



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Our favorite time of year is arriving at Learning Tree! Spring! Which also means a visit with a farmer from Quiver Farms and a delivery of eggs and an incubator. All of us here will become little mommies and daddies to some cute baby chicks. Our first job is to make sure the eggs are turned each day and then we wait about a week until they hatch. Finally, we will need to teach them how to drink and eat, keep them warm and keep their brooder box clean. It is such an exciting time at Learning Tree! The eggs will be arriving on March 5th. I will keep everyone posted on how the chicks are doing through our Facebook and Instagram pages. So make sure you have joined our social media sites so you can be a part of the life cycle of our chicks!

Another huge event that is happening in March is our Breakfast with the Bunny! The children will love this event which is filled with crafts, activities, and of course the Bunny! The week leading up to this event we have our Spring Silent Basket Auction. Make sure to check out all the great

baskets that we have on display in our front hallway! Thanks to everyone who donated items and helped put these baskets together!

March and April will be filled with St. Patrick's Day, Easter and tons of spring related activities and crafts! Hopefully, we will have lots of days full of warm air and sunny skies instead of the usual rainy, windy days of spring. One thing is for sure, there will be lots of talk about the changes in the weather and we will be looking for signs of spring everywhere!

During the month of April, we will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child! Each day will be a special day celebrating early learning and young children! We will also be hosting our first ever Pancake Dinner in April! It will be a night of breakfast for dinner and relaxation for the children! Be on the lookout for flyers with more information on these events!

During the months of March and April, we will start putting together our Parent Board for the 2018/2019 school

Seedling
News
*Where the
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year! If you are interested in becoming more involved with the school as one of our committee chairs or class parent, please let me know or join us at our next board meeting. We also still have spots in some of our classes for next year, so please continue to spread the word about our preschool. Happy Spring Everyone!

Backpack Crew Donations:

- ❖ March – We will be collecting boxes of popcorn!
Each week the Backpack Crew puts in a special snack for the children to have over the weekend! So I thought we could collect boxes of popcorn since it is a favorite of many of our students!
- ❖ April – We will be collecting packets of oatmeal!

Thank you everyone for your generous donations to the Backpack Crew during the year!

- Miss Kara

An Update from the United Methodist Church

Each summer, the United Methodist Church of Red Bank hosts their annual Vacation Bible School! It is an awesome program. One that my children have participated in since they were 4. Below is a message about it from the church. Please let me know if you have any questions about it or call Mrs. Dawson. – Miss Kara

Vacation Bible School- Save the date for June 25-29th from 9-12:30 PM. This year's theme will be *Rolling River Rampage- where we will experience the ride of a lifetime with God!* We'll learn about life's adventure, acceptance, joy, rest and peace all with a connection to how we can find these things at the river. We will teach the children that they can help other children by contributing food and money to help those who have so much less than they do. Registration will begin April 29th for all those 4 years old through 6th grade. The cost will be \$25.00 per child for those who can pay and \$15.00 for those who can volunteer at VBS to cover their costs. Positions for upcoming 7th graders are limited so sign up early. Contact River Guide Elaine Dawson at 732-747-0446 ext. 11 with any questions. The river will fill quickly so make sure you register on April 29th.

A Message from the Parent Board Chair

Happy almost Spring everyone! I know it's hard to believe that spring is coming soon but it is, and the spring season is a really exciting time here at Learning Tree.

We have our Annual Bunny Breakfast on Saturday March 10th from 9:30-11:30. This such a fun event for the whole family! There will be Easter crafts, face painting, egg races and a bunch of other fun games.

We have our silent auction items up for bid one last time, so make sure you bid on the amazing baskets each class was inspired to put together. They are really awesome! And last but certainly not least there will be a visit from the Eater Bunny!!!

This is also the season where our furry little friends; the chicks show up. Our little ones love visiting them, learning about them and petting them. We also have a Pancake dinner on April 12th! Come in your PJ's for some pancakes, children's yoga and story time.

