

Sandcastle Child Care

Newsletter

May - 2019





May News

Dear Parents:

The spaghetti dinner was a huge success! Thank you so much to everyone who donated to this event! We also appreciate all of our families who came to eat and socialize! This is one of our favorite events at Sandcastle because we love to see all of the families having fun together. Thank you also to those of you who purchased books from the book fair and those who donated money to the All For Books program. The silent auction was a huge hit! Thank you to all who spent time working on this amazing fundraiser. We appreciate all the support for our program.

Conference Forms for toddlers and preschoolers will be sent home before Friday, May 31st. These are not sit-down conferences, but if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.

A Few General Reminders:

- Please take home all winter clothing items (including snow pants and boots) and replace them with seasonally appropriate clothing that is the correct size. These clothes (as well as all items brought from home) should be marked with your child's name
- **Please empty your child's file every day!** This is where important information from the office or from your child's teacher is placed.
- **Please sign your child in every day.** It is very important to do this, so our office staff do not have to go back and fill in the missing times. This is a very time-consuming task.
- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before you drop him / her off. To be effective sunscreen must be applied 30 minutes prior to going outside. Also, please bring a bottle of sunscreen to keep at Sandcastle; this will allow the teachers to re-apply it as needed. All sunscreen must be labeled you're your child's first and last name and, due to our licensing regulations, we cannot allow sunscreen in spray bottles.
- Be sure that your child has good walking shoes available every day. Flip-flops are cute but they are very impractical for young children who spend much of their day running, jumping, and climbing.
- Friday, May 10th is Muffins with Mom. Come and join us for mini muffins, fruit, and juice between 7am and 9am.

In recognition of Memorial Day, Sandcastle will be closed on Monday, May 27th. Jennifer, Wendy, Lisa, and Rachael



“Infant Information”

Dolphins: (Danette, Jackie, and Carol)



Mosquito bites can be uncomfortable for your baby. Treatment for the bites can vary. To minimize the swelling, apply a cold compress to the bite. Calamine lotion can be used to help with any itching. Keep your babies’ nails cut short to prevent them from scratching.

To prevent mosquito bites on babies, dress them in clothes that cover arms and legs that are lightweight. Avoid dark colors- mosquitos are drawn to dark colors.

We hope that everyone has a safe and Happy Memorial Day!

Seahorses: (Jody, Jessica, Angie, and Rose)



We have warmer weather! Please help us out by bringing in a non-aerosol container of sunscreen and any other weather appropriate clothing (sweaters for cool days, sun hats, etc.) for our walks outside. We’ll be outside anytime the weather is nice.

Game of the month: Jack in the Box

Push a stuffed animal into a plastic container or oatmeal box. Put the cover on. Sing a short song and open the lid when the song is over. Make a fun expression. Do it again. I will learn to expect the animal to pop out when the song is over.

“Because of interactions with you, by the time I am 6 months, I may have already developed 1,000 trillion new connections in my brain.”

We are running low on extra clothes. If you have any unwanted/unneeded spare clothes, we would love to take them off your hands. As always, thanks for your generosity.

-Infant 2 Staff

Clownfish: (Emily, Tiffany, Barb, and Katie)



Happy May! This month is going to be an exciting month. We will learn all about flowers and all different colors they can be and how they grow. We have some awesome art projects that will allow our little ones to explore with their senses.

As the weather is now warming up, we ask that you please bring in sunscreen for your child that is lotion (not aerosol) and that is labeled with their first and last name.

Please make sure that your child is wearing shoes. We are working on keeping them on their feet and we want to make sure their feet are protected when we go outside!

-Clownfish Teachers

“Totally Toddlers”

Sea Lions: (Debbie, Brandye, and Brittney)



April was a very weather filled month. At the time I'm writing with it was our first real spring day (First day to hit 70 degrees Yippee!!). We had fun talking about Earth day and how we can keep our Earth clean and other ways to help the Earth (reduce, reuse, and recycle). We would like to send a big shout out to all our parents that participated in Spirit Week and Week of the Young Child. It was great to see so many people at the spaghetti dinner and family snack.

Because April Showers bring produce for Farmers markets, we will be talking about gardening with flowers, vegetables, and fruit.

