Dear families,
A Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from April 4th through April 8th. It will be open 7:30-9:00 a.m. and 4:30-6:00 p.m. every day. It’s a wonderful opportunity for students to find books they really love. We know kids read more books when they get to choose their own, and the more kids read, the more their reading skills improve.

I would also love you to be part of our Book Fair Family Event. It’s taking place on April 5th with a special appearance by Clifford from 5:00-6:00. You can shop for books for your entire family! And, if for some reason you can’t make it, you can now visit the Fair online at: http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/beckygateschildrenscenter1

The Online Fair:
- Includes an expanded selection of books for all ages—from preschoolers to adults
- Offers FREE shipping to our school on all orders
- Allows you to shop by reading level, grade, and price
- Provides a chance for you and your child to create and send Wish Lists to friends and family so they can shop at our school’s Book Fair
- Is open for an extended time, giving you more days to shop
- Gives you the opportunity to help refresh our classroom library. (View my Classroom Wish List, in the “Classroom Wish Lists” tab on the Online Book Fair site.)
- All purchases at our in-school Book Fair and our Online Fair benefit our school. Thank you for helping get more kids reading, and kids reading more.

See you at the Book Fair!

Ms. Alex

From the Librarian...
In March, the Sea Wing learned all about construction and how buildings are made! They made their own buildings and even went on a field trip to see a real-life construction site!
Howdy All,

Hope you all enjoyed the few extra days with your little ones. I sure enjoyed the time with my children and grandchildren. I think Summer has already arrived in Texas. If you wish for your little ones to wear sunscreen or a hat, please begin to send those.

We had so much fun with our farm project, as you could see with our pictures. Your little ones did amazing with their animal sounds. Old Macdonald was a favorite felt board story as well as song. Speaking of projects, the Community Helpers Project is always a great learning experience for our butterflies. They sure made cute community helpers. We will be doing a project on health and nutrition this month. You might just hear the song Brush Brush Your Teeth. We will also be talking about healthy foods and Mrs. Andrea can bring some fresh vegetables from her garden for all to try. Since I brought up the garden, if you are at the Spring planting time, let your little ones help plant. I know they love to get dirty.

Let’s talk about our butterflies! Hailey is so talkative. She loves to repeat everything. She is my little felt board assistant. She positions herself just like Mrs. Andrea and helps to put all of the pieces back in the folder. She always has a smile on her face and is so eager to learn. She may just be a teacher like mommy someday. Zola is our sweet, spirited girl. She loves to cut up with the boys and get right in the dirt too. You can tell she helps mommy and Papa at home with the gardening. Beau is our speed racer. He is so busy and I don’t think there is anything he wouldn’t try. He is very adventurous, and is really trying to talk. Avery is our little builder. He loves to put things together. He stacks and sorts, can sit forever to work on a project and is very detail oriented. Benjamin is full of spunk. He loves to be in the middle of everything. He is always eager to read books and sing songs. He is a little scholar for sure. Lucas is going to be a pro ball player. He thinks everything is a ball. He loves to be outside with any ball. Our butterflies are growing up so fast and are so excited to learn. I look forward to teaching them many new things.

Reminders: Please make sure you have sunscreen if necessary. Also please check to make sure they have an appropriate change of clothes for the warmer weather.

I was thinking since we just talked about community helpers a trip to your local fire station might be a fun family outing. My son, a firefighter, says they love to have young visitors. You might even get some goodies out of the visit. Thank you for making the butterflies the best!

Mrs. Andrea
April showers bring May flowers!

Howdy,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break and enjoyed their time with their friends and families. This school year is flying by so fast. There are only four months left with all our little bees, before they transition to the bird wing. To help with this transition, we will be assisting the children on using regular cups. We will start out slowly, first we will alternate our milk cups during morning snack and lunch time. As the children are able to use the cups with little to no spills we will replace both set of cups for regular cups at all times. All the bees are doing a wonderful job on assisting on cleaning their areas after eating throughout the whole day. A few more things we will be working on is encouraging the children to help with clean up time and using our words to express ourselves. Some tips that would be helpful, encourage your child to clean his/her area at home with finished with their toys.

