

Learning Tree Preschool

Seedling News

"Where the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today"

March and April 2017

Director's Report

Here at Learning Tree we are happy to welcome March and all of its fun activities, warmer weather, signs of spring and St. Patrick's Day! We will start off the month with our Spring Book Fair the week of March 6th – 10th. One thing that I have noticed throughout the year is that all of the children love to listen to stories and try and read books on their own. Make sure to foster that love of reading by shopping our book fair. You may even be able to find some books for your Easter baskets. On March 20th, we will celebrate the first day of spring. This is the perfect week to learn all about baby chicks, especially since Quiver Farms will be delivering our eggs and incubator on March 22nd. By March 27th, our eggs will be hatching and our baby chicks will be born. This will be a very exciting time around Learning Tree. We love to watch, listen and take care of the baby chicks! They are just so cute!

On April 1st, we will hold our annual Breakfast with Bunny. Everyone will enjoy some bagels and breakfast treats as well as do some crafts, play some games, and have our faces painted all while we wait for the Bunny to arrive. Hope to see you hop on in and enjoy the festivities! We will also be celebrating the Week of the Young Child April 24th – 28th. Please watch out for a flyer to learn more about this special week.

It is hard to believe that we are getting closer to the end of our school year. In March, we begin to create our Parent Board for the upcoming year. Almost all of our board positions will be open for next year. If you will be returning in the fall, please consider coming to our next board meeting on March 1st to hear about the open positions and see if you would like to join.

I want to wish everyone a Marvelous March and an Awesome April!

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Happy Easter and Passover! HAPPY SPRING!!!

~Kara Crespo



Important Dates

March 1st - Board Meeting

March 6th - 10th - Book Fair

April 1st - Bunny Breakfast 9:30-11:30

April 5th - Board Meeting

April 10th - 17th - School Closed

April 18th - School Reopens

April 24th - Spring Movie Madness (3's and Pre-K) 11:45-1:30



Happy Birthday

March Birthdays:
27th - Hailey K.

April Birthdays:
2nd - Felix M.
4th - Eamon K.
7th - Brayden G.
13th - Maya C.
13th - Mila J.
15th - Genevieve G.
17th - Harper L.
18th - Maxine M.
20th - Alexander E.
20th - Samuel D.



Classroom News

Mommy & Me

As the saying goes, March arrives like a lion and leaves like a lamb. The children will make lion masks and lambs and we will talk about the many wonderful sounds and sights that tell us spring is arriving. We have many fun activities to share with you and your children this month. We will make kites with long tails to fly in March's winds, celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a search for some leprechaun gold and learn all about chicks!

In April, we will continue to talk about chicks and eggs and other signs of spring with some fun Easter crafts. Our ducks will prepare us for any April showers we might encounter. We will learn about different seeds and plant them and watch them grow and realize we need those April showers for our May flowers!

-Miss Heather

2 1/2 Year Olds



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! We will kick off March with a week of Dr. Seuss from One Fish Two Fish to Fox in Socks, we will love being silly with these classic stories. We will continue to talk about months and seasons as we transition into March and Spring. We will observe all that comes with that. Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day and we will learn about some different traditions. The kids will love learning about the chick cycle and what eggs need to hatch and all of the different animals that hatch from eggs.

Let's hope no one finds snake or alligator eggs when we have our Easter egg hunt in April. This month will also bring more time to talk about weather and making observations about the world around us. We will look outside for other signs of spring. We can see buds and new leaves on the trees, feel warm sun on the playground, and smell flowers blooming around our school. After a long winter, we are happy to be celebrating some of these other signs of Spring! We will be playing through April with purple paint and playdough!

-Miss Heather

Classroom News

3 Year Olds: Miss Katie

I blinked and...it's March!! I cannot believe how quickly this year is passing us by. The unpredictable weather has given the children many opportunities to experience the various changes in the weather and seasons. I find myself reflecting on the many changes I have noticed in my little friends so far. They have already grown so much, but we still have work to do!

