

# Learning Tree Preschool

## Seedling News

*“Where the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today”*

May and June 2017

### Director's Report

Can you believe that we are almost at the end of our school year??? I can't believe how quickly the time has gone. There have been so many celebrations, activities, projects, games, songs, stories, and lots of fun had by all and there is still more to come!

Last week, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child! The children enjoyed Dress up Day, Pajama Day, bringing in their stuffed animals, wearing purple and having a special Popsicle snack. Everyone on staff here at Learning Tree love teaching your children and watching them grow. It is a very special time in their lives and we are thrilled to be a part of it!

May will be a very busy month! We will have our Spring Open House, our end of the year music show with the Little Rockers, and we will learn all about metamorphosis. Each classroom will have their own caterpillars and ladybug larvae and watch them transform into butterflies and ladybugs much like we have watched your children grow and blossom throughout the year!

During the last two weeks of school our Mom and Me, 2 1/2 and 3's classes will perform in their Seedling Revue shows and our Pre-K students will have their first Graduation. So many wonderful memories will be and have been created this year. I hope you have enjoyed your year at Learning Tree as much as your children, the staff and I have!

A HUGE Thank you to my Learning Tree staff this year! I can't say enough wonderful things about all of you and the work you put into our preschool! Thanks for all of your hard work, dedication, and love of teaching and working with our students!

I want to say thank you to all of our parents that have donated their time throughout the school year being committee chairs, parent reps or just helping out at our various events! Our school wouldn't be the same without all of you! Thank you to my Executive Board, Shannon, Stacey, Yvonne, and Michela for all of your help the past couple of years! I will miss all of you and hope to see some of you back in the future! A big Thank you to Yvonne and all of her fundraising efforts over the past few years! We have been able to purchase so many items for our classrooms and provide many fun activities for the children with the funds that have been raised. We all truly appreciate it!

Congratulations to all of our Pre-K graduates!!! Good Luck in Kindergarten! We will miss you all!! Make sure to come back and visit when you can so we can hear all about how you are doing!

Happy Mother's Day to all of our beautiful mothers and Happy Father's Day to all of our awesome fathers!

I wish everyone a relaxing, fun, and sensational summer!

I look forward to seeing all of our returning families in September!

~Kara Crespo



And now I will leave you with my favorite End of the Year Poem:

*Great Expectations*

It's time to say, "Good-bye."  
Our year has come to an end.  
I've made more cherished memories  
And many more new friends.  
I've watched your children learn and grow  
And change from day to day.  
I hope that all the things we've done  
Have helped in some small way.  
So it's with happy memories  
I send them out the door,  
With great hope and expectations  
For what next year holds in store.

## Important Dates

May 3rd - Board Meeting 9:30

May 10th - Spring Open House 9:30-11

May 19th - Little Rockers End of the Year Music Show 10:30

May 24th - Board Transition Meeting 9:30

May 29th & 30th - School Closed

May 31st - Mom & Me (W) Seedling Revue 9:30

June 1st - 2 1/2 Seedling Revue 9:30

June 2nd - Mom & Me (F) Seedling Revue 9:30

June 5th - Miss Kelly's Seedling Revue 10:30

June 7th - Miss Katie's Seedling Revue 10:30

June 7th - Last Day of Enrichment and Lunch Buddies

June 8th - Pre-K Graduation 10:30

June 9th - Last Day of School



# Happy Birthday

## May

4th - Leo W.  
4th - Luke G.  
13th - Charlotte M.  
30th - Donnie M.  
31st - Connor B.

## July

7th - John M.  
15th - Julia B.  
25th - Liam D.  
31st - Phoebe B.

## June

7th - Annabella G.  
17th - Juno S.  
24th - Maggie B.  
25th - Shane H.  
26th - Alex W.  
26th - Gregory J.  
27th - Addison F.

