

Kindergarten Specialist News

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Happy "almost" Spring! What a strange winter we have had - and the sunshine this week is certainly bringing spring feelings. This spring will be a wonderful time for your kindergartner to continue to try new things and learn new skills! Lots of growth and loose teeth around here!

Reminder: Are you cleaning out magazines at home or work? If you have any animal-based magazines (ie Ranger Rick, National Geographic for Kids, Big BackYard, bird magazines, animal calendars, etc) that you would like to get rid of, we would love to add them to our collection. We use them for collage science projects each year and are running low on supplies.

Thank you so much!
Denise Woodcock

What's Happening In Specialist Classes?

Physical Education (Phy.Ed.): Tuesdays and Fridays

Please remember that children must wear tennis shoes (and socks) to fully and safely participate in Phy. Ed. throughout the year. WINTER BOOTS and FANCY BOOTS & SHOES ARE NOT WORKING VERY WELL! Thanks!

Last week, we used the Lollipop paddles (foam circle with a stick) to balance and flip beanbags, as well as to hit some balls. Getting ready for those spring and summer racket and paddle sports. It was so fun to see the students use their perseverance and our learning plans of "I will keep trying" and "Don't give up until you are proud!"

The rest of this month, we are learning through a series of lessons and activities about throwing, focused on both underhand and overhand throwing. So far, it's been a blast while learning about underhand throwing. But stepping forward with the opposite foot can be tricky! No matter their skills previously, I am witnessing growth in all of the children's abilities. When we begin overhand throwing at the end of March, we will use a set of word cues to align their bodies for a good overhand throw - "Ready! Aim! Fire!"

Art: Wednesdays

This month, we are learning about sculptures in art! What is a sculpture? What can we use to make a sculpture? Sculptures are all around us - made of a variety of things and in all shapes and sizes. The children created a 3-D paper sculpture, as well as making sculptures out of playdough. We will also be creating a very special clay project, incorporating textures into our clay creations. We're very fortunate to have a kiln here at the Snail Lake Kindergarten Center. I will "fire" the children's creations. We will glaze them and fire the clay a second time. The children will have to exhibit a ton of patience for this masterpiece! There are many steps for the clay project so I'll use a chart with an arrow showing exactly which step we are at in the process. Kindergartners will learn a lot about the clay process as we go through each step.

If you're looking for a family adventure this spring or summer, you may consider a sculpture garden. We have many outdoor sculpture gardens locally that your kindergartner would love to explore with you on an upcoming sunny day.

Science: Thursdays

We are gardeners! Our plant unit is in full swing and the children are learning so much! Last week, each kindergarten student planted some marigold seeds and will be patiently nurturing them in my specialist classroom. They will also be authoring and illustrating a plant journal, documenting the process and changes they observe. It's all very exciting to the kindergarten gardeners! I'll let you know when these will be sent home for continued nurturing and growth.

Music: Tuesdays and Fridays

We are playing another listening song game with instruments called *Listen to Me Play*, in which a student plays an instrument behind a partition to four beats, as the rest of the class listens carefully and sings the song. The children then have to guess which percussion instrument was played.

We've been singing a lot of songs that have a catchy tune. You might hear songs like Michael Finnegan or Bubble Gum. Mr. Troll is another song with a catchy tune that we will be acting out at the end of the month. It's about a troll guarding a bridge who lets children cross the bridge depending upon what colors they are wearing. Each troll will even sing a solo as we act out the song.



