Howdy, Parents!

This month we will be engaged in a school-wide study of farm animals. We will actually be bringing a petting zoo to the center! During our two professional development days this month, the teachers will be delving further into inquiry-based studies with young children. We will be brainstorming strategies for each classroom and learning about how to facilitate learning and exploration in the classroom for each of the age groups at the center. We also have two separate groups of students from the College of Education conducting observations and teaching lessons and the math study is still at the beginning stages. Thus, we have been very busy in the classrooms!

We are in the midst of flu season and we have had teachers and student workers who have been ill. This is not unusual but we do remind parents that if your child is not feeling well or have other symptoms, most young children prefer to be at home cared for by a parent than at school. If your child runs a fever or has loose stools, we will contact you to pick up your child. Please ensure that we have the correct contact information on file for both parents as well as for emergency contacts, as this information may have changed.

We are looking forward to warmer weather (and spring), and wish you a great semester!

Kisha

Kisha Lee,
Director
It’s that time again!

We are planning another Scholastic Book Fair for our school! More books, more shopping options and the opportunity to raise more money for our school. While most of the titles will be geared toward the Preschool set, there will be some elementary and older books available as well.


Week of March 23!

Petting Zoo

Wednesday, March 11
2:30-4:30 pm

With special guest, Clifford, the Big Red Dog!
Howdy All,

We are off to a great year and if you haven’t noticed we welcomed a new little one to our class. Please help me welcome CeCe and her mom Sarah and dad Sean and sister Ellie. We have lots of fun units planned for March. We will have fun with two weeks of Farm along with a week of spring and another week of Dr. Seuss. So be looking for some cute stuff. We had a great friendship celebration thanks to those that helped and those who came and celebrated with us. We will be closed the week of spring break. We hope you will enjoy this time with your family.

Our butterflies are growing up a storm. I was looking at pictures from when they first started amazing changes. CeCe has come into our room and made herself right at home. She loves the babies. She is so cute she sits them all at the table and brings them food. She loves to wrap them up too. What a great mommy. Speaking of mommies Brooklyn spends most of her day caring for Daniel he never wants for a thing. Daniel loves the little house on the playground. He thinks he is such a big guy sitting at the table. Lucas is very busy he loves to push the little cars and is very curious about Mrs. Andrea’s papers. Leina loves to read the monster books and is a great helper. She loves to help me put things away. Sammy loves to read all the books and gets so excited when she sees the librarian come with new ones. She is singing all the songs. I caught her reading a book while singing I had a tiny turtle so cute. Last but certainly not last our little firecracker Vishaka. She loves everything. I know for sure she plays with each and every toy before the day is done. She is a cutie. They all enjoyed the visit from Mrs. Gates and Mrs. McFerrin they had a special visit in our room.

We will have a great month and thanks to you all for being a part of our room.
Howdy Wonderful Parents,

The Bumblebees had so much fun in February! We learned about Hearts, the color pink, dental health, and overall health. The Bumblebees are growing and learning so much so fast!

During the month of March, we will learn about the color green, the shape hexagon, farm animals, spring time, and St. Patrick’s Day. We will continue to learn how to cover our coughs, not to put our toys in our mouths/ears, and to have gentle touches with our friends.

We will have our first Birthday Party on Friday, March 6, 2015. We will be celebrating the birthdays of Isaac (March 3rd), Lucy (March 11th), Cecilia (March 27th), and Susie (March 28th). While we will have one actual birthday party for all of the children who share a birthday in March, we will also have a special lunch time treat for the actual child’s birthday. We will also make the child a birthday crown that they will be able to take home with them on their special day. We are very excited to be able to celebrate your child’s birthday. Please note, if you do not want your child’s birthday to be celebrated please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Ashley and let her know of your decision. We do not have to celebrate birthdays.

Please make sure if your child has an accident to bring back an extra change of clothes the following day. We want your child to be as comfortable as possible and to be in clothing that fits them having the extra change of clothing in their cubby ensures this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at abush@bgcc.tamu.edu, I will return your emails as soon as possible.

With Love,

Ms. Ashley
Howdy Parents,

The children had a wonderful and fun filled February. They learned about dental health, friendship and good health habits. Also in February, we had our “Friendship Party”. It was a blast! The children enjoyed decorating sugar cookies. We want to thanks the parents for bringing the food and coming to the party. The children had so much fun.

