

# Young Child Academy News

Nurturing Growth Through Literature & the Arts



## What's New?

### Birds & Eggs

April Showers bring May Flowers! At YCA in April, our investigation was focused on Birds & Eggs. Earlier this month, we learned about eggs and birds, and other creatures that hatch out from their eggs. Each classroom received some caterpillars to watch them grow and build cocoons. Some of them already emerged from the chrysalides and are ready to be released! Everyone was so excited to see the things happening before their eyes.

The first week of May is **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!** We want to hereby thank all our wonderful teachers. No words can describe how grateful we are to have them here at YCA!



## April 2021

## Calendar & Upcoming Events

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** Spring Learning Celebration  
(Cancelled)

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** Teacher-In-Service Day  
(School Closed)  
& Parent-Teacher Conferences  
(Phone/Virtual)

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** Memorial Day (School Closed)

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will be sending sign-up URL links to parents for **Parents-Teacher conferences** in early May. It will be held during our next in-service day on **May 28<sup>th</sup>**, mostly happening in the morning.



Stay tuned for more info!



- This is YCA [COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#).

- Please keep your child's personal belongings (Stuffedies and toys) home unless it is for your child's special sharing day or for naptime use. The item should be able to fit in their cubbies!

# CLASS NEWS



## Toddler 1

Here's our T1 newsletter:

Hello T1 families! April has been a month of many changes and transitions. As we said goodbye to some of our friends embarking on a new journey in T2, and we welcomed four new friends into our friendship fort! Our new friends are Neil, Loewen, Madison, and Beckham! They have been doing a wonderful job of adjusting and settling here with us. They have already made friends and figured out which toys are their favorite!

Some of our friends that have been with us have hit some important milestones! Round of applause for Grey and Hayden, who have already started to walk on their own, everywhere. Slow down kiddos!

Spring has arrived upon us with hints of summer! Our focus has been on making sure our friends are hydrated and cool during outside playtime. We have practiced applying sunscreen and discussed why it is so important to wear it. Some have brought summer hats, which are always welcome!

For art, we made beautiful cactuses and tulips which you find on our art wall. We also painted baseballs with our fingers to celebrate all the things Spring has to offer! Our final art project included our handprints, in honor of celebrating Earth Day.

The theme for May will be "Rivers and Oceans"! We cannot wait to explore the deep blue sea with all of our fishes.

## Toddler 2

Hello Toddler 2 Families!

April was full of sun and fun! We brought out the water toys on the playground for those hot spring days we had, and the kids were so happy! Splashing is everyone's favorite activity.

April's theme was "Bugs and Birds" so we did a lot of fun activities like making a bird nest for handprint birds, creating butterflies out of coffee filters, painting rocks to look like ladybugs, and watching our own living class caterpillars turn into chrysalises! We rearranged our learning stations and brought some new costumes in for our imagination play area. The superhero capes and the hard hats are big hits! Evie likes to put on a cape and run through the room yelling "superhero to the rescue!"

We welcomed Ivy and Julian from Toddler 1 into our class mid-month, and they took no time getting comfortable. They love our big climber and the slide. Julian thinks it's really fun to push trucks down the slide, and Ivy likes to follow her cousin Emmett around. We also welcomed a new third teacher to our room at the end of the month! Make sure to say "Hi!" to Teacher Minji at pick-up!

## Infant

Everyone in our class is growing and learning so fast. Elena is so excited to be crawling and exploring the classroom with her friends, and she likes to show off her dance moves when we sing "Row, Row Your Boat". Arthur loved to do water play and is so excited to go outside to play and explore his surroundings. Rhett has learned to army crawl but in his own unique way, and it's just the cutest thing ever to watch. Auggie and Hayden are loving to try new solids and have also learned to move around our room. Miles has grown so much and can sit up, and loves to play and socialize with his big friends. Our favorite class activities are reading books, playing outside, eating, and going for walks!



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# BIRDS & BUGS

## Preschool 2

In this month of April, we explored the investigation of Birds and Bugs. Friends have explored various things such as the life cycle of a caterpillar through stories and art. We even had our very own classroom caterpillars in which we watched closely metamorphosed into beautiful butterflies. We even explored birds and animals that lay eggs. We heard audios of different Pacific Northwest birds and even dived into the anatomy of an egg. We introduced an experiment of early osmosis and encouraged friends to become young biologists. The last week of April, we were trying to understand the strange Seattle Spring weather through various cloud activities such as Cloud Math measurements, shaving cream letter writing activity, and various art activities.

## Preschool 1

Hello P1 families!

April was full of fun and learning! Our investigation this month was Birds and Bugs. We learned a lot about how weather changes and how clouds are made too. We also took some time to investigate caterpillars and butterflies, in fact, we got some caterpillars for our class and are eagerly watching them turn into butterflies! We learned all about what they eat, where they live, and how many different kinds there are. We learned a bunch about birds too! We learned how they fly, what they eat, and where they live. We made our own bird nests. Lastly, we learned about eggs just in time for an egg hunt! The kids looked all over the playground to find eggs with little treats inside. Hopefully, we can celebrate with our new butterfly friends to close out this sunny month!