March starts with a celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday. We made hot air balloons and discussed all the places we will go. We'll also make "Cat and the Hat" hats and practice rhyming. March encourages us to "go green" in our celebration of St. Patrick's Day. We will cut out shamrocks and try green fruits and veggies. We will also celebrate the start of spring.

Our class continues to work on our Number Books, and we will explore the letters Q through X. We will play with "Q" and his best friend "u", make quilts and quack like ducks. We will make raindrops and rainbows and learn how rainbows occur. We will make shape robots and build rockets using the letters of our names. The children will make snakes and practice their sound. We will learn about space and mix colors to paint burning suns. We will make tigers, paint trees, learn about texture, and spell our names using train cars.

In April, we will make umbrellas and underwater scenes with crayon and watercolor paint. We will print flowers in a Vase, use the color violet, and make vegetable prints. We will make watermelon W's, paint the world (for earth day), and make our own "Wild Things" after reading and discussing the book "Where the Wild Things Are."

April will be filled with signs of spring and our celebrations of spring holidays. My favorite program at Learning Tree is the Chick Hatching Project. We will learn about the life cycle of the chicken and babysit real chicks!

I am looking forward to all this and more! My class fills our little school with such joy and makes me feel "warm and fuzzy" each day we are in class together! ☺



~Miss Katie

Classroom News

3 Year Olds: Miss Kelly

Hopefully Spring will be here soon! We are ready for the warmer weather and the beautiful flowers to start blooming. We have had two new students join us since the new year, I would like to welcome Jeffrey and Logan to our class. They make a wonderful addition!

The boys and girls have been busy learning about the winter season and all of the changes it brings. We talked about all of the fun activities we could do during the winter. We made ice skates, snow globes, painted with snow and drew a picture of our favorite thing to do in the winter.

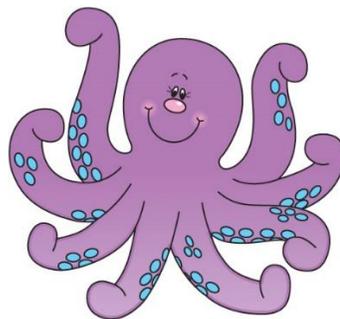
We sure felt the love during the month of February! The boys and girls decorated the class with Valentine mosaics, coffee filter hearts and kisses. Everyone worked so hard tracing and cutting hearts all month. The boys and girls decorated cereal boxes to hold all of their Valentine's Day cards and had special sweet treats during the party.

We can't wait to decorate for St. Patrick's Day and Easter! We will be busy getting our room ready for the Spring season.

We were able to cover letters K through O. We decorated a kite, made lions out of a paper plate, sponge painted a moon, stamped with numbers and made an adorable hanging octopus. We will continue working on a letter a week so please remember to reinforce these letters at home for more practice.

We will continue to practice writing our names and fine tuning our fine motor skills with scissor practice and tracing.

~Miss Kelly



Classroom News

Mrs. Ferrugiaro's Pre-K

Added to our February activities was a unit on dinosaurs. This unit began during the last week of February and will continue into early March. This is my favorite unit. The children will learn the names of some commonly known dinosaurs, specific facts about each dinosaur, and about carnivores and herbivores. The children will learn about fossils, hunt for fossils in the sand table, and make a fossil. We will learn about volcanoes and make a volcano, which the children will see erupt. We will conclude this unit by going on a dinosaur hunt.

Following our dinosaur unit, we will be learning about the five senses. The guessing games and crafts for this unit make it another fun unit.

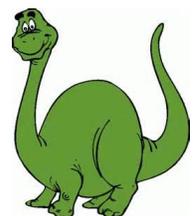
On March 22, we will have a visit from a farmer. The farmer will leave us with an incubator. The children will be able to help turn the eggs in the incubator and learn ways to help care for the developing chicks. We will discuss the process of development from egg to chick.

