

Dear Families,

I hope that you all received your child's field trip letter and permission slip in his or her backpack! We are so excited to go to the River Trails Nature Center next month! We have visited River Trails in the past. It's an excellent field trip filled with animals, hiking and a nature scavenger hunt. The kids will even get a close up "animal encounter" with one of the nature center's animals!

Please return field trip permission slips by the end of April. Thank you!

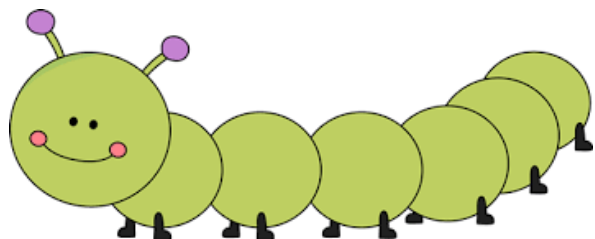
Highlights this Week

This week we have a bunch of fun, new spring centers! As a math activity, the kids will get to make spring soup, counting different objects (carrots, peeps, bunnies, etc.) into a pot. They will use a recipe to see how much of each object to add to their soup! Also, we have a flower measuring activity with snap cubes. The kids can place the snap cubes in a row and then count how many cubes long is each flower.

At table time, we will use letter beads to spell a variety of spring words. We will also use manipulative letters to sound out and build some simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words such as C-A-T or N-A-P. The kids are really starting to show that they hear some of the separate sounds in a word.

Caterpillars!

We have caterpillars in preschool! We are excitedly watching them eat and grow. We are hoping that by the end of the week, we start to see them form their chrysalids and then transform into butterflies.



Toys in Preschool

Thanks to everyone for your understanding with this new rule! This past week has gone very smoothly at arrival and dismissal without the extra toys. As a reminder, unless we have discussed it as a special circumstance for your preschooler, all toys from home need to stay at home or in the car.

Preschoolers should not bring toys to school at arrival. We have had some hurt feelings and tears about this matter. A teacher would be happy to answer any questions regarding this new rule!

Spring Family Field Trip: May 23rd

We will be visiting the River Trails Nature Center on Thursday, May 23rd from 9:30AM-11:00AM. This field trip is a family field trip and every student needs to be accompanied by an adult. If an adult is unable to take your child to the field trip, there will be no school at Marie Murphy that day. There will be a detailed letter and permission slip in your child's backpack this week!

centers and reminders

Center	Activities	Why are these activities so important?
Blocks	Straw builders! Wooden blocks in assorted shapes and sizes Airplanes, people and airport toys	Creative play; turn taking; strengthening fine and gross motor skills; task persistence and problem solving
Table Toys and Games	Flower initial sounds game Counting caterpillars Bumble bee rhymes Bunny number match ABC beads and spring words	Visual discrimination; measurement and size; turn taking with a peer; hand-eye coordination
Dramatic Play	Animal Hospital	Developing language and social skills; socialization and building friendships; imaginative and pretend play; sharing materials and turn taking
Writing	Journals Spring tracing practice Scissors, markers and crayons	Fine motor skills; early literacy; language development
Library	Spring and nature books Bug books	Book-handling skills; social interactions; imaginative and pretend play; early literacy
Sensory	Green paper shreds Plastic eggs and bunnies Egg tongs, chicks and Peep letters Play dough, cookie cutters, rollers	Sensory; fine motor development; volume and measurement; science concepts—sink/float, solid/liquid, hard/soft; sharing materials with peers
Snack	Whole Group	Self-help; language development and social skills
Art	Stamping with Peeps and paint Easel and dot markers	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
Science	Spring stew math game Measuring with snap cubes	Exploring cause and effect; making observations; turn taking with peers
Listening	Ipad stories	Language development; book-handling skills; practicing literacy concept

April Birthdays/Special Dates

April 12th- Yannis (AM)

April 19th- No School (Good Friday)

April 20th- Alina (AM)