This month I would like to start potty training, when we get back from spring break. If you are not traveling for spring break, it would a good opportunity to start at home. I will send out more information on what to do. Also, we are going to start using regular cups instead of Sippy cups. We ask that you practice the skill over the spring break to make this change easier when they come back from break. We will make sure your children gets water throughout the day. If you have any question, please let me know.

As we move along into the month of March we look forward to many more exciting adventures. March 20th is the first day of spring. Why not celebrate with a great spring activity that you can do at home? Take your child to the park to find flowers. It’s a great way for them to practice recognizing their colors and sizes of the flowers. After picking the flowers they can do a flower collage by gluing them to the paper. If you have any questions please feel free to call.

March Themes:
2nd-6th-Farm Animals
9th-13th-Farm Animals
23rd-27th-Dr. Seuss
30th-April 3rd-Spring
Dear Parents,

I wanted to let you know that the children are adjusting nicely to the changes. I am getting to know each one of them individually. I thank you all who had a chance to attend our friendship class party. I also want to thank you for the wonderful food. We had a variety to choose from. It seems the months are flying by much too quickly. February was a flash and I am sure summer will be here in the blink of an eye. We are delighted with the progress of the children at this point. Potty training is going on well.

The past few weeks have been a learning experience in our classroom. Children were learning about friendship and good health habits. They shared toys with friends, and helped each other putting on their coats. They practiced brushing their teeth, and learned about healthy, and non-healthy foods. We ended our unit by having a fruit tasting center. We tasted red, green, and yellow apples. Children loved it! Last month children enjoyed playing in snow. We were hoping it would last for at least a week, but we were un-lucky, it all melted within five days.

During the month of March we will move on to our next unit, farm animals. We are going to have a two week center wide project learning experience about farm animals before we go on spring break. I have enjoyed meeting all of you, and looking forward to having more fun with your child in the coming months. If there is anything you want me to know about your child, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Ms. Mable, Ms. Kristen & Ms. Grace

Themes: Farm Animals, Dr. Seuss, Spring.
Color/Shape: Green/Diamond.
Letter/Number: Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww/Review.
Birthdays: None

Fine Motor
- Gluing
- Puzzles
- Play doh
- Tracing

Large Motor
- Stretching
- Running
- Stomping
- Jumping
February was a busy month! We enjoyed learning about presidents, friendship, dental health and brushing the “teeth”. We are excited to be hearing the children use their words to talk to friends as well as expressing their feelings and needs. It has been amazing! The food for the Friendship Party was delicious. We wish to thank the parents who supplied the food as well as the parents who brought goodies for the children to take home. Your support this year has been amazing! We appreciate William’s Mom, Hoonchong, and Bo Kyoung’s Mom, Hye Young, for helping us during the party. March will be a fun month. We will be doing a Center–wide unit study on farm animals early in the month. March 23rd-27th, we will be having our Scholastic Book Fair at the Center. There will be many activities involved with this event. Please watch for more information in the future. Dr. Seuss is always a favorite week with the class. I will be doing assessments this month to get ready for Parent Conferences in April.

**Themes:** Farm Animals

Dr. Seuss

Spring

**Color of the month:** green

**Shape of the month:** diamond

**Author of the month:** Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel)

**Developmental Goals:**

- Social and Emotional: sharing toys, asking for help, listening and following directions
- Language: learning to name items, songs and finger plays
- Fine Motor: scissor skills, using writing utensils
- Gross Motor: balancing on one foot, hopping, bouncing and catching a ball
- Self Help/Life Skills: toilet training, pulling up our clothing after toilet

**Parent Tip:** Looking for something to do during Spring Break? You might consider visiting a zoo. Families from the Center have enjoyed travelling to Houston or Waco to see the animals. Another place to visit is the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham (only open during week days). If you wish to stay close to home, visit a public library or go to a local park and take a picnic. The local Barnes and Noble Bookstore has a play area with a wooden train set. You can check with them for the times of their free children’s story hour. The adults could even enjoy a treat from the Starbucks inside the store. We just hope you relax and have fun!
Hummingbirds

Spring is on the way, and the Hummingbirds are ready for the springtime weather! February flew by in the blink of an eye. The children loved our snow day, and especially watching each day as the snow melted little by little. That led to some fantastic science discussions about solids and liquids. February was also Black history month. We learned about some important African Americans who made contributions that shaped our history. Garrett Morgan was the inventor of the stop light. Without this invention driving in our cities would be a dangerously precarious daily activity. In honor of George Crum we tasted various types of potato chips, and discussed how potato chips have become a quiz essential American icon. We rounded out the month with an author study on Ezra Jack Keats, an African American writer of children’s books.