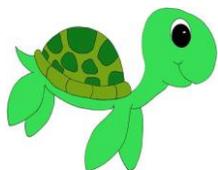
For the letter of the week we are going to have you bring in a collage picture of something that starts with that letter so you child can glue it on the letter.

With the weather getting warmer please bring in sunscreen (non-aerosol) and please make sure your child's extra clothes are seasonal appropriate. Also please no flip-flops or open toed shoes. We do spend a lot of time outside and we don't want their little toes getting scraped up. If you would like to send in a sun hat to protect their heads from the sun and sand, please let us know and place it in your child's cubby.

Things to do at home:

1. Plant some plants or start a garden with your child
2. Take a trip to a garden center
3. Visit a farm
4. Go to the farmers market

Sea Turtles: (Molly, Sarah, & Meriah)



In the month of April, we talked about how it is a rainy month. We talked and learned about how rain effects all of us in very different but very important ways. April showers bring May flowers!

In the month of May, we will be going camping! We will be learning safety rules for outside at campsites and we will also be practicing camping terms and camping activities!

It is going to be an adventure filled month! Please bring in sunscreen, labeled with first and last names and no aerosols!

Sea Crabs: (Laura, Myesha, and Rose)

May is here and we are loving the warmer weather and time outside! Last month we learned all about community helpers and celebrated Week of the Young Child and Spirit Week! We made smoothies, wrote letters and even did rain clouds for science.

This month we will be learning all about the garden. Our theme will be “Down in the Garden.” We will be taking a field trip to Leitner's, making flower art, and making a fruit pizza for kids in the kitchen. Our color on the month is purple and the shape is square.



Things to do at home:

1. Plant a garden at home
2. Fill a sensory table with soil
3. Explore seeds

Happy Mother's Day!

-Laura, Myesha, and Rosa

“Preschool Players”

Whales: (Patti, Megan, and Sreymao)



It's a bug's life! This month our class will explore the life of a bug. In dramatic play, the class can play with rubber bugs. The children can catch bugs with a net and put them in a jar to examine. They will also have magnetic bugs and costumes to play with. The sensory table will have toy bugs and dirt! Here the class can further their exploration of the life of a bug. This month we will begin having monthly bike and park days. On park days, please have your child wear tennis shoes. On bike days, please provide your child with a helmet and a bike or scooter from home!

To further our theme at home:

- Try painting with rubber bugs.
- Explore your backyard or a local park and look for all the different bugs that live there.
- Reading books is always an excellent thing to do as a family and a very easy way to extend our theme. Go to your local library and check out some books about bugs!

Penguins: (Allison, Tiffany, and Mia)

Happy official spring Penguin Parents! This month we will be exploring the theme of construction!



In class we will:

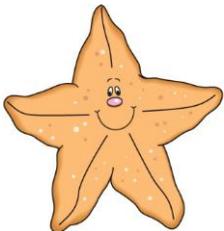
- Make a “dirt & worms” cake
- Paint with construction vehicles
- Watch seeds grow in a bag
- Take a lovely spring walk around the neighborhood
- Have our first Bike Day!! (please remember to bring a helmet with your child's bike so they can be safe while riding around)

With weather permitting, we will be doing park day every Friday! We will leave Sandcastle at 9am sharp to get in plenty of outdoor play. Please remember for park days to have your child in appropriate footwear!

Since the sun is brightly shining, we want to remind you to bring in sunscreen (lotion only) to leave at Sandcastle, as we apply it daily before outside time!

We cannot wait to start our spring/summer with you all enjoying all of our warm weather activities!

Sea Stars: (Brianna, Giovanna, and Tracy)



April was all about community helpers! We learned about the different jobs in our communities and how they help keep our neighborhood's safe. We also enjoyed dressing up for Spirit Week and celebrating Week of the Young Child, particularly Music Monday. At the beginning of the month, we planted jellybeans. Thanks to a visit from the Easter Bunny, we know that jelly beans grow into Candy! We used jelly beans to paint and we also had a taste test with jelly beans. That was a lot of jelly beans!

For the month of May, our theme is “Backyard Detectives.” We will be talking and learning about the outdoors! What a perfect theme as the weather gets nicer. This is a great opportunity to talk with you children about the different animals, plants, and activities they can do outdoors!

