



A MESSAGE FROM MS. KARA

As I am typing up this last newsletter, I am reminiscing about all that has gone on around Learning Tree this year! Your children have grown so much. They have learned all about letters, numbers, colors and shapes. They have made new friends and overall have had lots of fun! Every time I walked into a classroom, I was able to experience their excitement as they painted a craft, built a castle, learned to write or spell their name, or sang a new song! The staff and I are very lucky to be a part of your child's educational journey. I want to thank all of you for choosing Learning Tree as your child's first preschool!

In April, we were able to celebrate our Learning Tree children during the Week of the Young Child. It was great to see them dressed in their favorite sports team or as their favorite character. It was also great to meet their favorite stuffed animals! We got to know each child just a little more during this week and they had so much fun sharing these favorites with us!

But the fun is not done! During the month of May, we will learn all about metamorphosis as we watch caterpillars turn into butterflies and see how ladybug larvae turn into ladybugs. We

will also have a music show with the Little Rockers. It is always great to see all of the children singing and dancing!

As we get closer to the end of the school year, our Mom & Me, 2 ½, and 3's classes will put on a little show of their own as well. Please make sure to join us during their Seedling Revue performances. Our Pre-K students will have their first graduation ceremony. It is a very special day for all of us when your little ones graduate. We are so proud of all of our students!

I want to say Thank You to all of our parents that serve as executive board members, committee chairs and class parents! Without your dedication, our preschool would not run as smoothly as it does. It has been wonderful to work with all of you! I would also like to thank all of our families for donating your time to our committees as well as participating in our fundraisers. The children and staff at Learning Tree truly appreciate your generosity!

I would like to send a HUGE Thank You to all of my staff members! It is an honor to work with all of you! You have all done a remarkable job throughout the year! Thank you for your hard work and dedication! I would also like to say

Seedling
News
Where the
flowers of
tomorrow are
in the seeds
of today.

Congratulations to Mrs. Ferrugiario on her retirement! Thank you for 24 amazing years! You have left an imprint on the hearts and minds of many children and staff members! We will truly miss you but wish you nothing but the best on your next new adventure! I will leave you with one of my favorite end of the year poems:

Great Expectations

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

Congratulations to all of our Pre-K graduates! We wish you good luck as you move on to Kindergarten and your new schools! Happy Mother's Day to all of our Amazing Moms! Happy Father's Day to all of our Awesome Dads! I wish everyone a sensational summer! Have fun and relax in the sun!

REMINDERS!

Backpack Crew Donations

We will be collecting spaghetti for the month of May/June. The Backpack Crew was truly grateful for all of your generous donations this year!

Spring Open House

We have a Spring Open House on Wednesday, May 9th. Please share this with anyone who might be looking for a Mom & Me, 2 1/2 Drop off, 3's or Pre-K class! Please share our Facebook/Instagram post about our Open House as well as hand out our postcards located in the hallway outside of the office anywhere parents of little ones might see them! Thanks for continuing to spread the word about Learning Tree!



IMPORTANT DATES

May

2nd - Board Meeting
9th - Spring Open House 9:30-11
18th - Little Rockers Music Show 10:30
23rd - Transition Meeting
24th - 2 1/2 Seedling Revue 10am
25th & 28th - School Closed
30th - Seedling Revue 10am

June

1st - Last Day of Lunch Buddies & Enrichment
4th - Miss Kelly's Seedling Revue 10:30am
6th - Miss Katie's Seedling Revue 10:30am
7th - Pre-K Graduation 10:30am
8th - Last Day of School

MAY

4th - Joseph J.
4th - Leo W.
13th - Charlotte M.
18th - Teddy H.
21st - Callie C.
28th - Quintin N.

JUNE

1st - Lillian G.
9th - Amelia M.
25th - Shane H.

AUGUST

3rd - Etta S.
4th - Ava G.
6th - Reagan K.
7th - Isabella M.
8th - Dempsey W.
14th - Juliet C.
14th - Keegan K.
15th - Alexis M.
15th - Griffin M.
16th - Jeffrey G.
19th - Dylan F.
26th - Lilia V.
27th - Alexandra A.

JULY

15th - Julia B.
24th - Wilton G.

Dear Learning Tree Family,

I did not want to let the school year end without saying what a blessing it has been to work with Karen Ferrugiario the past 17 of her 24 years at Learning Tree. For every one of these years she has put her heart and soul into teaching and guiding the children in her charge and helping them to be and do their best. She has always seen and loved each child individually and worked with each one to guide them according to who they are, not some other standard, while at the same time working to draw out their full potential. I am glad to have been "on team" with her and for her friendship all these years. We will all miss her as she leaves Learning Tree, but the effect of her connection with all the staff in many different ways, and the legacy of how she has touched the lives of so many children and families she has worked with will remain. Our prayers are for all the best in her new adventures!

Miss Betsie



A Message from the Parent Board Chairperson

Cynthia Betzou

I cannot believe the end of school is fast approaching! It seems like yesterday we were discussing our plans for the Holidays. Now we are discussing our plans for the summer!