## August

3rd - Etta S.  
4th - Michael F.  
7th - Gavin F.  
7th - Isabella M.  
8th - Dempsey W.  
8th - Finnegan S.  
12th - Olivia G.  
14th - Juliet C.  
15th - Alexis M.  
15th - Griffin M.  
16th - Jeffrey G.  
19th - Dylan F.  
24th - Meghan M.  
27th - Alexandra A.



# Classroom News

## **Mommy & Me**

In Mommy and Me, we are hoping the April showers will bring us May flowers. We will continue to learn about life cycles as we watch our seeds grow and study different insects. It is always exciting to watch the caterpillars' transformation to beautiful butterflies. We will make our own caterpillars and butterflies and read Julia Donaldson's *Monkey Puzzle* to celebrate our wonderful moms for Mother's Day! We will use the caterpillars and butterflies and flowers to help decorate the room for our Seedling Review at the end of the month. We love to see how much we have grown and hope you enjoy our show! We are excited for summer and the beach and we won't forget our dads for Father's Day before we wrap up for the year!

It has been another wonderful year in Mommy and Me and I thank you for sharing your children with me during their first school experience. I hope you have had as much fun as I have. I can't believe the strides they have all made during the year. I love seeing the children in the Fall and hearing about their summer adventures so please be sure to stop by and say hello!

Lots of love,  
Miss Heather



# Classroom News

## **2 1/2 Year Olds**

We are very excited that our whole class is now 3! As 3 year olds, we have shown that we are ready for some more serious science and very busy days. We loved the chicks and are eager to continue learning about life cycles, habitats, weather, and insects this month. We will learn about planting and helpful and harmful insects in our gardens. We will also be practicing some special songs and working on some top secret projects as we get ready to celebrate the Mommies with a special party. We will read one of my favorite books, *Five Minutes' Peace* by Jill Murphy. We will think of ways we can help our mommies so they can have their own five minutes' peace! After Mother's Day we will be busy preparing for our seedling revue. The kids will be busy making crafts to decorate the stage and learning their songs and dances.

In June we will be wrapping up our year together with some beach lessons and early Father's Day plans. We have come very far in our year together and I can't believe how much the kids have grown physically as well as socially and academically since September. I've truly enjoyed our time together and will miss them over the summer. I'll be excited to peek into the 3's classes next Fall and see my special friends!

Have a wonderful summer!

Love,

Miss Heather



# Classroom News

## **3 Year Olds: Miss Katie**

Greetings! I cannot believe another year is almost behind us already! Miss Katie's class came back from Spring Break eager to share stories of our adventures. We jumped right back into learning and are well on our way to completing our Letter of the Week Curriculum.

In the coming weeks, we will have a letter scavenger hunt, where X marks the spot and the children will need to follow a map. We will practice yoga and have "Yellow Day." The children will make zebra stripes and learn about the zoo. Of course, the month of May will begin with Mother's Day, and the children will make special cards and artwork for their Mommies...and maybe sing a song or two!

We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the life cycle of the chicken and babysitting the chicks through the Chick Hatching Project. In May, we will expand on our knowledge of life cycles as we witness the metamorphosis of butterflies and ladybugs.

And of course, we have our own metamorphoses going on. While it will be hard to watch my students move on, I am so proud of their growth and readiness for the next stage of learning. They are ready...for bigger classes, new friends, and more challenging lessons. I, on the other hand, am happy there is still more time for us to explore bugs and warmer weather, finish our Letter of the Week Curriculum, practice for the Seedling Revue, and play with our friends.

~Miss Katie



# Classroom News

## **3 Year Olds: Miss Kelly**

I can't believe the end of the year is upon us! This school year has passed us by so quickly but left us with so many wonderful memories. I have had a wonderful year watching your children grow and blossom throughout the months. Everyone has worked so hard and is ready to move on to bigger things.

The boys and girls have been busy learning about the Spring season and all of the changes it brings. We made birds in a nest and colorful bird sun catchers to decorate the room. They had a great time learning about the life cycle of a chicken. It was a wonderful experience being able to watch the baby chicks hatch. We made fluffy chick fork paintings and a chicken life cycle. We will be learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly and ladybug during the month of May. We will be able to observe them both throughout their stages of life and then release them into nature.

