



River Road/Wood Acres TIMES

The April 2010 Newsletter for Parents

Center Events:

April 13, 2010

Frog's Field Trip to Cabin John Park

April 19-23, 2010

Week of the Young Child:

4/19 Monday Pajama Day

4/20 Tuesday Sports Day

4/21 Wednesday Dress Up Day

4/22 Thursday Wacky Day

4/23 Friday Costume Day (Teacher Appreciation Lunch)

April 21, 2010

John Henry — "The Music Man"

April 23, 2010

Starlight's — Field Trip to National Zoo in D.C. 9:30-12:00

April 28-30, 2010

Scholastic Book Fair at River Road and Wood Acres 2:30-5:30pm

April 30, 2010

"Spring Fling" — Pot Luck 5:30-6:30pm

Directors Corner

Spring has sprung and everything is all a buzz here at MCCA River Road/Wood Acres Clubhouse. It has been said that, "Change is good; Change is our friend ..." and with the change in the season comes change here at the center.

On March 19, 2010, we had to say a sad "Good-bye" to Miss Julia from the 9:00am to 3:00pm Butterflies classroom. Ms. Julia decided to accepted a new position with the World Bank. She will be missed by all of us. We have come together as a team to work on staffing the Butterfly room during this transition period. Miss Shannda (Starlight's), Mrs. Melissa and Ms. Melay (Wood Acres) as well as all staff have come together to continue to provide a safe, fun, learning environment for the children in the Butterfly classroom. The Butterfly classroom will close for the summer (as it has done in times past) I am working diligently to find the best possible teacher for the Butterfly classroom before it reopens for fall in September. Thank you Butterfly parents for your patience.

Parent conferences are in full bloom. We hope that families are participating and gaining insight and information in the quality of care and planning that teachers are doing with the children. The teachers work hard each week in implementing the Creative Curriculum®. Parent conferences thus become another avenue that we share what it is we are doing with your child as well as a way for you to share questions, comments and concerns that you have with your child's teachers. We strive to offer parent conferences twice a year. However, parent may request time to meet with teachers, and or the director at anytime throughout the year.

April has been recognized as the "Month of the Young Child. Our center will celebrate April 19-23, 2010 is the "Week of the Young Child." This will be a week that is set aside to celebrate children and teachers in the early childcare field. There are a host of activities and events being planned at the center during this week. Look for sign-up sheets and flyers located on the bulletin board in the center hallway with information from teachers and the Parent Council about ways you can help celebrate with us the wonderful job that our teachers are doing. While the teachers and staff celebrate all of the children we have in our program. It is a team effort that goes into early childhood learning and development. Together Everyone Achieves More!!

Our school-age Summer Adventures Registration is in full swing. Our Summer Adventures provide an enjoyable and stimulating program to keep your child engaged throughout the day. Our MCCA-Wood Acres Summer Adventures program is full of fun and engaging activities that will help to build confidence and provide loads of fun for children ages 5-12 (K-5th grade). We have 10 different exciting theme weeks as well as a host of fun, fabulous field trips. Sign-up while you still can! You may contact Site Director Erin Rodrigues for more details!

Finally, we would like to say "Hello and Welcome" to several new families to our center. Hello; Arjun Erasani (Frog's), Kendal Vengas, J William Meek, Salome Leon, Ilias Janus, (Starlight's) Amanda Raddatz (Butterflies). We are so glad to have your families joining our program.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Osborn-Director

Parent Council Board Member Meeting Dates

*Each meeting will be located the
Main Office in Rockville at 7 PM*

Personnel Committee: 4/13/10

Board of Directors: 4/15/2010


Development Committee: 4/6/2010



**Montgomery
Child Care**
River Road



the **Butterflies** class



Happy Spring Time Butterfly Families! It has been a fun 2 weeks since getting to know and “re-know” all of you in this classroom. Thank you for all your support and patience during this transitional period.