First, I would like to start 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 could not happen without our Fundraising Chair, Amy McGann. Next, I would like to thank the Events Committee for throwing an amazing Bunny Breakfast. It looked like everyone had a great time!

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! We have our trip to Storybook Land coming up in June. And of course, we have the Seedling Revues and Graduation, which is such a great way to end the school year and to help our little ones feel special and proud of what they have accomplished this year.

This has been a great year at Learning Tree Preschool thanks in no small part to our wonderful teachers, aides, security guard and of course our esteemed Director Kara! Each one of them put their hearts into the school year and work very hard to make every child happy and excited about school!

Last but not least I would like to thank our wonderful Parent Board! They truly put their all into each event, fundraiser and activity that Learning Tree has. Most of the board will be back next year but we will miss Amy McGann whose daughter is graduating this year. Amy you were terrific as our Fundraising Chair and leave very big shoes to fill! On that note, we do have some new members joining our board next year and we are very excited to welcome them to their new roles.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I cannot wait to see everyone back at school in September!

Classroom News

Miss Heather's Mommy & Me Class

In Mommy and Me, we are hoping these April showers will bring us May flowers and maybe a real taste of spring. 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. We love to see 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 and am so excited that this year I will be moving to the threes with some of you!

Lots of Love,
Miss Heather

Classroom News

Miss Heather's 2 ½ Year Old Class

Our busy class of boys has grown so much this year! We all loved the chicks and are eager to continue learning about life cycles, habitats, weather, and insects this month. We will learn about planting and the differences between 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 boys are already busy

making crafts to decorate the stage and working on 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 see some familiar faces next year when we start the 3s class together!

Have a wonderful summer!
Love, Miss Heather



Classroom News

Miss Katie's 3 Year Old Class

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 May and June. 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 will also be busy practicing for the Seedling Revue. This class has so much personality and will be proud to perform for their parents at the end of the school year.



We will expand on our knowledge of life cycles as we witness the metamorphosis of butterflies and ladybugs in our classroom! The children will love watching the changes in these tiny creatures!

And of course, we have our own metamorphoses going on. I am so proud of my students' growth and readiness for the next stage of learning. They are ready...for bigger classes, new friends, and more challenging lessons. As you know, some changes are on the horizon for me as well. As I prepare to leave Learning Tree, I will savor each moment I share with your children. I have loved being their "first" teacher. I 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

Miss Kelly's 3 Year Old Class

Spring has finally sprung! Miss Kelly's class is enjoying the nice weather and warmer temperatures. Our classroom is full of April showers and May flowers. The boys and girls have been busy learning about all of the changes the spring season will bring.

We will be learning about the parts of a flower followed by insects. The boys and girls will have the opportunity to watch caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies and watch baby ladybugs grow into colorful bugs.

Miss Kelly's Class has been working very hard practicing our songs for The Seedling Review, our end of the year show coming up in June. The boys and girls can't wait to perform in front of their parents followed by some special treats!

We were able to cover letters Q through V. We painted with Q tips, painted rainbows, made shooting stars, shape trains and even colored pictures under the table. We will finish up the alphabet soon so please remember to reinforce these letters with your children at home for extra practice.

I can't believe the school year is coming to an end! I have really enjoyed getting to know your children this school year. We had a special class and made some wonderful memories. Although they are ready to move on, I will miss them dearly.

Classroom News

Miss Kelly's Enrichment Classes

Our Wednesday Enrichment students really enjoyed learning about the Farm. We talked about all the important jobs it takes to run a farm as well as all the animals that live there. We made cow puppets, colorful feathered roosters, pigs rolling in mud and a farm mural. We will continue our Ocean themed unit next and then end the year learning about insects.

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

Miss Ferrugario's Pre-K Class



Our

spring unit continues in April and we await the arrival of butterfly and ladybug larva. We will observe them as they go through metamorphosis.

The big event for May will be our Mother's Day Tea. You will be receiving an invitation with the details of this special day. The children have already started preparing for it. We hoping to make it very special for the moms.

Father's Day will not arrive until after the school year, but Dad will not be forgotten. The children will be making a gift to save for Dad's special day.

Along with Mother's Day and Father's Day, we will be preparing for graduation. We will practicing to perform on the stage and making decorations for the event.

We will complete our letter books and they will be sent home. The children have responded well to the Wilson Foundations flash cards and I recommend reviewing your child's letter book throughout the summer. In doing this, you should also make sure you identify various words for each letter sound.

We will probably take a short walking trip to the Red Bank Post Office in May. This is a very short trip and they will not be receiving a tour. They will be buying a stamp and mailing the graduation invitations. We will look around the lobby and the children hear some information about the history of the postal service.

The school year is winding down and I want to thank you for sharing your children with me and for helping to make this a wonderful year. The children have really grown. As you know, this is my last year and so it is bittersweet. While I will not miss getting up at 5:45 on weekdays or the planning and prep work, I am really going to miss being with young children on a regular basis. I will miss their smiling faces and the love they give so freely.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Lots of Love,
Queen Ferrugiaro

p.s. I really loved being a queen!