I also wanted to give a special Thank You to our Event's Committee for so many awesome events over the past few months. We had a pizza party dinner, a wonderful cake decorating class at Sugar Rush and a fun Valentine's Day inspired Movie Madness! Spring is underway at Learning Tree; we hope you come and share all of the fun with us!

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

- 5th – 10th – Spring Silent Basket Auction
- 7th – Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- 10th – Bunny Breakfast 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 30th – School Closed

APRIL

- 2nd – 6th – School Closed
- 9th – School Reopens
- 11th – Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- 12th – Pancake Dinner 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- 16th – 20th – Week of the Young Child
- 23rd – Spring Movie Madness 11:45 – 1:30



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH

- 12th - Hope A.
- 14th - Brian G.
- 20th - Tyler S.

APRIL

- 2nd - Felix M.
- 4th - Eamon K.
- 6th - Adelynn D.
- 13th - Maya C.
- 16th – Joseph M.
- 18th – Maxine M.
- 19th – Harper L.
- 20th – Sam D.

Classroom News

Miss Heather's Mommy & Me Class

Happy birthday Dr. Seuss! We will kick off the month celebrating this great author's birthday with some fun projects and read alouds. March is here and with it are signs of spring! We will talk about the many wonderful sounds and sights that tell us spring is arriving. Our chicks arrive this month and we can't wait to learn all about them! 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 and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a search for some leprechaun gold!

In April we will talk about the weather some more! You can't have a rainbow without some rain! Our puddle ducks will prepare us for any April showers we might encounter. We will also learn about different seeds and plant them and watch them grow and realize we need those April showers for our May flowers!



SPRING



Classroom News

Miss Heather's 2 ½ Year Old Class

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. March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. We will continue to talk about months and seasons as we transition into March and spring and will observe all that comes with that.

Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day and we will learn about some different traditions and of course talk about rainbows! The Learning Tree chicks are always a highlight of every year! The kids will love learning about the chick life cycle and what eggs needs 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!

April 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 play dough!



Classroom News

Miss Katie's 3 Year Old Class

I blinked and...it's March!! March and April will bring many opportunities to expand our knowledge of weather and seasons. Our winter classroom decorations and artwork have been dwindling and will soon be replaced with signs of spring! The changes in the weather cause me to reflect 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!

We will spend some time learning about Dr. Seuss and celebrating his birthday by reading some of his best-loved books and making Seuss-inspired crafts. We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day and all things green, and the class will try different green fruits and veggies! We will be learning all about spring through our increasing understanding of the calendar and seasons, science experiments, songs, and art

projects. 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! It is a wonderful way for the children to experience the miracle of new life and spring renewal!

Our class continues to explore the letters of the alphabet. Students will be introduced to the letters R through X, and practice writing and making their sounds. We will make everything from raindrops and rainbows to x-rays! Our practice writing our names is really paying off; keep practicing!

The class is excited for warmer weather, and we are hoping for more "lamb" days than "lion" days! Enjoy the promise of the season!

Classroom News

Miss Kelly's 3 Year Old Class

Hopefully the spring weather will be here soon! We are ready for the warmer temperatures and the beautiful flowers to start blooming.

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, name snowmen and drew a picture of our favorite thing to do in the winter. During the months of March we will be learning about the spring season and all beautiful things that will happen.

We sure felt the love during the month of February! The boys and girls decorated the class with Valentine mosaics, coffee filter hearts and love bugs. 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 decorating our room for these celebrations. We will also focus on the author Dr. Seuss.

We were able to cover letters K through P. We painted with Legos, learned about the different faces of the moon, stamped with numbers and made an adorable pink pig to go with our story Pigsty. We will continue working on a letter a week so please remember to reinforce these letters a home for more practice.

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



Classroom News

Ms. Kelly's 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 handprint spider. We have a few more rhymes to go before we will finish up 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.