This past month was very exciting. We are having so much fun exploring our themes for a couple of weeks. The bees loved the unit on farm animals. They were able to identify each animal’s sounds and what you can find on a farm. Child really enjoy learning about the community around us. We would like to give a big thank you to Dr. Candace Light Pediatric Dentistry and Pearl the tooth from coming a explaining to us how important it to brush our teeth. We can’t forget Officer Dee Donovan for allowing us to investigate her police car. Finally taking a tour on the Aggie Bus! Whoop!

This month is going to be very busy. We will be learning about art this month. We will be exploring different types of art activities from being super clean to getting super messy. Also, we will be looking into how we stay healthy, from what we eat to how we exercise. If you have any suggestions on an activity or someone who might be able to come in a talk/show the children we would be greatly appreciated. This month is our center wide picnic at Tiffany Park, please keep an eye on your email for the time and date. Our picnics are super fun, because we are able to interact outside of class. Finally, we will be having our spring assessments and parent conferences.

Teacher Schedule:

Mrs. Jamie
M-W-F: 7:30-4:30
T-Th: 7:30-2:00
jamieg@bgcc.tamu.edu

Ms. Michelle
M-F: 8:30-5:30
Howdy Parents,

We hope you all had a wonderful Spring Break! The children seem excited to be back! Our class had a great month in March! The children loved learning about Farm Animals, the color green and Community Helper. Their favorite theme was farm animals. The children got to pretend that they were animals. They got pretty good at making all those animals sounds.

In April we will continue to focus on improving our fine motor skills by completing lacing activities and stringing beads. The children will continue building on colors, shapes, and numbers identification using games, puzzles, and books. We will introduce scissors this month and discuss what we can cut. Another important skill that we will develop is using our words when we need or want something. This is a crucial skill to help your child become independent and be able to express their feelings without having to use rough touches. A couple of ongoing skills we are focusing on are potty training and following directions.

We have started using regular cups instead of Sippy cups. The children are doing really well with this skill. We will make sure your children get water through the day. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ms. Rebecca
Dear Parents,

We would like to thank all the parents who have been volunteering to come and read books to children. Thank you all for making this year already such a wonderful experience! We finished our lessons on farm oviparous and non-oviparous animals, and community helpers. Children enjoyed all the units—it was fun how they loved big words such as “oviparous.” They love big words!

During the month of April, our theme discussions will include the week of the young child, healthy habits, and Dr. Seuss. During the week of the young child, we will talk about activities that make children grow happy and strong. In the week of health habits, circle time will be used to promote good health. We will discuss nutritious meals and snacks, and discuss the difference between junk food and healthy food. We will explore healthy foods by touching, smelling and tasting them. To illustrate the importance of having good personal hygiene, we will have an activity using a toothbrush to paint a yellow tooth with white paint. We will also have an activity to sort healthy foods and unhealthy foods.

For Dr. Seuss, we will focus on two fun activities to learn about Dr. Seuss! After reading Dr. Seuss’s ABC book, and looking at the animals and characters in the book, children will create their own classroom ABC book. We will also talk about how Dr. Seuss had trouble writing and drawing, but never gave up, and then became a famous author. This will encourage the children to never give up on learning, and following their dreams. We will also create collages with various items, practice math concepts with sorting and counting, and we also plan to take a few “nature walks” to seek out signs of spring.

Thank you,
Ms. Mable and Ms. Calee

Friendly reminders:
• Please bring a small blanket for your child for naptime.
• Please make sure that your child’s extra clothes are complete and that they are appropriate for the weather.
• Please make sure that all of your child’s belongings are clearly labeled.
• Please remember to sign your child in/out every day.

Dates to Remember:
• Saturday, April 23rd          BGCC Family Picnic, Tiffany Park, 10am-1pm
• April 25th & 26th            Cardinals/Blue Jays Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
We’d like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following children this month:

• Michael        April 23
• Juan-Pablo     April 24
We hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing Spring Break. Wow, it is already April! We had fun in March learning about farm animals and community helpers. We had visitors from a dental office and the University Police Department. One of the favorites was the Aggie Spirit Bus. The children also enjoyed watching the building of the new infant playground. We were able to talk about the construction workers. We would like to thank everyone who made our first annual birthday extravaganza a success. It was fun to celebrate everyone’s birthday together!

