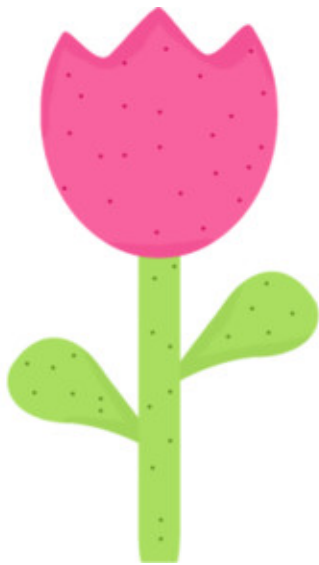


Dear Families,

The kids have been enjoying April in preschool! The story, The Three Billy Goats Gruff caught their attention right away after spring break! Last week we had the kids listen to a few retellings of the story, and then do their own retelling! They did a wonderful job remembering many of the story details and characters. You'll be getting their story retellings soon in backpacks. In the pretend center, they have been practicing how to take on different roles (veterinarian, receptionist, groomer and pet owner) while playing with friends to help facilitate taking turns and problem-solving with others.



Social Emotional Tip: Play Time!

Play a game with your child to practice thinking of solutions. Use a small jar as an "idea jar." Use pennies to represent the ideas.

Say: We're going to play The Think Game. I'll say a problem. You think of lots of safe ideas to solve the problem. For each of your ideas, I will put a penny in the "idea jar." Play the game throughout the week. At the end of the week, count how many ideas had. For example:

- You can't find your favorite socks.
- You can't reach a book on a high shelf.
- Your ball rolled under the bed and is stuck.

Toys in Preschool

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. Thank you so much for your understanding. 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	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	Bunny math game (matching numbers and counting) Weather clothing sort Bunny shapes and color match game Student Journals	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	Letter stamps and ink pads Cutting strips of paper and along lines	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 bunnys Egg tongs, chicks and Peep letters Play dough, cookie cutters and rolling pins	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	Paint at the easel Plastic egg prints Kwik sticks and pearl paper eggs	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
Science	Spring and bug mini erasers with scales and sorting trays	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)