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## PreK 1

What an exciting month we've had! April brought us another beautiful park day where we discovered all sorts of different plants and flowers. We found Spanish Bluebells, a baby Maple tree, Giant Rhubarb, and these cool skinny, green spindly plants called Horsetails. A major spring event that happened in April was the arrival of seven tiny caterpillars! We instantly became entomologists and studied all the changes we observed each day. "Whoa, what happened to the caterpillars...they're HUGE!" observed Maximo after coming back from the weekend and noticing they had nearly tripled in size. About a week or so later we heard another exclamation from Makaio, "WAIT!! Where'd the caterpillars go?" They had all formed into chrysalides, well, except for Slowpoke :) Poor little thing was always a few days behind the others. You gotta love a late bloomer! Along with being entomologists, we also put on our meteorologist hats and discovered what is truly happening with the weather when the seasons change. We discovered what creates rain clouds and how they turn into storms. We've been keeping a weather graph where we record our weather each day. One interesting discovery we've made this month is that we've had more sunny days than rainy days even though spring is usually a rainy season. We've been discussing why we think that might be the case. We've not come to a definitive answer on this one but, we'll keep you posted.



## PreK 2

This April was a monumental one for most of our friends here in Pre-K2. We're very excited for all of our six-year-old friends who started attending their kindergarten classrooms for part of the day/week this month! This, however, required us to be a little more flexible with our schedule and make some changes to the things that we do here in Pre-K2 through April and May. One major change that happened this month is that we started doing "math centers." This is where we independently engage in a few different math activities rather than one long, structured, full-class math activity a day. They now have mastered all of the skills required to work through many different mathematic processes in an efficient way by using the different strategies we have been working on for the past few months so they're definitely ready for some more challenges. This month's investigation topic was "Birds and Bugs." We read a lot of nonfiction texts about insects and discussed the important role they play in our world. We observed the transformation of caterpillars to butterflies in an enclosed habitat in our classroom. The kids even designed their own butterflies to show what they hope our butterflies look like after the transformation and came up with some very creative and funny ideas. To celebrate Earth Day, we talked about the importance of the "three R's" of recycling and did a few different art and science activities using only reused materials that we were able to find around the school. We also discussed the important challenges we need to take on in order to preserve our planet and protect its valuable resources. Lastly, the weather was fantastic this month, so we spent some extra time playing outside, doing outdoor activities, and getting some more exercise!



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# Special Class News

## Musicality with Ben

In Musicality, we've been working on a new song On The Road Again! It's an excellent song about traveling and has a really catchy and repetitive melody that the kids love. I've changed the lyrics in the chorus to "Like a band of nomads we go down the highway". We've been having a blast pretending to drive a big van full of all our friends while we sing this one! We've also brought back an old song that I forgot about; Mr. Sun! We do this one with our arms up over our heads pretending to be the sun, and then the moon for the second verse. Finally, all the kids have been helping me write a big list of songs that we do in Musicality so that we don't neglect any of them. At 54 songs and counting, our repertoire is pretty expansive!

## Art & Science and Asian Folktales with HaeLim

We did not get to have many Asian Folktales classes this month, but we still learned about the special insects who live in a very special house called beehive. "Leave, Bees!" was another Pourquoi tale from Thailand, and it explained why the elephants' noses were long and why Bees liked to live in a special, dark house. After we listened to the story, we created our own beehive, using toilet paper rolls and the bleeding tissue paper pieces.



## Japanese with Karlee

This month in Japanese we continued to work on origami in preschool 2 and the Pre-K classes. They have all gotten really good at our usual 'start with the white side up and fold it into a triangle.' They have also learned to create their folds well so the next steps will be easier. We made a frog, a caterpillar, a butterfly, and a bug! In PreK, we started learning a new song that uses rock (gu), scissors (choki), and paper (pa) to make different shapes. The children have so many ideas of things to make!

In all of the classes, we read the Very Hungry Caterpillar and started reading the sneaky cat group series. Our first book was about when they stole a train and made popcorn on accident. We are looking forward to reading more about their shenanigans next month.

## Music & Drama Class with Kiki

Hello Friends!

We had a great time in the Music and Drama class this month. The kids even got a glimpse of my home music studio the first week of April when I taught from home! We did a self-expression exercise that week and the kids were challenged to imagine what color/s they were on the inside. A lot of the kids chose colors that were their favorite and the PK2 kids picked colors that represented their favorite foods! We played some fun music games using a giant parachute and a frog puppet (you really had to be there). Using the same parachute, I started teaching the PK kids a major scale using solfege! (Do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do). We had our first ever YCA pet show! In the younger classes, the kids brought their favorite toys from home, and we put on a precious pet show in each class. In the PK classes, however, it was a full acting challenge. The kids were placed in pairs and told one was the owner and one was the pet. They had to decide what kind of pet they were, what their name was, and what their special talent was. I was SO impressed with how well all of them did! We had a cat named Bouncy who could (you guessed it) bounce! A cat named Shine, whose talent was being kind to others, a grizzly bear named Brad whose talent was catching fish, and a dragon named Violet who could shoot lightening from her eyes! To name just a few. With every activity I come up with, I am blown away by how creative these kids are!



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