

Young Child Academy News

Nurturing Growth Through Literature & the Arts



What's New?

Health & Fitness

Thank you for all the sweet treats and love sent to each classroom this month. With the snowstorm, it made the Friday a lot more magical. In February, YCA students investigated about the theme "Health & Fitness." We made sure we discuss dental health thinking of all the candies they had gotten from party. PK friends celebrated their 100th Day of school this month, too! Check out what they did on Page 4 of this issue!

Join us on Instagram

Follow @youngchildacademy ! It is where you can find out what is happening around the school most recently and get an idea of some upcoming events! It is a private group, so after you send a follow request, please message us your name and your child's full name. We will see you there!



February 2021

Calendar & Upcoming Events

- May 27th** Spring Learning Celebration (Cancelled)
- May 28th** Teacher-In-Service Day (School Closed) & Parent-Teacher Conferences (Phone/Virtual)
- May 31st** Memorial Day (School Closed)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We are sorry to announce that this year's **Parents-Teacher conferences will be postponed** to May after considering the current COVID situations and limiting the number of staff entering each building. It will be held during our next in-service day on **May 28th**, mostly happening in the morning. We will send out the sign-up form in early May. Thank you for your patience.



- 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

The Monthly Theme was... "Health & Fitness"



Infant

We are so excited to welcome baby August, Arthur, Elena, and Hayden to our room. So far, August loves his new classroom and is full of smiles for his teachers and friends. We are going to miss Hayden and Jack as they move onto their next adventure to the Toddler 1 room. The babies have been enjoying playing outside when we have sunny days and have been so excited for our walks again. It is so hard to believe that Loewen, Madison, and Grey are all turning 1 this month, it has been so fun to watch them learn and grow into their own little personalities.



Toddler 1

We spent February in Toddler One learning about our bodies and healthy eating! We went green and made tissue paper avocados and huge broccoli for our window. Our unofficial book of the month was "Where Is Baby's Belly Button?" and it helped us practice all the different parts of the body. We put that knowledge to use and created Picasso-style self-portraits of each of our faces. Some of us preferred round noses, some of us preferred eyes across the forehead, and some of us gravitated to the vampire fangs! For Valentine's Day, we brought out our paints and painted a wonderful collection of birdhouses. We gave a big welcome to Teacher Aida as she joined our class. It's so exciting to have her, and we look forward to all the wonderful things she'll share with us!



Toddler 2

Hello T2 Families!
February just flew by! Our main focus of the month was health and fitness. The kids love doing yoga, and we made a yoga poster with photos of the kids doing some of their favorite poses. We talked about nutrition and did some STEM activities like sorting fruits and vegetables by color and by type. We also spent some time focusing on Black History and diversity with Safa reading some really great books to the kids including "Hair Love", "The Color of Us" and "Little People, Big Dreams: Martin Luther King Jr". We celebrated Evie's 2nd birthday, and in this class, the words "birthday" and "cupcake" are synonymous. I said, "it's Evie's birthday today" during circle time, and Emily, Emiko, and Maddie all yelled "Cupcakes!" We continue to work on self-help skills and almost every one of our students can put their own jackets on! (Ask us to show you the "flip" technique if you don't already know it.)



Website:

www.youngchildacademy.com



Contact:

206.282.7132



Email:

info@youngchildacademy.com

Health & Fitness

Preschool 2

February may be the shortest month of the year, but that didn't stop us from packing it full of fun and unique activities surrounding Health and Fitness! Our first week focused on nutrition where our kids learned the importance of a balanced meal and how to create one! They practiced making meals using at least one food from each food group and got to taste test some yummy fruits and veggies. The second week included lots of Heart Day crafts like friendship bracelets which they exchanged with classmates, and reading several books about how we can love ourselves, others, and the world around us. The third week brought fun in the form of fitness and dental hygiene! Our class learned all sorts of fitness options from yoga to dancing and discovered what foods make our teeth happy and sad. We rounded out the month with a final focus on our bodies and learned about all the different parts, inside and out. The kids went on a scavenger hunt for bones to complete a skeleton and used their imagination to see what it was like to not be able to see and try to guess objects solely through touch. It's been a busy month but we didn't forget to include books, discussions, and crafts that amplified Black History Month. We learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and his speech and wrote down dreams of our own, we read a book about Ella Fitzgerald and danced to a little bit of jazz, we listened to a folktale about a spider's colorful web that inspired the kente weaving cloth and then worked hard to create our own, and we found out the person who invented the traffic signal was Garret Morgan, a black man, and made paper maché replicas! We are looking forward to spring and all the excitement that March has to offer.

Preschool 1

February was full of love just like every month! However, we did focus a week on having a conversation about feelings and people/things that we love in life. The kids were very thoughtful and said they loved their families, stuffies, animals, and much more. We did hands-on projects that included creating art pieces using different mediums, making beaded necklaces, and even conducting a couple of science experiments. Continuing the health theme, we dove into dental health. We emphasized the importance of brushing teeth twice a day. The kids loved practicing brushing with the chattering teeth models. Tied to this was discussing foods that make our teeth and bodies happy and healthy. The class as a whole loves fruits and veggies, which is awesome! When we did an activity where the kids could customize their plates with pretend food, they all created an impressively balanced meal. We wrapped up the month doing activities celebrating Black History Month. The kids got to learn about several impactful people through books, music, and art suitable for their age. Books like, "Shades of People" and "Rabbit's Gift" were great reads and served as a reminder to always be kind to one another.