Classroom News

Ms. Ferrugiaro's Pre-K Class

During the month of March, we will be watching an incubator filled with developing chicks. The children will be learning about the life cycle of the chicks and that we need to help the eggs develop normally by turning them, keeping them warm and keeping the incubator moist. They will also be able to hold the chicks once they hatch.

Also in March, we will be making Easter baskets and a special art project for Breakfast with Bunny. We will dye eggs and anticipate the arrival of the Easter bunny.

A small unit, planned for March, will focus on animals that live in the ocean.

In April, we will be learning about dinosaurs. This is a long unit and my very favorite. The dinosaurs will come to life through pictures, stories, art, toys and more. We will learn the names and some of the characteristics of some commonly known dinosaurs. We will talk about the difference between herbivores and carnivores. We will learn what a fossil is and that paleontologists have studied dinosaurs by collecting fossils. We will make a

fossil. We will also be learning about volcanoes and

we will make a volcano and watch it erupt. We will culminate this unit with a dinosaur hunt and the dinosaurs will, once again, become extinct. What fun!

Also in April, we will start our spring unit, which will continue into May. We will learn about plants grow can from seeds and from bulbs. We will learn that plants need water, sun and soil to grow. The children will observe the seed of the kidney bean plant as it roots and sprouts. Some celery stalks placed in water containing dye will provide an opportunity for the children to see the transport system of a plant.

The children are enjoying the post office that was added to our classroom. They have been enthusiastic about doing mail. They have been getting practice writing letters that they normally would not write.

I have started working with the children on printing their last names. Please keep in mind, that while they are making a lot of progress with their printing, this is not a task

that will be mastered as pre-k ends. Creating opportunities for them to practice printing is beneficial. Try to be creative. Writing a letter ten times is not fun. Try having your child make cards for family members or have them draw a picture and write the name of the person they are drawing the picture for. They can make a small book of family members and write the names of each person on the page where they draw their picture. I will be sending their wipe-off printing boards home at the end of the year. The children usually enjoy writing on them.

We have been spending time on rhyming words. This is a very important task. While we will continue to work on rhyming at school, you should be rhyming with them at home. I strongly suggest reciting nursery rhymes with them. This is a somewhat forgotten practice. It is unfortunate since rhyming is important when it comes to learning to read.

As I write this newsletter, Easter is over a month away. I look forward to the warmer days of spring. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday.

Classroom News

Ms. Cathy's Pre-K Class

It is so hard to believe how fast the months are going by! February was filled with many happy memories and learning moments! We had a great time talking about "what love is" and how to show random acts of love throughout our day! We had a wonderful Valentine's party. Thank you to all my very generous parents! We also had a great time reading many Laura Numeroff books. Our favorite book was; "If you Give a Pig a Pancake!" These books are a great introduction to cause and effect! We were also very lucky to have the Author Annie Silvestro come and read "Mice Skating" to the class! She took the time to answer the kids' questions and talk to them about writing and illustrating books! It was so much FUN!!!

March is going to be very busy as well. There are so many exciting learning moments that are going to happen in March! The children are beginning to learn their last names and we will also begin to learn phone numbers! This is a skill that needs to be reinforced at home also, but you will be surprised how quickly they can learn it! We are also starting an All about Me Unit! This unit will take place over the next two months. It is a fun way to explore the world that is around our children. We will talk about the people in their family, their addresses, their favorite items and so on! The book will be worked on in class and taken home at the end of the year!

