From the Director...

Howdy!

And welcome to March! This month is a busy month for the center. The teachers and administrative staff are gearing up for our reaccreditation visit this month by the SACS accreditation team. We will share the results at the end of our accreditation visit. Teachers are gathering evidence of their projects, activities and lessons to prepare for the observation visit later this month as well as continue to plan fun and exciting units of learning for your child(ren). We also have spring pictures, class pictures and preschool graduation pictures.

This month, we have classrooms studying Oviparous animals, strawberries, farm, farming, farm animals and community helpers. We will be asking parents who work in the community to come to visit the classrooms to speak to the children about their professions. The teachers will be inviting parents (or your colleagues) to come to speak to the classrooms. We had so much fun during our dog and pet study. The children learned so much and had many furry visitors to the center. Thank you to all of you who sent in pictures of your pets or your actual pets for the children to see! And a big thank you to Reveille’s handlers and for our visiting vets. The children learned so much about the tools used, the services provided by vets and how this is similar to them being seen by the doctor. Our goal is to provide a wide variety of experiences and activities for your child to enhance their learning. We look forward to the future projects and studies and welcome your continued support for the center.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Butterflies
- Bees
- Cardinals
- Blue Jays
- Robins
- Hummingbirds
- Seals
- Whales
- Sea Horses
- Dolphins
- Jaguars
- Tigers

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 17-18: CENTER CLOSED FOR UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY
MARCH 23-24: SACS ACCREDITATION VISIT
MARCH 28: CENTER-WIDE 2-WEEK STUDY BEGINS
MARCH 29-31: SPRING PHOTOS (INDIVIDUAL, CLASS, GROUPS, GRADUATION)

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All of our friends loved meeting the First Lady of Aggieland while learning all about dogs in our pet unit!
Howdy All,

We are into March and our projects are going awesome. Ms. Kisha and Ms. Krista have ordered us some amazing things to go with our projects. It’s so fun to watch the children’s bright eyes go straight to the new items. I am fortunate to have lots of fun things myself in my grandbabies closet. We have been so busy learning new things and making lasting memories. I would say that’s what life is about. It’s so rewarding when they pick up on something you have worked hard to teach in a fun loving way. I have to brag, these little ones are pretty amazing.

Now on to the fun part. Hailey is amazing us with her verbal skills! She knows all her friends’ names and all the animal sounds. She can request the book she wants to read. She had us laughing so hard the other day, she was on the little phone and was giving someone the what for. I said tele-marketer. Zola is really starting to use her verbal skills, too. She is so cute with her friends. Zola has Beau and Avery around her little finger. Zola loves to help her friends in anyway. Speaking of Beau, he is our little go-getter. There is nothing he will not try. He loves to be outside, and nothing makes him happier than to see a big truck. Avery loves the dirt outside. He has so much fun moving it from one sink to the other. He and Benjamin love the book “The Napping House”. We read that a thousand times a day. We just can’t resist those sweet little faces. Benjamin loves to build with things and put things in and out of containers. I see an engineer in our future. Our little Lucas really loves the Velcro center. He loves taking them off and putting them back. He is a little partial to the dirt outside, too. Lucas loves to cuddle up with a book, as well. I have seen so much change in these sweet little ones in just a short time. I just want to push a slowdown button, but in other ways I am ready for what’s to come.

Reminders: Please check for appropriate clothing and read your sheets for reminders for diapers and wipes. I look forward to sharing our upcoming projects with you so be looking for some cute pictures.

Love,

Mrs. Andrea
March Themes
- **February 29-March 18th**: Farm
- **Animals**
- **March 21-April 1st**: Community Helpers

Monthly
- Shape: Oval
- Color: Green

**Bee Reminders**
- Please check your child’s daily’s for any items they might be needed.
- Sign your child in and out
- Please provide a jacket with your child’s name in it for outside play.

