The Director’s Corner

We seem to finally be enjoying some warmer weather. “April Showers bring May Flowers!” We have spent so much time indoors and will be excited to spend time outside. Our children strengthen growing muscles when they are climbing, running, playing ball and jumping.

April will be another fun-filled month for all of us. I will be attending a CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) conference to learn more about requirements of the program as well as learning about how to successfully run a Farm-To-Preschool program! Although I will be missing all of my family for a few days, I am sure that the conference will be very informative and I look forward to bringing back very exciting information!

Please reserve your slot for the summer if you have not already done so. We are now accepting children from the community for the summer program and soon enough, fall registration will begin also.

Enjoy the sunshine,

Tonya Rivera
Executive Director
**WE BEAR NEWS**

We are marching into April with a love for movement, stories, tapes, sand, music/songs, and being outside.

We will be watching for changes in the weather and talking about Spring. We have already seen the chipmunk and several new birds at our feeder.

It is a time for growing. We will be planting both indoors and out. We have grown as well so please check our extra clothes bin to be sure everything still fits.

Think Spring!

Kelly, Nicole and Louise

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**BEAR CUB NEWS**

In April we will continue our Spring theme. Hopefully we will be able to continue our walks and look for signs of Spring. I’m sure it will be a muddy month, so please make sure your child has the proper outdoor clothing (especially boots).

We will also be talking about baby animals, making birds’ nests and many other spring related projects.

We would also like to welcome two more student volunteers—Cynthia and Savonna. The children really seem to enjoy new faces in the classroom. We always appreciate the extra hands and help that the students give.

Towards the end of April we will be having Parent-Teacher Spring conferences. We will be discussing your child’s progress and placement for the next year. I will be sending home a separate notice on this when I am ready to conference.

Chris, Jamie and Sarah

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**POOH BEAR NEWS**

The Pooh Bears are looking forward to participating in “Let’s G.O.” (Let’s Get Outdoors) month. After the extremely long winter, it will be a welcome change to spend more time outside and bring our activities out with us.

Spending more time outside also means it is time for us to be wearing sunscreen again. Be on the lookout for sunscreen permission forms (with directions attached) in your parent mailboxes. We can NOT apply sunscreen until we have a completed form!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Jimin!!

Kait Michelle

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**HONEY BEAR NEWS**

Dear Parents,

Spring is here!! :) And since it has been a really cold winter, we are really excited about getting outside more often!

March was a ton of fun; We rhymed like Dr. Suess and we had Wacky Wednesday! Leprechans came to visit on St. Patrick’s day and left the children magic rocks with gold inside!

April is a time to celebrate new life. We plan on having chicks visit the Honey Bear room. We will also be planting flowers to brighten up our room.

Please make sure your child’s cubby has extra clothes and proper outdoor gear since the weather can be a little unpredictable!

Happy Spring!

Claire, Brenda and Megan
TEDDY BEAR NEWS

It feels great to finally be able to play outside! It's been a very long time.

We had a great time with Nathaniel’s mom making bread in a bag and felted beads. We love having her come in to do activities with us! In April we will be doing a lot of Spring activities and will be working hard to get ready for the Art Show on May 29th. We are also looking forward to Kano’s mom coming in to do origami and Alexander’s grandmother coming to talk about her country with us!

We enjoy when parents come in to do activities and share their special talents and knowledge with us. If you are interested in doing so, please let us know! We would love to have you!

Happy Spring!

Gabe, Michele, Renee

POLAR BEAR NEWS

March began with a celebration of one of our most beloved children's authors, Dr. Seuss. We rhymed, we read, and we ate some green eggs and ham; it was a great day to be a Polar Bear! Also this month we dedicated a whole week to learning about dinosaurs. We rolled up our sleeves and got to work making an elaborate dino-rama. Not only was it a beautiful piece of art, but we also got to play with it and reenact the days when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. A big part of our dino-rama was the working volcano we created. It even erupted just like a real volcano and spewed out (classroom safe) lava. Also in March, we celebrated Saint Patrick’s Day with a week of making Leprechaun traps, reading some Irish folklore, and doing a rainbow color study. Around this time, the children began to notice the seasonal changes as Spring arrived! While we searched for signs of Spring we began to learn about the weather. We even made some class weather predictions. March may have come in like a lion, but we are all keeping our fingers crossed that it goes out like a lamb! We’re hoping for a mild and beautiful April. During this month we will be learning about Farm and Garden. The Polar Bears will be looking at life cycles and discovering firsthand how sunflowers develop from seed to plant. We will also be learning about farm animals. Hopefully we’ll get some hands-on knowledge with how they live and grow as well. Have a happy Spring and stay tuned for a month of farming adventures!