We are looking forward to April! We will have fun during the Week of the Young Child. I am working on assessments. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Parent Conferences. Ms. Kisha will be providing you a link to sign up for a conference time on Jooners. We will be able to discuss your child’s progress as well as any questions or concerns.

The Center will be having a Scholastic Book Fair early in April. We will have a very special visitor. Look for more information to come. We would enjoy having you participate.

Since it is beginning to get warmer, we will be checking sunscreens for amounts and expiration dates. We will let you know if more is needed.

Please remember to keep Saturday, April 23rd open for the Center-Wide Picnic at Tiffany Park. There will be more information coming in the near future!

**Parent Tips:** One of the favorite visitors during the Community Helper study was the Aggie Spirit Bus. If you wish, taking a ride on the bus with your child is easy! You catch the bus at one of the 2 stops across from the Center. After a 30 minute ride through campus, you will be back at the Center. You can even have your child pull the cord to request the stop!
HUMMING BIRDS

Spring has arrived and the Hummingbirds are in full bloom! March was an exciting month as we explored farm animals and community helpers. One of the children’s favorite activities was when we got to go outside and play in the hay. Many children had never experienced this and took in the texture, feel, and scent of the hay. They marveled at how it is possible that some farm animals actually eat hay on a daily basis. They became proficient with the names of the farm animals, and the sounds they make. Carolyn had the opportunity to visit Sunshine Farms and see a genuine working farm. This was the farm that I mentioned in the March newsletter. It looked like Carolyn had a wonderful time, and I would like to share a few pictures that her mom took while they were there.

Carolyn was brave and pet the goat!

The vegetable garden at the farm!

Carrots growing in the garden!

A sheep at the farm!

April is upon us, and that means assessment time. We will be completing our spring assessments and starting spring conferences. Please look for the email with the link to sign up for a conference to discuss your child’s milestones and challenges. As April gets underway, our instructional focus for language and literacy will be rhyming words and opposites. At home, you can support us by reading books with rhyming words and stanzas. Take the opportunity to notice opposites in your everyday routine. For example, if you are at the store and are looking in the produce section you can point out that a certain fruit or vegetable is large, while another one is small. Children learn and retain information best through real hands-on experiences.

Reminders

1. If you, or anyone you know, has any expertise related to our up-coming projects, please let us know. We would love to have “experts” come in and talk with the children to enrich their learning experiences. This can be sharing a book related to the project, or showing actual objects that these people use on a day to day basis!

2. Please make sure that you are closing the gate and door each time you enter or exit the room. It only takes a second for a child to slip out!

3. We typically start our morning activities around 9:15 each morning with music and movement, then are sitting down on the carpet for our meeting time by 9:30. If you child is a late arriver we will certainly acknowledge your child’s arrival, however, because we are engaged with the children, we may not be able to break away to speak personally with you that time.

4. Remember that breakfast is over at 8:45 each morning, this includes snacks from home. We are utilizing our tables for art and teaching activities, and it can delay the start of our educational lessons if we have children still eating.
**SEALS**  Lead Teacher: Alissa Montminy

**Spring has sprung!**

The end of our official school year is rapidly approaching! The seals are growing so quickly not just in size but in so many other ways. Many of our Seals are writing their names, successfully recognizing and identifying the letters of the alphabet, and working on advancing their social skills. You may have noticed your little one is asking more questions and talking about their friends more. We have been working on how to ask questions when we want to learn about something. The children are exploring forming questions and trying to figure out how to use words to express themselves. As some children are still working on outgrowing the toddler phase of using their hands and body to express their emotions, we are noticing the need to remind our little Aggies how important it is to use words to express themselves with their friends. We have been practicing asking friends about their feelings and checking on them when we notice they may be feeling upset. The children are beginning to learn how to work and play with other children and how to be mindful of other friend’s feelings. Please encourage your children at home to use their words when they are feeling happy, upset, sad, excited, or frustrated.