**Upcoming Events:**
- **March 10th**: Center wide Egg Hunt: TBA
- **March 17th**: BGCC Closed for Teacher Professional Development
- **March 18th**: BGCC Closed for University Spring Break

**Teacher Schedule:**

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Howdy Parents,

The children had a wonderful and fun filled February. They learned about Dogs, Pets and Friendship. Also in February, we had our “Friendship Party”. It was a blast! We want to thank the parents for bringing the food and coming to the party. The children had so much fun.

We are going to start using regular cups instead of Sippy cups. We ask that you practice the skill over Spring Break to make this change easier when they come back from break. We will make sure your children get water throughout the day. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Here are some reminder for this month:

- **Thursday, March 17th – Friday, March 18th**: Center closed for University Holiday
Dear Families,

We want to send a big “Thank You!” to the parents who helped out with our friendship party. The children had so much fun! It’s hard to believe Spring is just around the corner. Can you feel it? The children can, and are growing as fast as the trees in the yard! Spring brings with it storms and rain. This is a great time to discuss weather with your child. Ask your child questions such as “What makes it storm?” “What is thunder? Rain? Or Hail?” It is important to discuss with your child tornados and what safety precautions should be taken during a tornado. Create with your child a tornado drill and practice this with your family.

During the month of February, the children learned about dogs, pets in general, and friendship. The children learned about pets’ basic physical features such as the coat and the body. They also learned about caring for these pets, the roles of pets in families, as well as things families need to consider when choosing a pet. This unit was designed so that the children develop an awareness of and respect for pets. Dogs, cats, and fish are some of the pets we discussed. During the friendship unit, Children learned about working together, sharing, and using kind words. In March, we will look at other wonderful projects. We are going to have a three-week unit project on oviparous animals (animals that lay eggs to give birth), followed by another two-week project on community helpers. The first three weeks (February 29th - March 16th) the children will enjoy learning about oviparous and non-oviparous animals. We will introduce it by showing our little ones eggs filled with oviparous animals. Children are going to make some predictions about the type of animals in the egg. Then we will open it up and check out some of the "oviparous" animals.

The following two weeks (March 21st - April 1st), we are going to talk about community helpers and their importance to our families. The children will learn that dentists, nurses, and doctors are people who help keep us healthy. Please talk about how these people help your family. Encourage your child to talk about his or her experiences visiting the doctor or dentist. The children also will learn that police officers and firefighters are people who help keep us safe. Help your child understand that firefighters and police officers are our friends. Please encourage your child to show appreciation for the community helpers your family may encounter.

Finally, we would like to take this time to welcome our new friend, Michael, to our class! Welcome, Michael! We are all happy to have you in the Blue Jays class!

Important Reminders:
Please be sure to check your children’s cubbies for extra clothes. Please check once a month. We are finding that children do not fit in the items that are left in the cubby or they went home and never came back. Please let us know if you ever have any questions or concerns.

AT HOME

To foster parent-child interaction and reinforce at home some of the concepts we are working on at school, please try some of the following ideas:

*Look through magazines to find pictures of oviparous/non-oviparous animals. Help your child tear out pictures of the animals and glue them onto a piece of paper or paper plate. This activity is good for the development of fine motor and visual discrimination skills.

*You can also visit a zoo to observe the animals. Thank you.
Wow, it seems that February “flew by”! The children enjoyed our studies on dogs and pets. We appreciate Joshua’s family bringing their dog, Puma, for a visit. The ice cream sundaes for the Friendship Party were delicious! We want to send a big thanks to the parents who supplied the necessary items for the party. We are especially grateful to Samuel’s Mom, Angela, who not only supplied ideas for our games, but also took the pictures to share with everyone.

We are looking forward to March! We will do studies on farms, farm animals and community helpers. At the end of the month, we will have our birthday extravaganza to celebrate all birthdays! Please watch for more information to come. Of course, we are all looking forward to Spring Break! We want to wish you a fun and relaxing time! Spring pictures—individual and class—will be taken at the end of the month.