We are going to honor Dr. Seuss in the beginning of March. Dr. Seuss's

birthday is March 2! We will celebrate by doing fun activities; we will read "Wacky Wednesday" and we will dress Wacky, we will read "Green Eggs and Ham" and dress in green and we will read "Fox in Socks" and wear silly socks! We will make Dr. Seuss hats and learn rhyming words! In March we will also learn about rainbows and learn the colors of rainbow. We will listen to the song "ROYGBIV" and make rainbow windsocks! In honor of St. Patrick's Day we will make pots o' gold and leprechauns. Please look for our leprechauns in the school lobby this month! We will answer the question "Why I feel Lucky?" We will also have an all things GREEN party on Friday, March 16! This is a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! The chicks are also coming in March. The baby chick eggs will be arriving on March 5. This is a highlight every year for the children. We will learn about the life cycle of the chicks and learn how to take care of the baby chicks. We will make fun chick projects just in time for Spring! Each child will get a chance to hold the baby chicks! This is a memory that the children will always remember! For Easter we will be dying Easter eggs for Science. We will also do many learning activities, such as matching the upper and lower case egg letters. Look for bunnies to be popping up everywhere! We will have our Spring Holiday Party on Thursday, March 29! After Spring Break we will return in April to many learning experiences! We will do a weather unit in April and make a "Signs Of

Spring" chart. The children will be asked to find all the signs of spring that are happening around them! We will also continue our "All About Me" unit. This month we will make an "I am Super project" which is designed to build self-confidence. We will be also be incorporating a Growth Mindset Unit. We will read the books; "What Do you Do with an Idea, and What Do You Do with a Problem?" We will also read "Anything is Possible". These are all wonderful books that help children explore all things that are possible.

We also celebrate Earth Day in April and our class will spend a week on Invention station! We will learn the words, reuse and recycle. We will recycle many items and then come up with our own invention. This unit encourages the children to use their imagination. It is so wonderful to see how the children begin to learn how to make so many new things from recycled items. The children will be asked to come up with their own invention and once they have invented something they will present to the class! This is one of my very favorite activities!

We will also be working on fine motor stations and we will continue to work on our alphabet books. The children continue to work on their writing programs and learning to write the letters! The children are doing an amazing job in every area! Every child is growing and developing in so many ways! I look forward to the remainder of the year! There are still so many fun things to do!

Classroom News

Ms. Cathy's Pre-K Enrichment

The children had so many wonderful learning moments in February. The children learned about Chinese New Year and had a great time trying to write in Chinese. We had a fun time exploring the Chinese culture. We also enjoyed making keepsake Valentine projects and talking about what Valentine's Day is!

March is an exciting time in Enrichment. We will continue to learn about money. We will primarily focus on coins. We are learning about what a penny, dime, nickel and quarter are. We are learning about the value of each coin. This is a skill that is fairly hard for Pre-K and can be reinforced at home especially at the grocery store. Even though it is a difficult concept the children love to try and play store and guess how much each coin is.

We will also be reading some classic Fairytales in March. We will read The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Three Billy Goats Gruff. We will immerse ourselves in different versions of each story. We will talk about the characters in each story and what is alike and what is different in each version of the Fairytale. The children will make creative storyboards and we will make a Class Fairytale Story and illustrate it.

March is also a time when we welcome the chicks. We will have the chicks in our class so the children will get extra time to explore the wonderful life cycle of a chick! We will also be making centerpieces for the Bunny with Breakfast! In April we will do a unit on Famous Artists! We will learn about Monet, Picasso,

Pollock and Van Gogh. The children will have a great time being exposed to each artist and will love becoming their own artists! We will make water lilies, sunflowers and splatter art!

In April we will also talk about Earth Day and the children will get a chance to be a part of Imagination Station! Each child will be asked to make their own invention from recycled items! The children will also be working in their language journals and working on writing their first and last names! As the weather gets nicer we will also read some Classic literature stories outside. We will be reading some classic stories such as; Caps for Sale, The Story of Ping, Where the Wild Things Are and Stone Soup. These are excellent stories to talk about all parts of a story!

Spring is a wonderful time for so many exciting Enrichment activities! I'm looking forward to watching your children continue to blossom!



Learning Tree Preschool of Red Bank, NJ

Where the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today