



# Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

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## Letter from the Director

Dear Parents, “

In like a lion and out like a lamb, March was an exciting month! The students enjoyed learning about Ireland and St. Patrick's Day, Space, Dr. Seuss, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales! We look forward to April and the many themes the children will explore: “Life Cycles,” “Nursery Rhymes,” “Fairy Tales,” “Bugs & Insects,” and “Flowers.”

Here are some important upcoming dates to remember and some reminders:

### LifeTouch Picture Day - Friday, April 20th

Get ready to say, “Cheese!” LifeTouch will be here to snap Spring photographs of the children. Graduating VPK Students will also be photographed in their “Cap and Gown.” More information will be forthcoming.

### Lions' Field Trip to Children's Museum (C'MON) on Thursday, April 26th

Thursday, April 26 - Field Trip to Children's Museum of Naples (C'MON)! The Lions' class will be going on their second field trip of the school year. This time we will be visiting the Children's Museum of Naples. If you've never visited the museum, we encourage you to do so! It's a great, hands-on museum for all to enjoy!

### Looking forward to May

The VPK students will have their Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and on Friday, May 11th we will have our annual “Muffins with Mom” at morning drop-off.

### Lost & Found and Labeling

Please, please, please, label your children's clothes and various belongings (i.e., sippy cups, pacifiers, etc.) with both their first and last names. If the item is too small for first and last names, please indicate first name and last initial. This is a requirement from our licensing department and, of course, is vital in preventing the loss of items, spread of germs, etc.

It's hard to believe we're about to be visited by the balmy ... okay, HOT! days of summer. Let's enjoy these cooler days before the summer rains begin!

Fondly,  
*Janine*

Janine Connell  
Founder & Director  
Windmill Creek Academy



Mary is overcome with joy as she tries her hand at the piano keyboard

## Character Training

### April's Character Training Values

Courage = Bravery and Determination

Tolerance = Fairness and Justice



## Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

### Bunnies

March was a very busy month for the Bunnies! The Bunnies had their first St. Patrick's Day! As each month passes they are growing and learning new skills and becoming more aware. We'd love to welcome our newest Bunny – Caroline. She is such a happy baby and loves to crawl all around the classroom. Fox is already sitting up and eating baby food. Lucas is almost crawling. Noah is going to be walking any day now. Vivi started to do her “army crawl” and is all over the place! John loves to eat banana and avocado. He also likes to be on the carpet with his friends. In April the Bunnies will hear lots of nursery rhymes and fairy tales as we read to the children. We will show them pictures of bugs, insects and flowers as we usher in the spring season. It's great to be a Bunny!

*Ms. Ally, Ms. Iris & Ms. Kaira*

### Cubs

In the month of March we welcomed some new Cubs – Noah, Luca and Jackson. We are so excited to meet all our new friends and learn about their personalities, likes and dislikes. We were sad to see Mia move up to the Bears class but we will see her on the playground and know she is happy to be exploring all sorts of new activities as a Bear! We had so much fun in March with Dr. Seuss books, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We are ready for April showers! We will be learning about life cycles, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, bugs and all different types of flowers.

*Ms. Kayla E, Ms. Kelsey & Ms. Sofie*

### Bears

The month of March was full of activities! The Bears class had so much fun! We talked about space and made moon projects. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day. We had a fun party with green snacks, we sang about the color green and made pot of gold mobiles. The week right after that was Easter and we were so eggcited! We colored fun pictures of bunnies. We also had a big Easter egg hunt and painted eggs. It was great fun. In April we will be looking forward to learning about the life cycles of plants and animals. We will read some fun nursery rhymes and act out several fairy tales. We will also learn about flowers – there are so many different types and colors to explore. It will be an exciting spring for the Bears!

