

St. Michael's Preschool Newsletter

April 2020

Colleen's Corner

Dear Families,

What a month this has been! As we entered into March, we were excited about all the events we had planned...PJ Story Night, Open House, St. Paddy's Day....the month is ending so very different than what we planned. We are so thankful that we are all physically fine, and grateful that together as a staff we lean on each other for support, for laughter, and for strength as we get through this, all of us, together.

We have struggled with whether we should stay open. As I have said, both Contra Costa Health Dept and the Dept of Social Services, Community Care Licensing has advised us to stay open. Essential workers need childcare. How do we stay open and protect the children and families that we serve and also protect ourselves? What will happen if we close? Will we ever be able to reopen? What is the right thing to do? I am grateful that I have the support of the school board members, the school board chair, Gordon Wells (aka Mr. Gordon) and our vicar, Rev. Audrey Miskelley. We have spent countless hours going over these questions. I've asked other childcare directors, both locally and nationally, for advice. I've prayed. I am sure a lot of you have too. With the support of all of the above we stayed open. We sing, we dance, we eat good food, and we play with our friends. We keep our school as our safe place. It seems normal, yet all of us adults know that it isn't. Some of our friends aren't here. Some of our friends are struggling. We think of them and we pray for them. We think of our friends that aren't here and hope that they come back. We miss them.

I have been in the childcare business for almost 40 years. I have seen good years and bad years, but nothing like this. As unusual as this time is, I am very calm about everything that is happening. We will get through this. We will be stronger than ever. I don't have to know how that will happen, I know that God is in control and it's my job to trust and believe. So I will.

In spite of my trust, I am faced with the reality of the situation. Are families coming back? Is this temporary? How will we pay our bills? I have had to face the heart wrenching task of cutting staff hours, eliminating staff positions, and economizing on all levels. St. Michael's Preschool is completely funded by your child's tuition. Without tuition, we have no revenue to pay staff, buy food, or keep the lights on. Childcare teachers have never been on the fast track to being rich, this field is well known for low pay. We do pay higher than average here, and I know that is why I have quality staff and why your child receives quality care.

As you know from your Admissions Agreement, tuition is due regardless of whether your child attends or not. We give one-week vacation credit per year. I absolutely understand the financial strain many of us face, I am just trying to be as honest as possible. If you plan on keeping your child's spot, tuition needs to be paid. If you are in a financial bind, please talk to me privately. If you find yourself in a position of no longer needing childcare, please let me know with the required notice. We are not in a position to be able to "hold spots" for your child. We are in a fight for survival and will fill the spot as soon as we can. We have to in order to survive.

This has been very hard for me to write. I want sunshine and butterflies and unicorn fairies. But as the "boss lady" it's my job. I write this from my heart, and I write it with much love for my "kids" and all of my families. We love you all.

Sincerely,

Ms. Colleen



Pre-K Frog News

Hello Frog Families,

I am writing this on behalf of Ms. Diana. Ms. Diana has been out this last couple of weeks. Her mother in law passed away (not related to CV). As we are currently very low in enrollment, it has allowed us to be able to give her extra time to be with her family. We expect her back in the second week of April. Ms. Misti has been keeping up with their workbooks and regular curriculum. Misti, Diana and Miriam do all their curriculum planning together, so she was ready for their activities.

We miss you Ms Diana! Take good care and we will see you soon. XOXO

Love,
Ms. Colleen



Pre-K Tiger News

Hello Tiger Families,

WOW!! It sure was a crazy March! We had two visitors this month. Spiderman came to visit for Tanner's birthday and that was so fun! Happy Birthday Tanner. We also had some sneaky leprechauns visit! They messed up the classroom, turned our food and milk GREEN but in return, they left us some awesome treasures.

With the virus going around, we are open but with extra safety measures in place. We are cleaning and sanitizing daily and practicing our proper handwashing. We are also going to do "virtual chapel" this month with Mr. Gordon. Should be fun.

I have great activities, please check your calendar. I will also post the calendar on Remind for your convenience. Our themes for this month are Bugs and Insects, Healthy Eating, Easter, Earth and Teacher Appreciation.