We have completed letters P through W and will finish up the alphabet during May. The boys and girls go on a treasure hunt each week in the classroom to find items that begin with the letter we are working on. That is a fun game you can play at home to reinforce letter sounds. We made pompom paintings, colorful rainbows and learned about the sun. We made turtles, umbrellas, vases and glittery webs.

We have some fun things planned for the month of June! The boys and girls have been practicing for our Seedling Review and can't wait to sing for everyone. We will be celebrating our classmates with summer birthdays and we will have an ice cream party to end the school year.

I have had an amazing school year! It was so nice getting to know all of you and your beautiful children. I hope everyone has a fantastic summer and please don't forget to visit me next year!!!

~Miss Kelly



# Classroom News

## Mrs. Ferrugiaro's Pre-K

In April, we concluded our spring unit by learning about plants that grow from bulbs and plants that grow from seeds. We discussed that plants need water, soil, and sun to grow. We cut open a kidney bean seed so as to see a little baby plant inside. We are currently observing some kidney bean seeds that have been placed in a jar and provided with water. We will watch for them to sprout and grow leaves. We are also observing a carrot top. The carrot top that has been placed in water and put in the sun. The carrot top will grow new leaves due to the abundance of food it stores. Additionally, we are observing a celery stalk that was sliced so as to put one side in red colored water and one in blue water. The children will be able to see the dyes being transported throughout the stalk. Finally, the children planted zinnia seeds.

During the month of May, the children will be observing live caterpillars as they go through metamorphosis. Also in May, will celebrate Mother's Day with a Mother's Day Tea. You will be receiving invitations for this event. Though Father's Day is not until after school is over, Dad will not be forgotten. We will be making Dad an early gift that will be sent home for you to save for Father's Day. Another unit in May will center on animals that live in the ocean. As part of this unit, the children chose an animal they would be if they lived in the ocean. They will draw a picture of this animal, and their pictures will be compiled to make a classroom book.

Graduation day is around the corner and we will be very busy preparing to perform on stage and making crafts.

The year is quickly coming to an end. I would like to thank you for sharing your children with me. They have really grown since September, and I am so pleased with the progress they have made. It has been such a pleasure to be with this group of children every day. They are such a sweet group and I am truly going to miss them. I feel very lucky to have such a wonderful year with such wonderful children. I hope you will look back on this experience with happy thoughts. Have a safe and happy summer.

Love to All,

Karen Ferrugiaro



# Classroom News

## Miss Cathy's Pre-K

I cannot believe how fast April has come and gone! We had such a great time with so many exciting learning units. We had such a great time with the baby chicks and love watching them grow! We were so sad to say goodbye to send them back to the farm but were so grateful for the fun that we go to have with them. This was a wonderful Science Unit! I am hoping that it is a memory the children will hold onto forever! We also had a wonderful Spring Party! We had a great time looking for eggs on the playground. We also made fun bunny projects! I am very thankful for all the party contributions. My class is very lucky to have such wonderful parents to provide great treats!

The children and I had a wonderful time celebrating Earth Month! We ended April with a great unit where the children learned and discussed the value of taking care of Planet Earth! We finger-painted Planet Earth and then answered the question; "How can you make the World a better place with your own two hands?"

The children gave very thoughtful and creative answers! Look at our fun bulletin boards. We also read Great Books for Earth day; such as The Earth Book, by Todd Parr and a Tree is Nice. We learned the words Recycle, Reuse, and Reduce. We read books about Garbage Collectors and learned all about where the Garbage goes!

We had a very creative week with our Invention Station. The children made all types of projects; such as gardens, robots, cars, buses and many other creations. It was wonderful to see their imaginations go to work! This was a very fun and meaningful Unit!

May will be filled with many Science Moments. We have started our growing unit and every day we will watch to see if our flowers are growing. We will also have our vegetable growing center. Growing centers are a wonderful way for children to engage in learning.