During the last part of March, the children will begin making their Easter crafts, which will continue into the first of April.

After our Easter break, our class will be learning about the spring. This is a special time of year. As the children watch the changing environment around them, they will learn about how plants grow. They will be observing a number of fun science activities such as watching a kidney bean as it roots and sprouts its stem and leaves; a carrot as it roots and forms new leaves due to the extra food stored in the root; and a celery stalk as it transports water to its leaves. Finally, they will plant their own flower seeds and watch them grow.

The days are going by quickly and as spring approaches, they will go by even faster. I see how much the children have grown. There are still so many things to do and so much to learn.

~Karen Ferrugiaro



Classroom News

Miss Cathy's Pre-K

It is so hard to believe that February has come and gone! We had a wonderful month with fun celebrations. We had a great Valentine Party with yummy treats! Thank You for all your generosity. The children had such a great time handing out all their Valentine Cards! All the children had beautiful answers for what "love is..!"

March will also be a very fun month! As the weather begins to warm up we will be learning about weather and the changes that the new season brings. For Science, we will be keeping a temperature log. It will be fun to track the temperature. We will be doing a mini-unit on rainbows. We will learn the colors of the Rainbow and make our rainbows for the hallway! We will learn the song ROY G BIV by Mr. Ray, this is a fun song to learn the colors of the rainbow and we will make colorful rainbows for the class!

We will also be celebrating Dr. Seuss in March. We will start the month out by reading, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" We will make Hot Air Balloons and discuss where we will go on our Hot Air Balloons. We will read Cat in the Hat, Green Ham and Eggs, Hop on Pop and One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish! We will make fun Cat in the Hat masks! We will talk about our favorite Dr. Seuss books. We will find the rhymes in Dr. Seuss books.

We will of course be celebrating St. Patrick's Day. We will make pots of gold and answer the question; What I would do, if I found a Pot of Gold? We will make leprechaun projects and have a St. Patrick's Day party. We will have an all things green party on Friday, March 17. The children will be asked to come to school dressed in green and we will celebrate with all green snacks; i.e. celery, cucumbers, grapes, and other items!!

We will also be learning Nursery Rhymes. This is an excellent pre-reading skill!

Look for us to reciting some classic Nursery Rhymes. We are also working hard on our last names. We are continuing to learn to write our letters and work in our journals.

During the month of March we will be learning, Qq, Rr, Ss and Tt. We will be doing Q-Tip Painting, we will make R's in rice, we will be straw painting and we will make Tt's out of toothpicks!

At the end of March we will start an "All about Me" Unit and we will practice our telephone number and learn the town we live in!! This is a favorite Unit for the children!

A highlight of the month will be when the baby chicks arrive. This is an absolute favorite for the children and one that we look forward to all year! We are lucky enough to have the chicks in our classroom so we get to watch them hatch and grow! We will talk about the life cycle of the chick and make very chick projects!

April will be busy as we prepare for Spring and the Spring Holidays! We will keep a signs of Spring Chart and look for all new Science Words! We will be looking for budding plants, green grass, bunnies, ladybugs and other signs of Spring!

We will prepare for Easter by making fun Easter Projects and have a fun Easter Egg Hunt.

We will be learning the letters Uu, and Vv. We will make Umbrella Projects and make a class Volcano. This month we will also do a special literature unit. In this Unit we will read some classic stories for young children that we have not read yet. We will read Caps for Sale, There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, the Little Red Hen, Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, and many more. We will do fun language based projects that go along with these stories!

We will also be working on our numbers and doing number centers and working on writing our numbers more! We will also be continuing to work hard on letter journals!

We will also be beginning to work hard on our Graduation Songs for the end of the year! I think we have a couple of class favorites picked out!

This class is working so hard and I am so proud of how hard all of them are working!