I miss ALL my Tigers and hope to see you all soon! Stay safe and healthy.

Love,
Ms. Misti



Elephant Class News

Hello all my Elephant Families,

Another month has come and gone, and It's crazy to believe that we are now in April. In March we were one with nature, talking about farm animals, learning how to garden and learning how we get food on our plates. With all the changes that have happened over the last few weeks, I hope everyone is staying safe! I miss you all and hopefully things will get back to normal soon.

Our themes for April are Bugs, Healthy Eating, Easter and Earth. We will definitely be spending a lot of time outside and having lots of hands on activities!

Love,
Ms. Miriam

Owl Class News



Hello Owl Families,

What a month it has been! I just want to thank everyone of my students, parents and colleagues during this tough time. We will get through it together! As of now we are still open! We are all taking preventative measures everyday as we ramp up our cleaning routine. The kids have been doing great with hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

As far as the classroom goes, we are still busy with many creative activities. We have tons of rainbows hanging from the ceiling and the wall. We had Spiderman and the Leprechaun come by the school. The Leprechaun played a trick on us by turning our morning snack green! He also left behind fake gold coins and chocolate coins to trick us. Spiderman came by to help us celebrate Tanner's 5th Birthday. We played tug of war, potato sack race and duck, duck, goose. The kids loved Spiderman! He was pretty awesome.

For my Owls that haven't been at school, I just want to say that I miss you all! Please stay safe and I can't wait for us to all be together again. In the mean time I will continue to post our curriculum on Remind so that you can continue to participate even at home!

Always,

Mr. Louis

Chapel Topics

This month we are trying our first "Zoom Chapel". We will be having chapel via zoom meeting, with Mr. Gordon over in the chapel, keeping a safe distance. We still have a few kinks to iron out, we will post pictures on Remind! Fingers crossed!

Ladybug Class



Dear Ladybug Families,

I am going to try to go through this letter without using the "CV" word as I am sure we are all tired of hearing it. I do hope you are all staying safe at home as well as anywhere you many need to go. I know, as a mom, that being cooped up can be challenging but, keep calm, and remember to count your blessings rather than count the things you can't do or places you can't go!

Although most of our activities were put on pause, this month I do hope to resume our themes like Easter and Earth Week. We are starting the month with Spirit Week! Each day we will have an activity planned to do outdoors, so let's hope for sunny days! We will also be trying to spend some time in our classrooms, meaning we will have one four year old class, one three year old class and a two's class. This will allow us to maintain somewhat of a routine with the kids. Thank you all for understanding that things may be out of the ordinary but we will try our best to make our school the fun, safe, caring places it has always been. Stay safe!!

Love~ Ms. Jessy

EASTER EGG HUNT

WE WILL BE HAVING AN EGG HUNT! AS WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE LARGE GATHERINGS, WE WILL NOT BE ALLOWING PARENTS TO ATTEND. IT STINKS, I KNOW! YOU ARE WELCOME TO DONATE FILLED EGGS IF YOU WOULD LIKE. WE WILL HIDE EGGS IN THE CLASSROOM AND LET THE KIDS FIND THEM. JUST TRYING TO KEEP A SENSE OF NORMAL FOR THEM. WE PROMISE TO POST LOTS OF PICTURES ON REMIND!!
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL



Turtle Class News

Hello Turtle Families,

Happy Spring!

Last month was so much fun with everything green and rainbows everywhere. We even tasted green Eggs and Ham. Yum. We also enjoyed going to the garden and exploring the new vegetables we are growing. We have been keeping an eye on our new caterpillars too.

We worked on a lot of fine motor activities last month and we will continue to do more activities next month. April is always a fun month for Easter activities, watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies and working in our garden.

We have been vigilant about handwashing, covering our sneezes and staying safe. Hope you are too.

Have a great month,
Love,
Ms. Kittie

Butterfly Bulletin



Hello Butterfly Families,

You'll be tired of hearing from me! Ms. Keri has been off for the last week and we expect her off a few more. Her oldest is off of school, and with her youngest who has been sick, she has asked to take a bit of time off. We have been having the Butterflies join up with Mr. Louis' Owls. So far, so good! It's amazing how great the kids have been, in spite of so many things around them changing. We have noticed that if they have friends to play with, fun activities and good food, they are GREAT!