Looking to March, we will begin our spring assessments. We will have our spring conferences in April. This is always an exciting time where we get to see just how far each child has come. All of the children have been working so hard, not just academically, but socially and emotionally as well. They have gained a level of maturity and independence with everyday tasks.

During spring break plan some fun day trips with your child. There are many options close by that your child would enjoy. The Cameron Park Zoo in Waco is Family friendly and easy to navigate. It is about an hour and a half away. Another fun day trip would be the Blue Bell Ice Creamery in Brenham. In only about 30 minutes you can be at the creamery. They offer tours every half hour, the best part of the whole tour is the scoop of Blue Bell ice cream at the end! Brenham also has a miniature horse farm that offers daily tours. You might consider taking your child to a different local park each day. Children love to be outdoors and experiencing nature. These are just a few suggestions! We hope you have a fun filled spring break with your child.

Just a reminder that the parking lot can be a dangerous place for your child to run. We have noticed a lot of children getting ahead of their parents upon departure in the afternoon. This is worrisome because it only takes a second for a child to bolt out and potentially be hit by a car. We want all out hummingbirds to stay safe! Thank you for your help in this matter.

Thank you!

Mrs. Martey & Ms. Elaine

Themes:
- Farm animals
- Dr. Seuss
- Spring and Eggs

Letters/Numbers:
- Ss,Tt,Uu,Vv
- 18,19,20

Color/Shape:
- Green/Diamond

Books:
- Big Red Barn
- Farmer Duck
- Down By The Barn
- Have You Got My Purr
- Green Eggs And Ham
- Cat In The Hat
- Hot On Pop

Reminders

Remember that we still go outside on cold days. Please make sure your child has a warm jacket, hat, and mittens for outside play.

Please check your child’s supply of extra clothing. Your child should have at least two complete sets additional clothing appropriate for the weather. While the center has a small supply of extra clothing, we may not have the right size, or particular item of clothing your child might need. If your child does not have extra clothing on hand we may have to call you and ask you to bring them. Place your child’s back up clothing in their basket above the changing table. We appreciate your help in this matter.
Howdy Parents,

Thank you for everyone making our friendship party a great success. The children loved putting their friendship cards in each friend’s box. I would like to give a big congrats for Mrs. Mable’s new promotion. We will miss her so much. But give a big howdy to our new TA’s that will be in our room. Ms. Sarah, Ms. Calee and Ms. Maddie, please help me on welcoming them into our classroom. We have fabulous plans for March! We will be celebrating Farm Animals and Dr. Seuss. Our next Project Approach is on Farm Animals. The children loved exploring the different animals that live on the farm. So moo over Old McDonald the Seals are coming to learn.

Math: We will continue working on number concepts.
Science: We will make predictions and create hypothesis.
Literacy: We will focus on letter recognition, letter sounds and pre-writing.
Physical: We will work on refining fine motor skills.

Family Activity:
Here is a nice family activity you might want to go to during Spring Break.
You Paint It! You choose the ceramic piece from our huge inventory... We provide the materials – paints, brushes, sponges, stencils, idea books... You enjoy designing and painting your item... When you’re finished painting, we glaze and fire your piece and in 5-7 days you’ll have a personal masterpiece and keepsake! Here is a link with more information. http://www.upaintit.com/

Themes:
3/2-3/6: Project Approach – Farm Animals
3/15-3/20: Spring Break
3/23-3/27: Dr. Seuss Letter Jj

Number – 4
Color – Blue
Shape - Square

Teacher Schedule:
Mrs. Jamie – M-F: 7:30-4:30
jamieg@bgcc.tamu.edu
Ms. Sarah: M-W-F 8:30-5:30 T-TH 8:00 -12:00
Ms. Maddie: T-TH 2:00-5:30
Dear Parents,

Spring is in the air; we are enjoying this beautiful weather by spending as much time as possible outdoors!

This month we will talk about farm, spring animals, flowers, butterflies and other spring wonders. We will focus on the color green, making many green projects at the art/science table.