~Miss Cathy



Classroom News

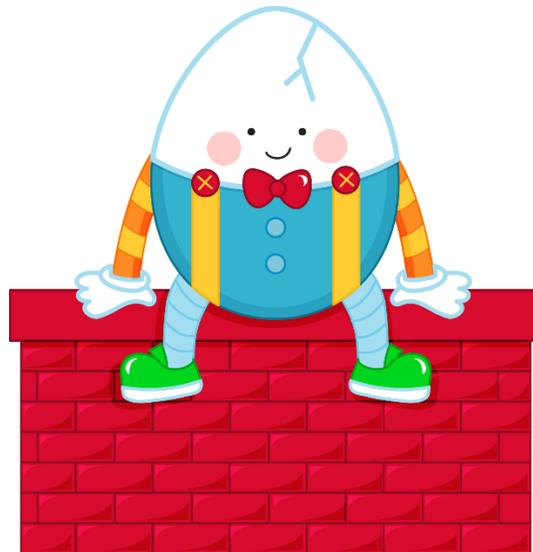
3 Year Olds: Enrichment

The boys and girls had so much fun learning about all of the animals that live in the Polar Regions. We learned about polar bears, penguins, seals, walruses and the snow owl.

We just started our Nursery Rhyme Unit! The boys and girls have been busy singing songs, learning rhymes and watching different versions of the classic nursery rhymes. We made a broken Humpty Dumpty, a lamb out of bubble wrap and a spider from a paper towel roll. We will finish up with our Nursery Rhyme Unit and begin our Ocean Unit next month.

During the Friday Enrichment Class, the boys and girls continue to work on their fine motor skills with extra writing and cutting practice. We have also been working on name writing. I also reinforce the letter of the week with some extra crafts and activities.

~Miss Kelly



Classroom News

Pre-K Enrichment

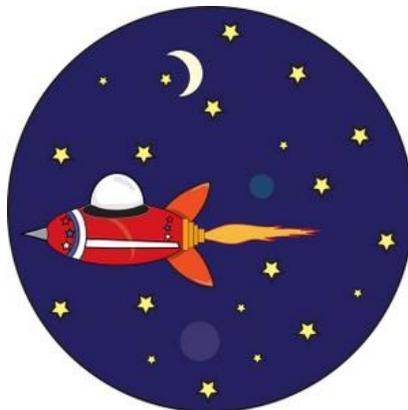
We had many fun learning experiences in February! We learned all about winter animals, especially polar bears and penguins!!! We had a great time learning how to draw penguins! Another highlight was learning about Chinese New Year, and we had a great time trying to write Happy New Year in Chinese.

March will be a really fun month with new adventures! In March, we are going to blast off into Space! We will read books about Space such as, *On the Moon* by Anna Milbourne and *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me*, by Eric Carle! We will start the unit by asking the question; “What is Space?” and “How do you think astronauts get into space?” We will learn new vocabulary words and make many space related projects! We will learn about the planets and learn a new song about the planets! We will pretend we are on a spaceship and think about the planets that we would visit! We will make projects about the Sun, and the Earth and the Solar System!

We will make space Playdough! This is a very exciting unit and the kids have a blast learning about SPACE!!!

We are also working on our language journals and continuing to learn about money! This month we learn about the nickel and a dime! The kids are picking up with this concept and love to play store!

We will also get the excitement of having the baby chicks in our room! This is so fun to watch and experience!



In April, Fairytales come to life! This month we will be reading classic Fairytales, such as; The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella! We will read different versions of the stories and compare and contrast the different versions!

We will make puppets and retell the stories with our character masks! We will discuss the characters in the books! We will have a great time making storyboards and doing extended language activities!

We will also be working with beginning letter sound boards. We are working hard on beginning sounds and pre-reading skills!

March and April will be very exciting! Spring will be in the air with many our learning adventures! I am so proud of all the children!