We will be having our Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 12 at 11:00. This is a very special day and the children will work very hard on this day. The kids will work very hard on keepsake projects and are so excited to celebrate and surprise our **AMAZING MOMS!!!**

We will also be doing a unit on caterpillars and butterflies! We will watch caterpillars go through **Metamorphosis!** We will have so much fun watching caterpillars become butterflies. We will release the butterflies at the end of the month. Look for fun caterpillar

and butterfly projects. We will also pretend like we are butterflies as we come through a tunnel with colored scarves. We will also be learning about worms!

We will be finishing the month of May with a unit about All about Me! We will be doing self-portraits, family portraits, handprints, and learning our phone numbers and addresses! We will also take a walking trip to the Post Office to mail our graduation invitations! The children love this trip!

We will also complete our letter learning and finish our Alphabet Journals! The kids are so excited to bring the books our home at the end of the year!

In June we will be doing a back to the Beach Unit! We will learn about sea animals! We will make keepsake shells and sand art projects!

It is so hard to believe that this is my final newsletter of this school year! I have truly had an amazing year with this class. We have had so many fun memories and each and every child has left an imprint in my life! It has truly been my pleasure to watch their personality and character develop and mature in all areas throughout the year! I cannot thank my parents enough for the enthusiasm and joy that you have all brought to our class! You were over the top generous in every way and I could not have done it without you! I wish everyone a most peaceful, fun and safe summer! I will be waiting for visitors next year!

**Parent Alert: Special Dates:****Mother's Day Tea: May 12****Graduation: June 8****End of The Year Party: June 9****Much Love,****Miss Cathy**

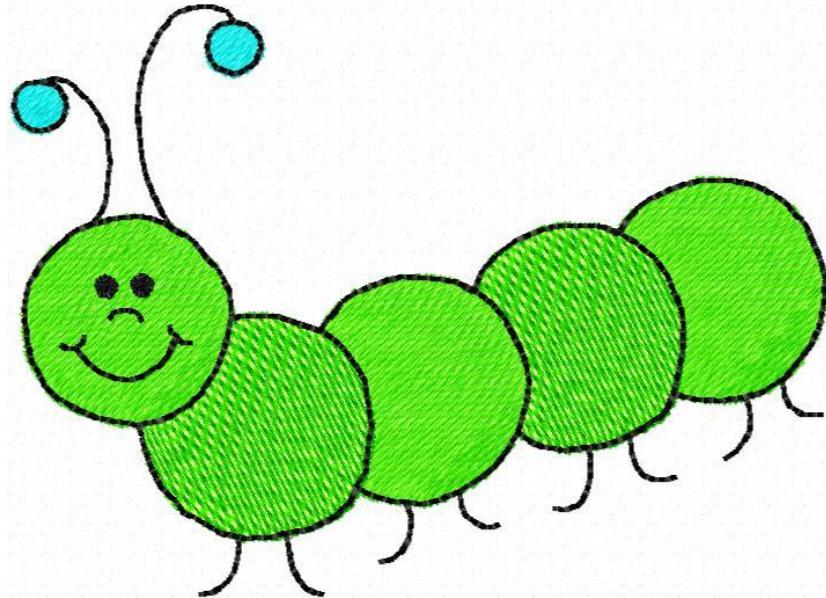
# Classroom News

## **3 Year Olds: Enrichment**

We finished up our Ocean Unit and had some under the sea fun! The boys and girls worked hard learning about all of the creatures of the sea. We talked about sharks, fish, sea turtles, star fish and the octopus. Our end of the year unit will be an extension of our class discussion on caterpillars and butterflies.

I have enjoyed spending extra time with my Enrichment Students. We were able to learn about and discuss many different things during these extended days. As well as extra practice cutting and writing. Everyone has worked so hard this year and I'm proud of everyone's progress. I hope you had as much fun as I did!

-Miss Kelly



# Classroom News

## **Pre-K Enrichment**

We had a great time learning about Outer Space and the planets. We made a fun moon project, a sun project and did a rocket. We did a language project where we answered; "What would you do if you could go to Space?" We looked at pictures of Space and learned new Science Vocabulary Words; such as gravity, space station, and astronaut. The children loved pretending like we were in a Space Shuttle.