**Math:** number concepts and number recognition

**Science:** explore float/sink, lifecycle of a butterfly, color mixing

**Literacy:** letter recognition, letter sounds and pre-writing

**Physical:** We will work on refining fine motor skills

We will continue working on refining the social emotional skill of self-regulation. We are using active calming techniques such as deep breathing to help manage difficult, but developmentally normal fits. In our classroom we call it “being a S.T.A.R.,” which stands for Smile, Take a deep breath, And Relax. Three deep breaths will turn the stress response off in the body. I encourage you to practice this active calming technique with your child at home when needed.

In order to help with our grocery store, you can donate empty cereal boxes, empty milk cartons and other “goodies” for our material collection. Perhaps you can think of other materials that would afford us creative learning experiences. If so, then please send them with instructions for their use.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to come and speak with me. Thank you for trusting me with your most precious treasures!

Developmental Goals

**Fine Motor:** lacing, finger tracing, painting with brushes, eyedroppers, scissors skills

**Gross Motor:** walking backwards, hopping on one foot, and balancing skills

**Social and Self-help:** delaying gratification, self-regulation

**Language:** vocabulary development

Now that the days are getting cooler, remember to dress your child appropriately. Please dress your child in easy to put on and comfortable clothes. We do go outside every day unless it is raining. Please check your child’s cubby to make sure the extra set of clothes is weather appropriate.
Howdy Seahorses!

This will be the last newsletter from me, so I want to thank you all for your help and cooperation this year. I have really enjoyed getting to know you and your child, and I will miss my Seahorses very much! It has been a privilege to work with your child and it has been a wonderful experience seeing them grow from Fall until now. I will miss being part of the Becky Gates team. Thank you for making my time here memorable.

During the month of February, we studied shadows and briefly discussed Ground Hog’s Day. The kids had fun learning about ground hogs, what shadows are, and how shadows are made, and how they can find their own shadows. Then we studied friendship and discussed what it means to be a friend. Thank you to all parents who brought an item to share with the class for our friendship party and for those who came to our party! After friendship week, we studied germs and dental hygiene. The kids learned where germs can be found, what they can do to our bodies, and how we can get rid of germs. Lastly, we discussed health and nutrition. The children learned about foods that are healthy for our bodies and foods that we should have only in moderation. They had fun learning different exercises that are good for our hearts and keep our bodies growing strong.

This month, we will be learning about four different topics. We will start off with our fourth project: Farm Animals. The kids will learn about animals found on a farm, what they do, who works on the farm, and what can be grown on a farm. Next, it will be Spring Break – enjoy and have fun! When the kids get back, we will discuss the famous author Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss is a wonderful children’s author and the kids will get to read all kinds of Dr. Seuss books. Last, we will talk about oviparous animals, what oviparous means, and how oviparous animals live in our world.

Thank you so much for everything. I hope you all have a wonderful rest of the semester!
Welcome to March. We will hopefully see some sunny, warm days. The preschoolers will be learning about Theodor Seuss Geisel, best known as Dr. Seuss. He wrote wonderful books like “The Cat in the Hat” and created characters that are beloved by generations. As the month moves on, we will learn about the season of Spring and all its wonders: windy days, flying kites, and windsocks. We will continue writing lowercase letters, numbers 1-20, and beginning sounds. Your children are becoming more confident everyday! Remember the importance of being an independent thinker. Give them time to figure out situations before you tell them how to fix or change them.

Oviparous Theme. This is one of my favorite themes with the kids. The kids feel so smart using such a “big” word. Totally fun! We will learn about oviparous animals that lay eggs and so much more.

Our Love & Kindness Celebration was great! The children enjoyed making their own pizza. Thanks to all my wonderful parents that brought something for our party!

Themes:
Dr. Seuss
Dr. Seuss
Spring Weather
Oviparous Animals

March Skills:
Rhyming
Opposites

Things to Do at Home:
• Read some books about Spring, St. Patrick’s Day, and Dr. Seuss Books
• Find some signs of Spring
• Talk about things that rhyme
• Look for opposites: wet/dry; old/new; long/short; soft/scratchy

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Carolina Bratlien
Howdy!
The Jaguars are ready to march into March!!
First, let me thank everyone who participated in our Friendship Party last month. We had a good time sharing snack with our families.
We will start the month of March with a two week investigation on farm. We will also learn about Dr. Seuss and oviparous animals. As the weather changes and spring begins, we will be discussing the changes that happen in spring. This month will also be full of more science exploration and experiments to learn about the world in which they live.