Nicky and Carolyn

GRIZZLY BEAR NEWS

Hooray! Spring is here! That means the children will be going outside a lot more to enjoy the nice weather. Parents, please make sure your child has the appropriate gear—especially some kind of boots for the playground (as it will be extremely muddy). Thanks!

We started March with discussing country and city life. The children were able to explore some of the similarities and differences using graphs, pictures and stories. The children had fun creating many projects on this theme. Next, we moved on to St. Patrick’s day where the children had a blast creating many craft projects. We almost caught that Leprechaun! He left us many surprises! April starts off with a new theme: “Let’s Move!” We will be experimenting with things that move—like sand and water—and we will be moving a lot! We will also learn about comparing size, weight and capacity. In addition, we will be learning about ordinal numbers, combining and separating.

The Grizzlies are doing a remarkable job with their writing and reading. This month we will be focusing on the letters H, T and J. The children are looking forward to Spring crafts—bunnies, chicks, and more! It is a busy month, which means lots of fun!

Ms. Miranda

PANDA BEAR NEWS

Hooray for April! We are psyched that spring is here. Our March themes brought lots of fun visitors into our classroom—thanks to Mr. Tony, Dr. Carter, Dr. Laura, the Vestal Fire Department, and the other “community helpers” that came to visit!

In addition to hopefully being able to get outside more, April will bring exciting themes including gardening, bugs, fairy tales and nursery rhymes. We will be learning about the way things grow and will get to try our hand at planting some different plants of our own! (Miss Stacy has a black thumb and any gardening help is welcome!)

April brings the end of our “letter of the week” unit. It’s hard to believe how much we’ve accomplished in such a short amount of time! We have been working on identifying the difference between “readers” and “rememberers”—readers look at the words when they tell us what it says and rememberers do not. We are working hard on all becoming readers!

We have been feverishly creating and saving artwork for our May Art Show! Keep your eyes peeled for more information in the coming months!

Happy birthday to Celia on April 18th!

Stacy and Julie :)
Key Signs of Kindergarten Readiness

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, the signs of a child’s kindergarten readiness include being able to:

* communicate about things he or she needs and wants
* be curious and enthusiastic about trying new activities
* share and take turns
* pay attention and sit still
* use a pencil and paint brushes
* count as high as 20
* recognize the letters of the alphabet

Other signs of readiness include the ability to follow one-to-three step instructions, behave well in the classroom, and get along well with peers.

When Kids Sneeze……

A cold or allergies?

Look for these allergy traits

- **Allergic “shiners”** - dark under-eye circles that occur from constant congestion.
- **The allergic “salute”** - when a child swipes his hand across his nose to clear the never-ending drainage.
- **Chronic sniffles with skin issues such as eczema** – skin conditions pester many who have the overactive immune systems that cause allergies.
- **A brother, sister or parent with allergies** – This means a child’s risk of developing similar problems is higher than average. If both parents have allergies, there is up to a 75% chance a child will develop allergies.

The Carnival is coming,
The Carnival is coming……..

Our 15th Annual Spring Carnival will be held on
Wednesday, May 6th
There will be food, games & prizes!
More info to follow soon!

When does our summer session start?
Summer session begins on
July 6th, and ends on August 14th.

Campus Pre-School will be closed on Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday.

You may notice some changes to the menu. We are offering more meal choices, including homemade soups. Staff are providing feedback to me via menu feedback forms. I welcome your feedback as well! Please see me if you have any questions or concerns!
-Miss Freedom, Assistant Director

Our March Open House was a success! Many prospective families toured and learned about our fabulous facility!

Be on the lookout for Fall and Summer enrollment forms! These forms are your enrollment agreement for Summer 2015, and give details about the themes for each week!

Please note that Campus Pre-School will be closed for the week of May 18—25th for routine maintenance on our heating system done by the University. We will reopen on the 26th for our normal hours.

The last date of the 9 Month Schedule is May 15th, 2015.
The last day of the 10 month Schedule is July 2nd, 2015.