They are catching on quickly. Next is explore and sorting coins.

Kindergarten

Language Arts

The students are successfully sounding out unfamiliar words while reading and/or spelling. They now know 33 sight words and are going through the small books with much ease. What an accomplishment they are all making.

Math

Their written numbers look exquisite; they spell numbers with confidence and are very familiar with money. We are still working on place value with big numbers (22 is made up of 2 tens and 2 ones) and reviewing addition and subtraction.

Music
Teacher Amy

March turned out to be another great month for music! We've been branching out and expanding our musical minds with new activities: Learning the musical story of the Sorcerer and His Apprentice, playing a real didgereedoo from Australia, learning dances to classical music from many famous composers. For the older classes, in piano, we are learning stories and engaging in creative activities to learn about the piano. I look forward to another great month!