Ms. Jen has been sick too, and in an abundance of caution, we have kept her off. I wouldn't want her to get worse, or to pass it on to your kids...or me!

Here's hoping life gets back to normal soon
Love,

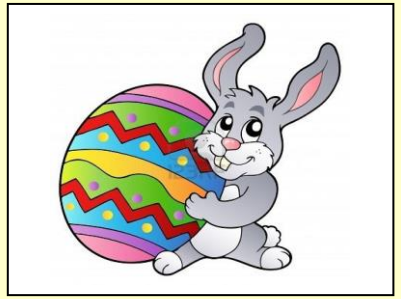
Ms. Colleen

Employee of the Month

This month I would like to recognize...YOU! When shopping got a little crazy, and toilet paper was nowhere to be found, parents stepped up. I had phone calls daily asking if I needed something. Parent's dropped off paper towels, milk, toilet paper, hand soap and one angel even brought chocolate! It takes a village and I am so thankful for my village. Luckily getting groceries has been a little easier, and Sam's Club now let's seniors in early to shop. Never been so happy to be a senior!!

So if the parking spot is open....please park! You all deserve it!

April Lunch Menu



We have had to make numerous menu changes this past month due to the availability of items in the stores. We expect this menu to have changes as well. We post any changes on the menu board.
Thank you for understanding!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	1 Sloppy Joes Peas & Carrots Peaches Milk	2 Meatballs Roasted Red Potatoes Bread Pineapple Milk	3 English Muffin Pizza Salad Pears Milk	
	6 Enchilada Casserole Green Beans Pineapple Milk	7 Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce Peas Oranges Milk	8 Chicken Nuggets Green Beans Pears Milk	9 Beef Tostada With All the Fixings Mandarins Milk	10 Center closed for Good Friday	
	13 Mac and Cheese Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	14 Spanish Rice Green Beans Pears Milk	15 Bean and Cheese Burrito Corn Oranges Milk	16 Beanie Weenies French Bread Pears Milk	17 Cheese Zombies Garden Salad Apples Milk	
	20 Taco Salad Cornbread Pineapple Milk	21 Chili Mac Pears Milk	22 Bow Tie Pasta with Meat Sauce Mixed Veggies Melon Milk	23 Pulled Chicken Sliders Peas Apples Milk	24 Spanish Rice Salad Oranges Milk	
	27 Chicken Teriyaki and Rice Corn Peaches Milk	28 Chili French Bread Pears Milk	29	30		



April Snack Menu

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cheerios and Milk Nillas and Bananas	2 Pancakes with Syrup and Milk Banana Bread and Milk	3 String Cheese and Ritz Quesadillas and Apples	
	6 Biscuits with Jelly and Oranges	7 Chex Cereal and Milk Refried Beans and Cheese and Chips	8 Blueberry Muffins and Milk Cowboy Bread and Milk	9 Belvitas and Apples Almond Butter and Ritz with Bananas	10 Center Closed for Good Friday	
	13 Yogurt and Pears Pigs in a Blanket	14 Pancakes and Applesauce Rice Krispy Treats and Milk	15 Biscuits and Jelly with Apples Salami and Cheese with Ritz Crackers	16 Wheat Crackers and Cheddar Cheese Cinnamon Toast and Oranges	17 English Muffins with Melted Cheese Veggie Sticks and Wheat Crackers	
	20 Granola bars and Pears Trail Mix and Apples	21 Tortilla Roll-Ups Oat Bran Muffins and Milk	22 French Toast Sticks and Pears Blueberry Bread and Oranges	23 Cereal and Milk Cheese Quesadillas	24 Turkey and Cheese Roll-Ups Oatmeal Bar and Milk	
	27 Scrambled Eggs and Orange Juice Rice Cakes, Cream Cheese and Craisins	28 French Toast Sticks and Milk Guac and Corn Chips	29 Biscuits and Oranges Granola Bars and Applesauce	30 Scrambled Eggs with Oranges Trail Mix and Pears		