This month we worked on the science component of the creative curriculum. We have experience our own sort of science through experiments and observations is the past couple of weeks. We got to examine the different parts of a tree; when a tree fell down in our playground due to a rain and wind storm. We even got hands on with some shield bugs (stink bugs). We learn the reason why they are called shield/stink bugs because of their shield shaped backs and when stepped on they omit an awful smell. Beginning in April we will began learning about volcanoes. In addition we will introduce kid- friendly scientific terms like:

• **Observe** • **Predict** • **Check**

The Butterflies as a collective class enjoys exploring. They ask many questions and love to go exploring the ground of our school.

Science for preschoolers includes things that they see in their everyday life at home, in their neighborhood and the outdoors. You can expose them to simple science by collecting rocks, cooking in the kitchen, reading about weather/seasons, dinosaurs, and space, etc.

HERE ARE SOME FUN IDEAS FOR SIMPLE SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AND CONCEPTS THAT YOU AND YOUR BUTTERFLY CAN DO AT HOME:

POPCORN DANCE:

Fill a small glass 3/4 full of water. Mix in 2 Tablespoons of baking soda and mix well. Add a drop or two of food coloring and add 10-15 popcorn kernels. Then add a few drops of vinegar and watch the kernels start to move in 1 -2 minutes.

MINI OCEAN:

Fill a plastic bottle 3/4 full of water. Add blue food coloring and then add cooking oil. Leave about one inch at the top of the bottle. Show how the oil and water do not mix. Show how tilting the bottle back and forth causes a wave effect.

VOLCANO:

Place an empty baby food jar on a clean Styrofoam tray. Surround the jar with play dough to look like a volcano/mountain. Place a drop of red food coloring and a tablespoon of baking soda in the jar. Then add vinegar to your volcano to make it erupt.

SINK OR FLOAT:

Turn the bathtub into a physics lab. Collect variety of objects and explore the concept of sink or float. (This game can also turn into math activity if you graph the result.)

TALKING TOGETHER:

When you walk your child to school, or go to the park, be on the lookout for interesting things — the rocks near the sidewalk, the leaves on the trees, the clouds in the sky — and point them out. Talk together about the ducks migrating south and the squirrels preparing for winter.

KITCHEN TIME:


Encourage your child to help you in the kitchen by finding ingredients, and weighing and measuring them.

When you recycle bottles and cans, ask your child to help put them into categories. Involve them in sorting the laundry and the silverware, and putting it away in its proper place.

Remember this is the age they are the most curious and ask many questions. It's always okay to say, "I don't know" followed by "Let's find out". Look for answers together in books and on the Internet.

To coincide with our science unit we are going to the National Zoo on April 23 2010 from 9am to lunch time. Parent Volunteers are always welcome. Lastly let's welcome Amanda to our classroom starting on Tuesday.

Thanks,
Ms. Shannda



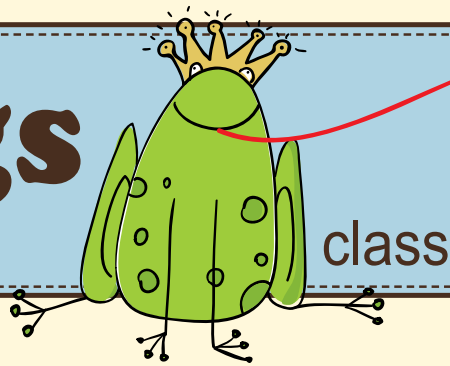
the **Starlights** class

With the spring in the air, the idea of exploring science is “blooming” in the Starlight’s Classroom. We have a new and improved science center with fun and inviting activities. The Starlight’s can be found exploring in the science center during free play and small group time. The Starlight’s enjoy going on nature walks to explore the outdoors. We are learning about the many different kinds of trees and animals that nature has provided us with. The Starlight’s stop and take a minute to see and touch the plants and flowers that we see on our nature walks. The Starlight’s have their very own guide in the outdoor science world, “Miss Lisa”. Miss Lisa may bring in a new and exciting science project for the kids to explore. The Starlight’s recently did a project with sunflower seeds and carrot seeds. We read two books about seeds. We looked at seeds; we felt them and glued the seeds on paper plates. We also passed around a carrot with a top and pretended to be sunflowers growing up from the ground inch by inch. The Starlight’s learned even more about seeds through being able to taste some juicy sunflower seeds! Yum! Yum! Science is big even for two and three year old children. Science gives the Starlight’s opportunities to learn and explore the world in which we live.