**Parent Tip:** Looking for something to do during Spring Break? You might consider visiting a zoo. Families from the Center have traveled to Waco and Houston to see the animals. Wish to stay in town? A visit to the Children’s Museum might prove to be fun!
Spring is in the air, and the Hummingbirds are busier than ever! We enjoyed all the opportunities that our pet investigation offered us. The children were excited as different animals came to our classroom. When the mother rabbit and her bunnies visited our class, the children were fascinated at the many different colors of the bunnies. Miss Sadie shared her puppy, Koda, with the class, and the children had a chance to learn how to use gentle touches to pet the puppy. We also saw a hamster! As we continued our investigation, we discovered that many different kinds of animals could be considered pets. The class particularly enjoyed pretending to be veterinarians in our animal hospital center.

As we move into March, we will continue our animal theme with a project on farm animals. It might be fun for you and your child to visit a real working farm! Sunshine Farm is just a quick drive away, located in Montgomery, Texas. The farm offers tours of their barns and vegetable gardens. When you visit, you will see farm animals in various stages of development, and beautiful vegetable gardens with seasonal herbs and vegetables. There is also a gift shop where they make and sell their own all-natural skin care products. It is located at 5800 Jackson Rd, Montgomery, Texas. You can contact Jim and Lisa Jenkins at 936-648-6145. You can also check out their Facebook page to see photos and reviews of the farm. This would be a wonderful way to spend a day with your child during Spring Break! They are open 9:00am-5:00pm on Tuesday –Saturday, and 12:00pm-4:00pm on Sunday.

Reminders

1. If you, or anyone you know, has any expertise related to our upcoming 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 by sharing a book related to the project, or by 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. The center will be closed March 17-18 for Spring Break.

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

Thank you!

Mrs. Martey & Ms. Elaine
SEALS
Lead Teacher: Alissa Montminy

Howdy Parents!

Spring is upon us! As many of you know, the Seals have been growing by leaps and bounds with their writing abilities and their letter knowledge. We have been focusing on writing and identifying our names this past month. It has been incredible watching the children grow in this process and seeing their pride when writing. I want to remind you that each child has their own pace when it comes to letter identification and writing. It is OK for children to be on different levels than their peers in this process. Please encourage your child to write their own name on their art work, even at home. It is helpful to give the child an example of their written name that they can use as a visual guide. Also, providing your child with an environment that is print rich will help in the process of learning to write. Provide your child with many opportunities to read and be exposed to letters in their everyday life. A great way to do this is by labeling things at home with their written name so the children can familiarize themselves with the written word for each specific item. The children regularly are exposed to this concept while at the Center.

The Seals just wrapped up two exciting projects on dogs and friendship. We had an amazing time and were able to practice our social skills on the playground and in the classroom. It was great to see the children really bonding and forming new friendships. The Seals spent an afternoon learning about being kind and doing things for others simply to make their day a little brighter. We were able to practice this by performing a random act of kindness and picking up trash outside of the Center. The children learned that not only is it kind to help others, but it can be fun and it “makes our hearts feel good” (Ainsley). That particular lesson was such a huge moment for me as a teacher, and I really wanted to share that with you all. Being able to see the children genuinely excited to give back to their school and spread kindness really reminded me of how much of an impact these little aggies can have. I encourage you to provide opportunities for your child to volunteer and help others outside of school. They absolutely loved being “kindness helpers”!

Up next, is our study on strawberries. The children will have the opportunity to learn about planting, farming, and the life cycle of a strawberry. We have some really creative and exciting things planned for this unit, including a Jam Factory dramatic play center, making our very own strawberry jam, and planting our own strawberry seeds. The children are excited and have informed me that strawberries are in fact “so yummy” (Boine)! I am excited to take the Seals on another exciting journey filled with investigation and exploration!

Reminders:

- The weather is warming up and we are experiencing quite a bit of sunshine during our afternoon playground time. Please bring warm weather clothes to switch out your child’s spare clothes bag. Also, if you would like to bring a hat or sunscreen for your child, please label them and bring the sunscreen in its original bottle.

- The Center will be closed on March 17th and 18th for Spring Break.