Website:

www.youngchildacademy.com



Contact:

206.282.7132



Email:

info@youngchildacademy.com

PreK 1

February was full of excitement and love! As soon as February 1st came, the kids were ready for the 100th Day of School celebrations and Valentine's Day! The kids were so happy when we could finally count to day 100! We had tons of counting fun!

Before we got into all things hearts, we learned about dental health! We brushed away cavities and talked about how to keep our teeth pearly white! In preparation for Valentine's Day, we painted hearts, had some fun with food coloring and baking soda hearts, and then wrote Valentine's for our parents! Our kiddos did a fantastic job passing out Valentine's and we had a variety of cards and goodies! After eating lots of candy, we spent a week learning about our bodies, and what keeps us healthy! We talked about healthy foods, and how the insides of our bodies function.

February is Black History Month so we spent our last week talking about Martin Luther King Jr. and the world he wanted for us. Our kiddos wrote about what they want for a better world and we were so proud of what they came up with!



PreK 2

This month, our investigation topic was "Health and Fitness" so we focused on learning about our bodies, healthy/unhealthy habits, and the ways our bodies are affected by those habits. We played a lot of exercise games, we learned about the food pyramid and what makes a well-rounded meal, we talked about the foods we eat and how they impact our teeth and our bodies' development, we used real x-rays of a human body and constructed its skeleton like a puzzle, we created a life-sized portrait of a human body and drew the internal organs while discussing their unique functions. We also celebrated black history month, Valentine's Day, the 100th day of school, and got to play in a bit of snow on our playground before the big storm hit! For black history month, we frequently read about the lives of important and influential black heroes and movements throughout American history. We also discussed how American society has changed throughout history and reflected on how it is currently changing as a result of these heroes. We showed a lot of love and got a lot of treats on days like Valentine's Day and the 100th day. We decorated shoe boxes and handed out Valentines to our friends for Valentine's Day. We counted up 100 treats to take home on the 100th day. Thank you to all the parents who brought things in for these celebrations! As for changes in our explicit reading and writing curriculum, we've been practicing identifying and writing out sight words daily since the new year. This month, we expanded on that by writing appropriate sight words in blanks in passages and started working on proofreading by identifying and fixing mistakes in passages.



Website:

www.youngchildacademy.com



Contact:

206.282.7132



Email:

info@youngchildacademy.com

Special Class News

Musicality with Ben

In Musicality, we've been revisiting "The Marvelous Toy" by Peter Paul and Mary. Only the students who have been with us a really long time remember doing this one! This song has really fun "zip", "bop", and "whirr" hand motions that we do on the chorus. Also this month, I've been asking the older kids if they can sing some of our songs by themselves without me helping. I've been super impressed with how awesome they sound! Google Meet likes to mute their audio when I'm singing and playing, and so it's cool to hear them sing acapella and see how far we've come on all these songs. Here's to hoping we can all sing together again soon!

Art & Science and Asian Folktales with HaeLim

February was the month we had Lunar New Year Celebrations this year. We learned about Japanese traditions for their New Year's Day, making clay Kagami Mochi. As we listened to the stories called "The Boy from the Dragon Palace" and "Rabbit's Gift," we not only did a fun art/science activity but also discussed how we could be kind to our friends by making a story of ourselves. Our friends build up their social skills at their young age as they learn to share and work together in their class. So proud of them!



Japanese with Karlee

This month in Japanese we celebrated the holiday Setsubun (the changing of seasons). We made a paper bag Oni (ogres) and threw our foil beans at them. When you throw beans at the Oni, you cast out the bad luck and invite in the good luck. We got to try a special Setsubun soybean snack as well. We also practiced some of our Japanese greetings like 'konnichiwa' (hello), 'oide' (come here), and 'arigatou' (thanks). At the end of the month, we made dolls in preparation for Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day or Doll's Day.)

Music & Drama Class with Kiki

We had a lot of fun in the Music and Drama class this month! We talked about family diversity and read a book called "Many Types of Families". We then played a game called "Families have/can/are". The kids went up in groups of 3 and portrayed different members of families, said where they lived and what they did. We had all sorts of arrangements, including a family of 3 babies that lived in a castle and did art! We explored turning a well-known song into a dramatic play. "5 Little Monkeys" was the perfect song for this, with our actors playing the Mom and the Dr. really getting into it! For example, in PK1 Amelie as the Mom, used a toy phone to call Dr. Blair and they were both VERY committed to the roles! "Hello Dr.? Come quick! One of my monkeys has fallen and hit his head!" "Oh dear! I'll be right over!" Later in the month I introduced all of the classes to freestyle scat singing and read them a story about John Coltrane. The kids love making silly noises, so they were all naturals. To end the month, I did animal acting and freeze dance play with the younger kids, and I taught the older kids about the Blues! In P2, PK1, and Pk2, I let the kids give me suggestions of what makes them sad/mad, and we wrote a class song. We had some great lines like "Being 6 is tough, my brother always takes my stuff," and "It's tough being 5, I don't get to eat my ice cream." The kids got a kick out of creating a song together. Teacher Amanda even played the harmonica for us!



Website:

www.youngchildacademy.com



Contact:

206.282.7132



Email:

info@youngchildacademy.com