~Miss Cathy



Committee News

A Message from the Parent Board Chair

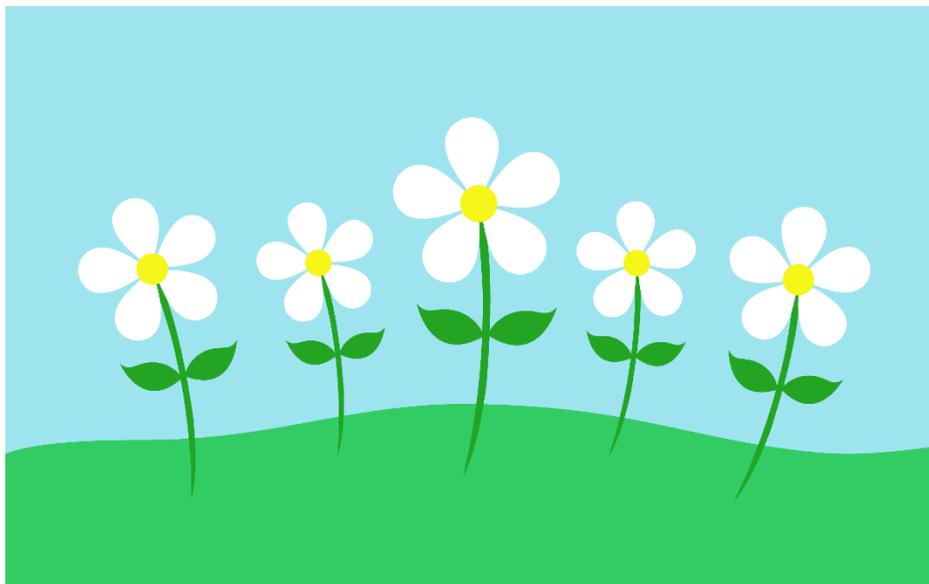
Even though we have had a mild Winter, I am so excited that Spring is quickly approaching!

This is always a fun season at Learning Tree! We have our annual Bunny Breakfast on April 1st from 9:30-11:30. This is such a fun family event with a special guest appearance from our favorite furry Easter friend! Also making an appearance at our school are our other furry friends, the chicks! This is one of the most exciting weeks for the kids.

I would like to thank the Events Committee for throwing an awesome pizza party, and Valentine's Day themed Movie Madness. I am looking forward to the events coming up!

I hope the rest of Winter remains mild, and that everyone enjoys their Spring Break with the kids!

~Shannon Schneider



Committee News

Fundraising Committee

Mixed Bag Designs:

Thank you to all that ordered from our Mixed Bag Designs fundraiser. You should be receiving your items shortly.

Due to your generosity, we were able to raise \$652.80 for the school.

Bunny Breakfast Silent Auction:

You should have all received a notice regarding our Bunny Basket Silent Auction. All classes have been given a theme to work on. There is also a donation request letter in the office if you want to present one to a business. The class parents will be helping coordinate the basket with the other parents in your class. Please check with your class mom about dropping off all donations to them or to the office during the week of March 20th for us to put together.

The baskets are displayed during the week of March 27th and the winners will be announced after the Bunny Breakfast. In the past, we have had so many items that we have created a couple baskets for each theme and even created other themes. It was a very successful fundraiser and we appreciate all of the donations and your help with this. If you have any questions on this please contact myself or Kara.

Looking forward to seeing all of the wonderful baskets this year!!

Thank you all for your continued support!

Yvonne Kelly - Fundraising Chair



Public Relations

Backpack Crew Donations:

March - Mac and Cheese

April - Spaghetti

We still have spots in our Mom and Me, 2 1/2 and 3's classes. If you know anyone looking for a preschool for the fall, please have them call and schedule a tour.

One way that we advertise is through our Learning Tree postcards. They are located by the school door. Please take some and drop them off at any businesses that you know of that are kid friendly or share them with friends. Thank you for continuing to spread the word about our preschool.