- Spring Photos will be coming up soon. Please be on the lookout for updates.

Mr. Jeff doing a science activity with the children. The children created a love potion with Kool-Aid, Baking soda, and Vinegar.
Dear Parents,

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

February was a very productive month. We have been busy learning about problem solving, dogs and feelings. For Love and Kindness Day, we talked about all of the special people we love, both family members and friends. We discussed ways to be good citizens who care for and respect each other. I believe it is important to help build good character in the early years. We can help our children value themselves and each other when we encourage them to be helpful, compassionate, unselfish friends. In our classroom, we refer to these positive actions as "bucket fillers." As the Bucket Fillers Web site explains, "Bucket fillers are those who help without being asked, give hugs and compliments, and generally spread their love and good feelings to others." We all carry an invisible bucket in which we keep our feelings about ourselves. When our buckets are full, we are happy; when they are empty, we are sad. It is important that children learn that when they fill a friend's bucket, they also fill their own bucket because it feels good to make others happy. At this time, we also introduce the concept of being a bucket dipper. A bucket dipper is a person who hurts other people's feelings, essentially dipping into their invisible bucket. Bucket filling is becoming a common act in our classroom and one that does not go unrecognized! It was so gratifying to see them genuinely demonstrating affection to other friends by making and sharing cards!

Our Friendship/Love project directed children's attention to chocolate dipped strawberries. Hence, our upcoming strawberry investigation in March!

I need your help! The Whales are learning how to ask questions. Teaching children to ask good, thoughtful questions can be an incredible challenge! Now, this may seem impossible for many parents to imagine, especially if your child spends most of the day peppering you with one question after another! In fact, it seems that most children are absolutely FULL of questions, unless they HAVE to ask one! If you tell a child that he or she must ask a question, you often get statements, instead, such as, "I like your shirt." Most young children don’t really know what a question is as opposed to a statement. You could help me by reinforcing this concept at home. It would make project work even more effective.

We will continue working on refining the social emotional skill of self-regulation. We continue 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.

If you have any questions on how to extend your child’s development and learning at home, please let me know. Thank you for all you do to make sure your child is ready to learn and be loved in the classroom!
Howdy Seahorse Parents!

February was such a fun month for all of us! The Seahorses loved our study on dogs and they learned so much. We talked about all the different jobs that dogs can do and different things that need to be done to care for a dog. The children also really enjoyed all the visitors that we had, as well as getting to interact with all of the dogs. This really was a great experience for them, as they were able to visualize what we were talking about in the classroom.

After we wrapped up our study on dogs, we started a new project about buildings and construction. The children seem very eager to learn all about this, and we have some super fun things planned for this unit!

I want to thank all the parents who came to our Friendship Party! The children love having you attend our events and it really means a lot to them. The party was a huge hit and the Seahorses really seemed to have a good time!

**Things to do at home:**

- Look for construction sights on the way to and from school. Stop and let your child look at them. Talk to your child about the different things they see at the site. You could even take pictures for them to bring in to share with their friends.

- Have your child find letters on the way to and from school. Ask them to identify letters on street signs and on buildings that you pass.

**Reminders:**

- Check to make sure your child’s spare clothes are weather appropriate.

- We do go outside every day unless it is raining, so please make sure your child is adequately prepared for the weather.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me!

Thanks and Gig’em!

Ms. Sarah
Welcome to March, when we hopefully see some more sunny, warm days. Our first project approach about dogs was a hit with the Dolphins class. They came up with everything from the store name to the products we had!
For six weeks we will learn about buildings and community helpers. We will plan trips across the street from the Center, where many buildings are being built. Having this happen right in front of us is a great learning opportunity! We will be very curious, and their questions and ideas will be fun.

During the building study, we will bring out levels for the kids to explore balance in the science center. The project approach gives children opportunities to learn about things that interest them and allows spontaneous play with structure in the classroom. It teaches basic skills and embraces children’s proficiencies. Children are actively engaged in their learning and are self-motivated.