*Ms. Ana, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Mariah, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Sierra*

### Frogs

The Frogs' students started the month celebrating Dr. Seuss! It is always a joy to read his books to discover his imaginative use of language and whimsical characters! The Frogs had a great time celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Easter. They made lots of colorful art projects. They made a beautiful pot of gold with a rainbow which was hung in our classroom. We got quite messy decorating our boiled Easter Eggs. When Easter rolled along we

celebrated with all sorts of foods and we had tremendous fun on our egg hunt. Now that April is upon us, the Frogs will learn about nursery rhymes and fairy tales, insects and bugs. It will be a great month to learn about the sights, sounds and colors of spring! We bid farewell to Owen as he moved up to the Giraffes class. We would like to welcome Ashley and Triston to our Frog family! Finally, we would like to extend a hearty welcome to Ms. Lena, as she returns to the Windmill Creek Academy family and the Frogs' classroom!

*Ms. Ally, Ms. Ana, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Mariah & Ms. Raquel*

### Giraffes

The Giraffes had a busy month in March. During Dr. Seuss week the students made Cat in the Hats. We also put 10 apples on our head for the book “Ten Apples Up on Top.” During Space Week we made Mars and Earth with puffy paint. For St. Patrick's Week we made shamrocks and fruit loop rainbows. We had fun finding coins in green shaving cream and learned how to play St. Patrick's Day BINGO. For Spring we made flowers with a fork and during Easter week we made puffy paint peeps. We also decorated our Easter baskets made from milk jugs. We decorated Easter eggs and found lots of eggs during our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We continue to work on the letter, color and number of the week with many hands-on activities. In April we look forward to planting flowers and learning about nursery rhymes, bugs and flowers. In Social Studies/Science the Giraffes learned about earth and our solar system. We learned about maps and how the colors green and blue represent land and sea. We had some fun hands-on activities. We made a rainbow with jell-o. The jell-o was green for the grass, the clouds were whipped cream and the rainbow was a sour “air head” candy. We then got to eat our rainbow! It was a delicious project! We had some scientific projects – including dyeing Easter eggs and discovering about color mixing. For housekeeping we had a pizza kitchen and we got to make our own pizza with our favorite toppings. We pretended to be at a restaurant serving pizza. Our new dramatic play area is a construction site where we will build houses and roads with various types of blocks and linking logs. In April we will be looking forward to learning about spring, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, bugs and flowers.

*Ms. Daisy, Ms. Krystal & Ms. Natalie*

### Lions

What an exciting month of March! We celebrated several birthdays as well as Dr. Seuss' birthday! We enjoyed our St. Patrick's Day Party and our Easter Party as well. Through all the festivities, we managed to get through our school work as well! We have learned some games to practice letters, sounds and numbers. The students can easily play these games at home with flash cards or playing cards. In April we will be finishing up our alphabet and numbers to 20. We will be going on a field trip to the Children's Museum of Naples at the end of April. We will also begin rehearsal for our amazing Graduation Ceremony at the end of May. We are also preparing for the end of the year VPK Assessments. The students have grown and learned so much this year and we cannot believe the school year is almost behind us. Here's to a wonderful spring time of learning and adventure!

*Ms. Ali, Ms. Jesta, Ms. Kristen & Ms. Sammy*



## Ms. Ali - April's Teacher of the Month



Ms. Ali is April's Teacher of the Month! Ms. Ali (or Alike) hails from Long Island City, New York. She is a graduate of Palmetto Ridge High School and is also attending FSW. Ms. Ali is a great team player and has been a Teacher's Aide in our VPK class of the Lions. Ms. Ali is calm, collected and has a special knack of bringing the class together with her gentle spirit, organizational skills and focused attention. Thank you Ms. Ali for being such a terrific teacher and colleague! We are blessed to have such a talented and professional group of teachers here at Windmill Creek Academy!



Harbour EGG-cels at finding Easter Eggs!