“Pre-K Performers”

Jellyfish: (Val, Kathi, & Q)



Our theme for the month of May will be “Discovery Street.” We will be exploring our community and those who help us like fire fighters, police officers, veterinarians, shop owners, mail carriers, librarians, and neighbors. We will go on neighborhood walks, have special activities, tell stories, and talk about how the mail gets delivered. We will be writing letters in our classroom. Talk to your child about different stamps, their shapes, colors, and designs. We will be visiting the flower shop, having bike day, kids in the kitchen and more!

With the weather getting warmer please bring in sunscreen for your Jellyfish. It must be labeled (first and last name) and it cannot be aerosol. Please apply the sunscreen in the morning before coming to school. Please clean out your Jellyfish’s cubby and take home any winter materials. I believe spring is finally here! YAY!

Stingrays: (Stacey, Ashley, and Margaret)

This last month, the children learned about animals we may find in our backyard. They got to act out and pretend to camp in dramatic play. The children also got to do some fun science projects; they got to see what happens when you put food coloring in milk and how to blow up a balloon without blowing into it.



This month we are going to learn about the ocean and different animals that live there, along with ponds, lakes and rivers. In dramatic play the children will be able to experience the ocean life by interacting with sea animals on a felt board. We have some more fun science projects planned along with some math and literacy practice.

With the weather getting nicer and the sun getting stronger, please bring in some sunscreen. We do go out at least 2 times a day and don’t want anyone getting sunburned! With that, please take your child’s winter gear home. When it starts getting warmer, our air conditioning will be put in and it gets very chilly, so please feel free to keep a sweatshirt here in case your child gets cold. We look forward to be another month closer to the summer and this beautiful weather!

Puffer Fish: (Jill & Jamie)



This month we learned about the different people who help us in our community- we learned what police, firemen, doctors, and paramedics do. Our dramatic play was a pet shelter and we read a story about what a pet shelter does to help animals.

This month we are going to be backyard detectives, we will be learning about the different animals and insects we can find outside. Our dramatic play will be an insect detective place. We will have binoculars, magnifying glasses, and bug catchers. And of course, BUGS! Our sensory table will have kinetic dirt where we can plant flowers and make a garden. We will also start going to the park on Thursdays.

Things you can do at home-

From April we learned about what to do if someone is sick or hurt, we talked about how to dial 911 if someone in our family is hurt. You can use your phone to show your child how to dial 911 if there is an emergency. You can also talk about what animals or insects you can find in your back yard now that the snow is gone. Talk about watching the leaves come out, watch the flowers bloom, or plant a garden.

Things to remember:

Sunscreen- no aerosol- labeled with first and last name

Extra clothes

If your child wears sandals, please have an extra pair of socks and shoes in their cubby.

Manatees: (Sara & Nellie)

What an awesome April we had. We enjoyed hearing about all your child's favorite things as well as learning about your family. During 'Week of the Young Child' we had fund dancing and making music with your own musical instruments, creating tasting trail mix, and of course working together to outline each other with blocks. We would also like to send a special thank you once again to those who purchased books for our classroom; we truly appreciate it.



This month we will be talking about gardening. We will be learning about all kinds of different flowers, vegetables, and gardening tools. We will be doing a variety of activities including, planting beans, decorating pots, taste testing vegetables, and so much more!

This month we will also be starting to go to the park (weather permitting). Please make sure to have your child at the center by 9:15am on the days listed on the calendar. We will be back in time for any of the extra-curricular activities your child is signed up for. It is also highly recommended that on park days that your child wears tennis shoes.

We'd like to encourage you, as a family, to help your child plant something of their own. Whether it's planting a vegetable garden or growing flowers from seed, gardening provides kids with valuable lessons. Gardening can teach children basic math and science, but it also teaches responsibility and gives children something to look forward to.

A couple reminders:

Please bring in sunscreen for your child, we will be applying it daily,

Take home conference forms will be sent home this month. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask.

If you haven't done so already, please bring in a family photo as well as a picture of your home.

On Thursday May 30th, we will be doing a 'garden vegetable' taste test. Please bring in a vegetable to share with the class.

Thank you so much for all you do to make our classroom run smoothly; your participation in your child's education does not go unnoticed.