We had a fun time making centerpieces for the Breakfast with Bunny Tables and did fun language based projects. We also painted our flower pots and planted our flowers. We had a great time celebrating Earth Month. We learned how to make homemade playdough in class. The children loved getting messy with the flour!

Once the playdough was made we added blue and green food coloring and made our own small planet Earths. We answered the question; "How can we help take care of Planet Earth?" They children all gave thought provoking answers! We also wrapped up the month with the Invention Station and all the children had a great time having the opportunity to create new items from recycled materials!

In May we will read some Classic Fairytales; such as Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs. We will talk about the beginning, the middle and the end of a story. We will learn what makes a Fairytale! The children will learn how most Fairytales start and finish! Look for fun projects!

Most of May will be spent celebrating one of the children's most famous authors; Eric Carle. We will do process art the way that Eric Carle does with tissue paper! We will add watercolors to tissue paper and pick our favorite Eric Carle picture and try to make! We will read; A House for Hermit Crabs, Today is Monday, The Very Busy Spider, and Mister Seahorse.

We will finish the month by talking about time and money! The children are continuing to learn the difference between the coins and are able to sort them out accordingly! We will also be completing our language journals! We will be reading books outside and talk about the parts of a book! We will also be reinforcing our graduation songs and finishing End of The Year Projects!

It is so hard to believe that the end of year is approaching! The kids

have been truly wonderful and it has been such a privilege to watch all the children grow in all areas! They have all grown so much and I feel so lucky to have had the pleasure of watching them all mature in all areas!!! Their smiles and laughter will be something I will cherish forever. I am also thankful for all my wonderful parents! I am wishing everyone a wonderful and happy summer!

Much Love,

Miss Cathy



## Committee News

### A Message from the Parent Board Chair

I can't believe this is the last newsletter of the year! It is also the last newsletter that I will be writing because my son will be graduating in June!

First, I would like to start off by saying thank you to all of the parents who contributed to our silent auction baskets! This is one of our best fundraisers, and it couldn't be done without our Fundraising Chair, Yvonne Kelly, and all of you. Next, I would like to thank the Events Committee for throwing an amazing Bunny Breakfast. It looked like everyone really enjoyed themselves! Last, I would like to thank the Library Committee for putting together another smoothly ran book fair. I always love watching the kids grow their love of reading!

Even though this school year is quickly coming to an end, we still have a lot to look forward to in the next few months! In May we have our Little Rockers show, which is always a lot of fun! And of course, we have the Seedling Revues and Graduation. If you have ever been to one of these events, you know to bring the tissues!

I have really enjoyed my time in the school for the past four years, and being the Chair for the past three. I had a wonderful board to work with, and my kids had some awesome teachers, all of whom I will miss very much. I would like to welcome the entire board for next year, specifically your new chair, Vanessa Siroti. I hope you guys enjoy your time as much as I did!

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

-Shannon Schneider



# Committee News

## Fundraising Committee

I just wanted to thank everyone who contributed throughout the year to all of our school events. It is because of your support and generosity that Learning Tree continues to thrive. I wish all of the families leaving this year the best of everything to come. To all the families returning next year, enjoy every single moment as it goes by way too quickly.

### **Strollos Lighthouse Fundraiser**

Last Day of School Ice Cream Fundraiser Red Bank - More info to follow

### **Storybook Land Family Fun Day**

June 12, 2017 - Storybook Land - More info to follow

~Yvonne Kelly



## Public Relations

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Backpack Crew throughout the year! They are very grateful for all of our help! Our final collection for the month of May will be Oatmeal.

We will be having our Spring Open House on May 10th from 9:30-11. Please share this with any family, friends, and neighbors that may be looking for a Mom and Me, 2 1/2, or 3's preschool class. If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page and share our upcoming Open House post to your page. Thank you for spreading the word about Learning Tree!!!