We also have begun using a Kindness Jar. When ever the children are caught spreading kindness and making good choices they get to place a pom-pom in the jar. Just as these pom-poms can be given they can be taken away when the children are making sad choices or find themselves making un-kind choices. When the children reach the goal line on the jar, I will be bringing in a frozen treat in celebration of their hard work as a class. This activity has really taken off and the children are incredibly excited about working hard to earn their reward. They all love being bucket fillers at school! A bucket filler is a person who fills other people’s “buckets” by building that person up and being kind to them. The best part of being a bucket filler is that your own bucket becomes full by filling other’s buckets. In Seals’ terms “Your own heart feels good when you’re nice to friends.” and “When you do hard work you get to earn your prize.” I am really proud that the children are learning to care for others and take ownership of their actions! It warms my heart to see them learn to be kind and to see friendships blooming.

**Coming Up...**

April will begin with a unit on construction as we have front row seats to real life construction across the street from the center. The children will have the opportunity to watch the construction project on a class field trip. We also have seen the children’s interest in construction grow due to the new infant playground we have being built in our play yard. Stay tuned for all the excitement this unit is bound to bring!
Dear Parents,

April has arrived and the hope is we can spend more time outdoors! During this month we will plant seeds and watch them grow. We will discuss about living/nonliving things, the environment and insects. We will spend time looking for bugs, frogs and worms. We will make bird feeders and watch for birds to arrive. If the weather refuses to cooperate, we’ll have to jump in puddles and make mud pies.

At this time in the preschool year, your precious children are blossoming! I have seen tremendous growth since the beginning of the year and I can’t wait to share it with you during our conference. Keep in mind, though, that development and learning do not always progress at a steady rate but rather in leaps forward and steps backwards. These swings in development are often referred to as intervals of equilibrium and disequilibrium. It can be challenging for adults to understand these shifts in children’s development. I encourage you to be aware and tolerant of these “regressions” within the context of what may be a part of your child’s development.

After school each day, talk with your child about what he or she did during the day. Begin by sharing what you did during the day and then pose questions designed to elicit more than “yes, no” answers. For example: What songs did you sing today? What new things did you learn? Which activity was the most fun for you today? Why? What new friends did you make? What have you brought home from school to share?

Review all work brought home and set aside special place for displaying the work. Your constant interest will play an important part in your child’s development.

Wishing you a beautiful spring!

Love,

Ms. Marina
Hello Lovely Seahorse Parents!

Can you believe March has already come and gone? It seems like we just started our new semester! Your little Seahorses are learning so much and I hope they are loving every minute of it! I know I sure am!

Our project we did on construction/building was so much fun. The children really seemed to enjoy it and they were always so eager to see what was coming next in the unit. We got to take two walking field trips to see some construction going on right across the street from our school and we all loved this. We learned about different building that are all around us and we even got to build some buildings of our own. As we were finished up the construction lesson, our playground at our school became a construction zone and this was super cool for us to watch. We watched them tear it down and start on building a brand new one for us all to enjoy.

Construction led right into our unit on Community Helpers that we started after Spring Break. There are so many people who work every day to make our community a wonderful place to live and we thank them for all their hard work.

As we are heading into the warmer months please be sure to check your child’s spare clothes to make sure they are weather appropriate. It can get very hot out on the playground and we want all children to have comfortable clothing.

Things to do at home:
- Talk to your child about community helpers.
- Find things around your neighborhood that you can do to help your community.
- Practice writing letters and numbers outside with chalk.

I am looking forward to another wonderful month!! Feel free to contact me if you need anything!