Classroom News

Miss Cathy's Pre-K Class

It is so hard to believe how fast April has come and gone! We had such a great time doing so many exciting learning units. We completed one of my very favorites units on Growth Mindset. This topic covers one of the most important skills that is covered in early childhood education. We talk about what makes a good friend, what we do with a problem and an idea and what makes us all different and unique! The children really loved reading "We're All Wonders." We finished the month of April by celebrating Earth Day! We talked about how we can take care of the Earth and the 3 R's; Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! We finger painted the Earth and made a promise to the Earth to take good care of it! We also had so much fun at Invention Station. This is a unit where we make items out of recycled items and then have to present our project to the

class! This activity reinforces the idea of recycling but also encourages children to develop their imagination and their fine motor skills. This is an excellent Stem project and it was so fun to watch their minds go to work!!!

May will be filled with a lot of excitement and learning moments. It is so nice to see the sun and we will talk about all things Spring. We will be doing a unit on butterflies, and ladybugs. We will watch caterpillars go through Metamorphosis. We will talk about the life cycle of the butterfly and we will actually watch caterpillars turn to butterflies in our classroom. Once they become butterflies we will set them free outside. We will also pretend to be butterflies as we crawl through a tunnel and come out as butterflies with colored scarves!

We will also spend a lot of time in May talking about our **amazing Moms**. We

will be having our **Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 11 at 11:00** in the classroom. Look for invitations in your child's backpack. This is a very special day and the children work very hard on special projects. This day makes for a very special memory!

We will also be having our growing unit for Science and we will watch our flowers grow and have fun taking care of them by watering them and making sure they have sun!

At this point, we know our first and last names and we know the towns that we live in. We are working on phone numbers! We will be completing our alphabet journals. We will be also be doing All about Me Projects. We will be doing handprints, self-portraits, and family portraits. I will be holding onto some of the projects for your end of the year portfolios!

We will also be taking a walk to the Red Bank Post Office to mail our graduation

invitations! We will get to see how the mail system works! This is a trip that the kids love!

We will also be having conferences at the end of May, there will be a signup schedule outside my door! If one of the times do not work for you, I would be happy to set up a more convenient time!

In June, we will do a back to the beach unit and make keepsake shells and learn about sea animals!

Graduation will be Thursday, June 7 and then the children will come back to school on Friday, June 8 for our end of the year Party!!!!!!!!!!!!

I also wanted to thank Miss Lauren for joining our class at this point in the school year. She has been amazing and I feel so lucky to have had her join our class!

It is very hard to believe that the end of the school year is approaching! I have

had a great year and consider this class very special. Each one of your children holds a very special place in my heart and have left an imprint in my life! Their enthusiasm and smiles have made coming to work an everyday joy! I also cannot thank my parents enough for your constant generosity and support that you have brought to the classroom! I adore all your children and your families! I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer!!!

Classroom News Miss Cathy's Enrichment



We had a great time being inspired by famous artists! We did an "Exploring Famous Artists" unit and we learned about Jackson Pollock, Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet. We absolutely loved doing the Jackson Pollock's dip and splash. We also created our Monet inspired Water Lilies. All children became artists this month and they all made their own artwork portfolio. It was such a joy to see all the children create their own piece of ART!!! Art is such a wonderful part of a child's education and so important to be immersed in!

We also had a great time learning about Earth Day and creating our inventions. It was so fun to make inventions with recycled items! We came up with excellent ideas on how to take care of the Earth. We also made play dough in class! We love doing experiments and had a fun time make the planet Earth out of Blue and Green Play dough.

We will start the month by learning about the 5 Senses. We will learn about hearing, sight, touch, smell and taste. We will talk about different items and discuss how the 5 Senses apply to each. We will have a smelling station and a sensory station.

It is so hard to believe that the Month of May has arrived. We will celebrate one of the best children's authors; Eric Carle. We will look at all his beautiful illustrations and learn how he created his pictures through process art with tissue paper. We will add watercolors to tissue paper and try and make our own version of Eric Carle's pictures. We will read; The Very Hungry Caterpillar, A House for Hermit Crabs, Today is Monday, The Very Busy Spider, and 10 Little Rubber Ducks. This is always a fun unit for the kids.

This month we will also do a planting center. The best way for preschoolers to learn about the world is through hands on experiences. We are going to learn about spring, plants and their life cycles by planting and caring for plants and vegetables. We will be watching and observing and learning daily.

We will be wrapping up our language journals. It is so amazing to see how much progress each child has made. We will also be reading classic stories outside as the weather gets warmer. We are also completing End of Year Keepsake projects.

I cannot believe that the end of the year is approaching! It has given me such joy to spend this time with your children. I am amazed by all your children and how much they have all grown up! I will cherish so many memories this year! I also wanted to thank all my wonderful parents, for your generosity and thoughtfulness! My program only runs with your support and love! I am wishing everyone a wonderful and happy summer!!!



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Website: www.learningtreepreschoolredbank.com

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