## April Birthdays

Henry B - April 5  
Kinley C - April 8  
Noah C - April 13  
Isbella S - April 15  
Harbour M - April 18  
Mary M - April 21  
Tristin S - April 21  
Noel Z - April 24

## 20 Tips for Parents from Preschool Teachers Getting the Best From Your Child

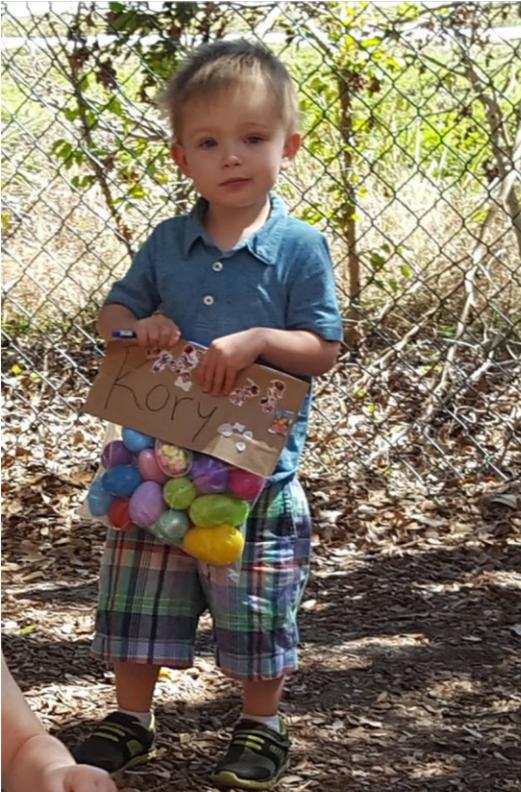
by Marguerite Lamb

I worry that my 3-year-old, Sophie, has a split personality. At school she cleans up her toys, puts on her shoes, and is entirely self-sufficient at potty time. At home, she whines whenever I ask her to pick up anything, insists I join her in the bathroom whenever she has to go, and lately has started demanding that I spoon-feed her dinner. Clearly, her teacher knows something I don't. But then, what parent hasn't occasionally wondered: Why is my child better for everyone else than for me? The simple answer: Your child tests her limits with you because she trusts you will love her no matter what. But that doesn't mean you can't borrow a few strategies from the preschool teachers' playbook to get the best from your child. We asked educators from around the country for their tips so listen up -- and take notes!

### Promoting Independence

While 3- and 4-year-olds still need plenty of parental help, our preschool experts agree that kids are typically able to do more than many of us think. Here's how you can encourage them:

1. Expect more. Most people have a way of living up (or down) to expectations -- preschoolers included. "At school we expect the kids to pour their own water at snack, to throw away their plates, to hang up their jackets -- and they do," says Jennifer Zebooker, a teacher at the 92nd Street Y Nursery School, in New York City. "But then they'll walk out of the classroom and the thumb goes in the mouth and they climb into strollers." Raise the bar and your child will probably stretch to meet it.
2. Resist doing for her what she can do herself. While it may be quicker and easier to do it yourself, it won't help to make your child more self-sufficient. Quick hint: Appeal to her sense of pride, suggests Donna Jones, a preschool teacher at Southern Oregon University's Schneider Children's Center in Ashland, Oregon. "Whenever I'm trying to get kids to dress, put jackets on, sit on chairs during meals and so on, I'll ask them: 'Do you want me to help you or can you do it yourself?' Those words are like magic," promises Jones. "The kids always want to do it for themselves."
3. Don't redo what they've done. If your child makes her bed, resist the urge to smooth the blankets. If she dresses herself in stripes and polka dots, compliment her "eclectic" style. Unless absolutely necessary, don't fix what your child accomplishes, says Kathy Buss, director of the Weekday Nursery School, in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. She will notice and it may discourage her.
4. Let them solve simple problems. If you see your child trying to assemble a toy or get a book from a shelf that she can reach if she stands on her stepstool, pause before racing over to help. "Provided that they are safe, those moments when you don't rush in, when you give children a moment to solve things for themselves, those are the character-building moments," says Zebooker. "It's natural to want to make everything perfect, but if we do, we cheat kids of the chance to experience success."
5. Assign a chore. Putting your preschooler in charge of a regular, simple task will build her confidence and sense of competency, says Buss. A child who is entrusted to water the plants or empty the clothes dryer is likely to believe she can also get dressed herself or pour her



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Fun!**