The Starlight’s classroom is growing like the fresh flowers outside. The Starlight’s would like to welcome Kendall Vengas, J. William Meek, Ilias Janus, and Salome Leon. We are so delighted to have all of our new friends!

★ **Our next field trip is April 23, 2010 to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., another science adventure for the Starlight’s to enjoy!**

the Frogs



Spring is here and we would like to welcome to the Friendly Frogs' classroom Arjun Eransani. This month we would like to share how we teach Science in our classroom. Science content is more than isolated facts such as the stages in the life of a butterfly. Scientific facts are important, but how they are put together into meaningful ideas is also significant. For example, learning about the development of a butterfly leads to the big idea that all living things develop in a series of stages called a life cycle. Preschool children learn science by exploring the world around them. When you provide an environment with many varied materials, they try out things to see how they work, they experiment, they manipulate, they are curious, and they ask questions. As they seek answers to their questions, they learn to enjoy and appreciate their surroundings.

There are three components of science that we explore in the Frog's Room. They are the following: Physical Science, Life Science, and earth and the environment. Physical Science is about the physical properties of materials and objects. Through exploration of materials, children learn about weight, shape, size, color, and temperature. They explore how things move or change. Like in block area tilting a ramp to make cars go down fast. Or while painting watching blue and yellow paint mix into green. Life Science is about living things. We are teaching life science when we ask children to care for plants and animals in our classroom. Key ideas emerge from exploring the immediate environment. Like observing the plants leaves are drooping and giving them water. Or while running on the playground noticing that their hearts are beating faster. Earth and the Environmental Science is about the world of nature. In preschool, earth and the environment are about natural settings that children can experience directly. They learn about this component when we play shadow tag, add water to dirt while making mud pies or by painting with water on the sidewalk and noticing that the picture soon disappears.



Painting Planets



Using our Senses (Touch)



Potting Bean Sprouts

THANKS AND REMINDERS

We would like to thank all the families for their food donations this month and also for successful parent teacher conference sessions. Hope you learned a lot



the Wood Acres clubhouse

The teaching team at Woodacres Clubhouse are always thinking of new ways to spark your children's interest and get them excited about learning! We love to add new materials to our interest areas and see how they form new ideas and experiment with them. With Spring in full swing and nature in full bloom, we added some natural materials such as an abandoned bird nest, different types of seeds and soil for planting, insect shells and stripped bark pieces from where animals have been nibbling to our already engaging science areas. We already provide a variety of science tools such as magnifying glasses, tweezers, funnels, and beakers to encourage open ended exploration but even with all those educational and fun materials-our science centers just were not attracting much interest. The staff was at a loss for what else we could add to attract some visitors. Then our very own Maeve Hagerty said that the reason she did not spend time in the science areas was because it was too difficult to find space at a table for all the things she would need to perform an experiment and because it took too much time to bring everything she would need to a table. That gave us the idea to create a small sit down area, with a table and four pillows for seating by each science area so that children would have a separate area to explore. After we added the new discovery spots, we were thrilled to see just how much time the children began to spend in the science areas, and just how engaged they were in what they were learning. In fact, our very own Evan Steiner brought us a book from the library that was full of science activities that he wanted to try out in the new sit down areas! We loved the experiment where you have to try to blow up a balloon with lemon juice, baking soda, and an empty soda bottle. In fact, we loved it so much that we tried it on a bigger scale...a much bigger scale! We took an empty gallon jug and quadrupled the amounts of lemon juice and baking soda. We found a HUGE balloon and were blown away when the balloon filled with pressure from the mixing of the two ingredients and burst into the sky! Sound like fun? We invite you to come on by and pull up a seat in our extended science areas and do the experiment for yourselves!