- Ms. Sarah
Welcome to April! Hopefully, we will have nice, warm weather. April is the month for Earth Day. It is never too soon to teach our children how important it is to care for our planet. Preschoolers will love learning about their environment, and there is no better time to teach them how to preserve and take care of it. By attending the Brazos Valley Earth Day that is held each April in recognition of the national Earth Day Celebration. Featuring educational booths, environmental demonstrations, a kid’s zone, and live entertainment, the 21st annual Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival will be celebrated Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wolf Pen Creek Park. Sunny weather is here! It’s time for sunscreen. It is hard to believe that we are asking for sunscreen in April, but we want to ensure that all children’s skin is kept safe this Spring & Summer. Please bring a bottle of sunscreen labeled with your child’s first and last name. We ask each year that parents apply the first round of sunscreen to children before dropping off in the morning, and we will reapply throughout the day. Now that warm weather is here, it is also a good time to change out the clothing in your child’s cubbies as he or she may have grown. Please be sure to have at least 2 changes of clothing, including socks and underwear. If your child has been sent home in clothing belonging to the center in the past few weeks, kindly return them to your classroom. At this time, we are in need of boys and girls clothing. If anyone has gently used items to donate, please bring them. They will be used for children in need of extra clothing. Thank you!

Things to Do at Home:
- Plan a garden and get your garden area prepped.
- Read stories about Spring, chicks, and bunnies.
- Make “Springtime” decorations for your home.
- Make observations around your yard of “Signs of Spring”.
- Play Outside!

Reminders and Important Dates:
- Celebrate NAEYC’s Week of the Young Child™ April 10 –16, 2016 We will be planning some fun activities for the kids.
- April 13th & 14th 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Dolphins Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Apr 23 @ 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- BGCC Family Picnic, Tiffany Park, Bryan – Bring your swim wear to get wet and a dish to share with 20-30 others

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Carolina Bratlien
March is over and we are jumping straight into our last month before our pre-kindergarten graduation. The month of March was VERY eventful with our studies over Oviparous Animals and Community Helpers. During our project over Oviparous Animals, we had experts from the Urban Interface bring a red tailed-hawk, a speckled king snake, a barn owl, and a pigeon. The children were able to gather research from their experts by asking questions and recording their answers! During our Community Helper Project, we had a university police officer and a dentist from Light Pediatric Dentistry come talk to the children so they were able to gather information as well. Overall it was a very exciting month, and the children had a great time learning!

In April, our number of the month will be 3, the color of the month will be black, and the shape of the month will be a star. We will continue to review our letters and sight words for the rest of the month. This month, we will have one four-week project over Health where we will be talking about dental, germs, and the human body. It is going to be an exciting month of learning!

If you have any questions, feel free to speak with me. Thank you as always for your support!

Thanks & Gig Em! - Ms. Jesi

Reminders:

- Jaguars Parent Conferences:
  Monday, April 11th @ 8:30-4:30 pm & Tuesday, April 12th @ 8:30-4:30 pm

- BGCC Family Picnic:
  April 23rd @ 10:00 am-1:00 pm
TIGERS  Lead Teacher: Kay Myers

Howdy Tiger Families:

Last month the children were so excited with the animal visitors we had, as we studied Oviparous Animals. The Urban Interface is a nonprofit, conservation organization, who is dedicated to provide education of wildlife and nature. They brought a Speckled King Snake, Red Tailed Hawk, Pigeon and a Barn Owl. They told the story on each animal and why they had them, the care of each one and what they eat. The children thought of questions about each one and were written on a large poster. When they came to share the animals, the questions were read and answered by our expert. It was very interesting to see all these animals up close and in our classroom.

The children enjoyed studying Community Helpers. They always enjoy seeing the police car and the Aggie bus.

**Reminders:** For April we will have our Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, April 11th and Tuesday, April 12th. Please look for an e-mail from Mrs. Kisha to sign up for a time.

Our BGCC Picnic will be Saturday, April 23rd at Tiffany Park from 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. You will receive an e-mail from Mrs. Kisha to sign up to bring something.

Pre-K graduation is coming up Friday, May 6th at 6:30 at the MSC. More information will follow.

We have learned all 26 letters of the alphabet. We will continue reviewing letters, journal writing, and number recognition for the remainder of the year.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kay
Division of Student Affairs
Becky Gates Children’s Center
1479 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-1479
Tel. 979.458.5437 Fax 979.458-1010
http://bgcc.tamu.edu

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http://bgcc.tamu.edu
All Menu Changes Will Be Posted In The Front Foyer

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1% Milk is served with Morning Snack and Lunch. Water is served with all meals.

TAMU Becky Gates Children's Center

April 2016