Benefits of the Project Approach:
Due to the fact that children have the opportunity to learn about subjects and topics that interest them, there exists a sense of ownership between a child and his work, just as it did with the dog project. In addition, the project is unique to each child, and adapted for each individual learner. This allows for complete inclusion in the classroom. Every child experiences learning in ways that meet their needs and interest them. Since children are taking ownership of their work, these children are more likely to remember the information and experiences they learned about.
The Project Approach also allows students to experience learning in real life settings and ways. Through project-based learning, children are able to interact with other people and their environment, and be inquisitive rather than simply being sponges. In addition, responsibility, teamwork, and communication are areas in which children will grow, since they are constantly performing investigations on their own and then sharing what they find with their peers.
I can’t wait to see where the next projects take the kids! We will continue writing lowercase letters, numbers 1-20, and beginning sounds. Your children are becoming more confident every day! 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.

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

Things to Do Around the Brazos Valley:
Texas Independence Day Celebration” (TIDC) is an annual two-day celebration from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6, 2016 on the expansive 293-acre park grounds and its three incredible attractions: Free family entertainment with live performances, music, historic craft demonstrations, and more!

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Carolina Bratlien

March Skills
- Rhyming
- Opposites

Important Dates
Center Closed – University Holiday:
- Mar 17 @ 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
- Mar 18 @ 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Howdy Jaguar Parents!

I can’t believe February is already over, and we are in our third month of 2016. I would like to begin by saying a heartfelt goodbye to one of our Jaguars, Samuel! Samuel will be leaving to China for five months, and we will miss him SO MUCH! I would like to also welcome our new friends Justin and Tae-Young! I am so excited to see some new faces in the Jaguar class.

During the month of February, we celebrated friendship with our Love and Kindness Party, and we celebrated the birthdays of Aurora, Lucy, Edward, and Oskar with a class party. We also had the opportunity to finish exploring pets, and we spent two weeks talking about friendship and what it means to be a good friend. Overall, February was a very productive month!

In March, we will be introducing letters J, K, Y, and Q. We will also be reviewing our sight words. The color of the month will be blue, the number of the month will be four, and the shape of the month will be square. The first project we will be focusing on will be Oviparous Animals from February 30th- March 18th. The second project will be over Community Helpers from March 21st- April 1st. The educational and outreach program Urban Interface will be coming to visit the Jaguars March 3rd and March 10th at 10:00 AM during the three weeks we are studying Oviparous Animals. They will be bringing their Red-tailed Hawk and Speckled Kingsnake the first week and their Barn Owl and Pigeon the second week. When we move into our project over Community Helpers, we are hoping to have police officers and the city firefighters come and speak to the children.

I am extremely excited to see what is in store for the month of March! I know the Jaguars will continue to work hard and have as much fun as possible. Thank you, in advance, for all of your support. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me or speak to me in person.

Thanks & Gig ‘Em,
Ms. Jesi
Howdy Tiger Families:

I want to thank all of you who sent cards for your children to pass out for the Love and Friendship Celebration. The children were so excited to pass out their cards and they seemed to enjoy the special snack of fruit and fruit dip.

The pet project was a success! The children enjoyed seeing all the different pets that people shared. They saw many different dogs and rabbits, a bird, and a hamster. We even got a class pet—a fish that the children named “Nemo Marshal Lee”. Thank you to all who sent pictures of their pets. The children were so proud to share the pictures with their classmates. I want to send a BIG thank you to Nathaniel’s mom, who was our expert veterinarian. She brought many tools and bandages she uses in her job to help care for animals and she shared her knowledge with us. Also, a BIG thank you to Lincoln’s dad for bringing their dogs and crates to share.

This month, we will be doing a two week project on oviparous animals (animals that come from eggs) and community helpers. If you know of anyone who has an oviparous animal to share or is a community helper that would be willing to come talk to us, please let me know.

At 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 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. 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.

Thanks,

Mrs. Kay
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Note: Substitutions for muffins and buttermilk are available upon request.