READING WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER:
One of the best ways to ensure your child's success in school is by reading to him or her. It doesn't matter what you read, as long as your child is interested and you sit and look at the pages together. Reading to a child shows them that books are read from front to back and words are read from left to right. They figure this out on their own as they watch you read. Books provide information and insight to things that your child may never be exposed to in normal daily life. Your child may see a picture of something in a book, and they learn what it does and what it is used for without ever even touching one. Reading also builds focusing skills.

** Here are some tips for making reading fun for your preschooler:

- Let your preschooler choose the books. Visit your local library and let your child pick out some books.
- Read at a time when your child is calm, such as before bed or when they wake. Don't force your child to sit and read with you if they are full of energy. Let them run around first.
- Make reading interactive. Encourage your child's participation in the story by asking questions or asking her to point out things. If he book is familiar, ask them what is going to happen next.
- Preschoolers tend to have a favorite book that they want you to read over and over again. Build your child's confidence by asking them to read that book to you once you're sure they have memorized it.

Have a wonderful March, and, as always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
Mrs. Krista :)
Howdy! Tiger Parents:

I want to thank all of you who sent items for our Love and Friendship Celebration. The children were so excited about passing out their cards. It was a lot of fun and they had a plate full of fruit, fruit dip, pretzels and juice.

The first two weeks of this month we will be doing another project on Farm (Animals). This is one of my favorite units to study. I have collected many books on this subject and will have lots to share.

The last week of the month we will study Oviparous Animals (animals that come from eggs). We will be doing many activities with eggs. We will have an egg hunt. More information will be sent out later.

For home activities – write your child’s first and last name on a piece of paper large enough so you can cut it apart. Mix up the pieces and see if they can put it back in the correct order. Look through magazines together. Let your child choose a picture and help them write a story about it. You can do the same with numbers. Write 1 – 30 on a sheet of paper. Cut it apart and let them work on putting the numbers in order. If they can do that with ease add more numbers. While riding in the car look for letters on street signs and buildings. Show your child where to find their address (on the mailbox). Point out your street sign and discuss with them what their address is. Reading to your child every day is important! Stop and ask questions about the story as you are reading.

If you have questions please feel free to ask.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kay

Lessons

Wk. 1   Farm/Uu
Wk. 2   Farm/review
Wk. 3   Center Closed for Spring Break
Wk. 4   Oviparous Animals
### Administrative Staff:

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Krista Van De Flier  
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**TAMU Becky Gates Children’s Center**

1% milk is served with morning snack and lunch, water is served with all meals

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### March 2015

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Center Closed for Professional Development and Spring Break

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<td>Cheese and Crackers</td>
<td>Fruit Cocktail</td>
<td>Spanish Rice</td>
<td>Pineapple</td>
<td>w/ Ranch Dressing</td>
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<td>Rice Krispie Treats (item contains Gelatin)</td>
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<td>Blueberry Bagels</td>
<td>Yogurt</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Macaroni and Cheese</td>
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<td>Beef Tamales</td>
<td>Chicken Curry</td>
<td>Cheese Pizza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Steamed Broccoli</td>
<td>Pinto Beans</td>
<td>Black Beans</td>
<td>Coucous</td>
<td>Lettuce and Tomato Salad</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diced Pears</td>
<td>Mandarin Oranges</td>
<td>Spanish Rice</td>
<td>Pineapple</td>
<td>w/ Ranch Dressing</td>
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<td>Beef Tamales</td>
<td>Chicken Curry</td>
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<td>Cheese Pizza</td>
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<td>Pinto Beans</td>
<td>Black Beans</td>
<td>Coucous</td>
<td>Lettuce and Tomato Salad</td>
<td>w/ Ranch Dressing</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Spanish Rice</td>
<td>Pineapple</td>
<td>Cheese Pizza</td>
<td>Yogurt</td>
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<td>Lettuce and Tomato Salad</td>
<td>w/ Ranch Dressing</td>
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<td>Hamburger w/ Lettuce and Tomato</td>
<td>Baked Fish with Tartar Sauce</td>
<td>Glazed Carrots</td>
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<td>Chicken Nuggets</td>
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All Menu Changes Will Be Posted in the Front Foyer