

# Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 11

Issue 8

April 2019

## 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 Space, St. Patrick's Day, Spring and Bugs & Insects! Thank you to all the parents for helping make March's celebrations so much fun! We look forward to April and the many themes the children will explore: Life Cycles, Animals, Easter, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales.

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

### Easter Egg Hunt and Egg Dying

On Thursday, April 18th, the students will engage in our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Parents, please bring 12 filled Easter Eggs for the hunt and 4 hard boiled eggs for egg dying. See your child's teachers for details.

### School Closed Friday, April 19

We will be closed on Friday, April 19th in observance of Good Friday.

### LifeTouch Picture Day - Friday, April 26th

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' Students Field Trip to the C'MON - Tuesday, April 30

The Lions' students will be enjoying their second field trip this year as they explore the Children's Museum of Naples. If you are interested in being a chaperone for this event, please contact your child's teachers.

### Looking forward to May

The VPK students will have their Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

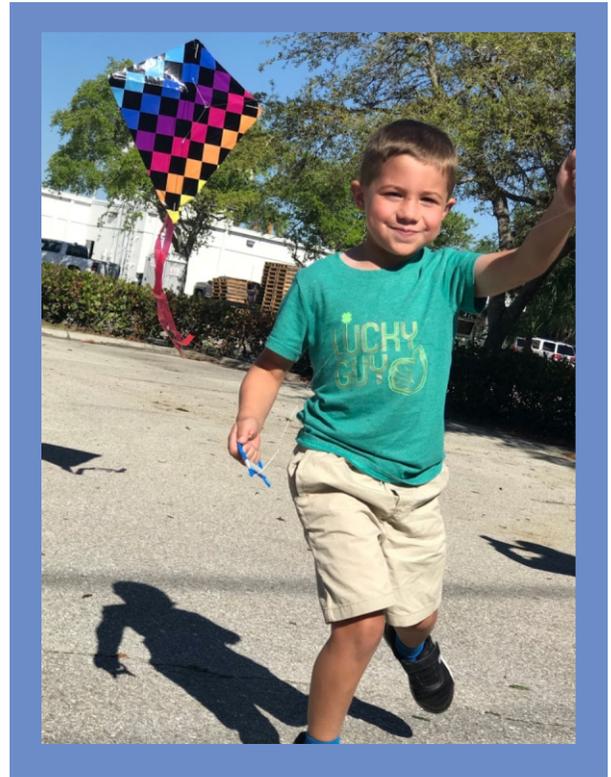
### Lost & Found and Labeling

Please, please, please, label your children's clothes and various belongings (i.e., sippy cups, pacifiers, etc.) with both their first *and* last names. 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



Drew flies his kite ... to the highest height ... and sends it soaring!

## Character Training

### April's Character Training Values

Courage = Bravery and Determination  
Tolerance = Fairness and Justice



## Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

### **Bunnies**

The Bunnies are welcoming spring! We would like to welcome Aiden, Hunter, Mia, Violet and Caben to the classroom. Aiden is very strong and alert. He enjoys crawling and loves to play. Hunter is such a sweet baby – he smiles a lot and is very curious about his surroundings. Ryker is sitting up and reaching for toys. He loves his baby food and loves to play with Molly. Jason is very active and is eating pick-up food and standing up. Jason is crawling all over the classroom and talking a lot. We will miss him as he moves up to the Cubs' classroom. Molly is reaching for toys and loves to jump in the jumper. Gwen is eating baby food and is sitting in the bumbo chair. She loves the swing and her little kitty naps! Our Bunnies are getting ready for April showers!

Ms. Ileana, Ms. Kally, Ms. Iris

### **Cubs**

The Cubs are sprouting like flowers! We would like to welcome Rocco, Jason and Joey to the Cubs' Corner! In the month of April the Cubs will get to know their new classmates and we can't wait to have fun and explore all sorts of learning experiences together. Lennox began to walk on his own this past month. Soon enough he will begin to run with confidence. Luca started using the walker more comfortably and we know he will soon become an expert on his own. Caleb is now counting from one to five and we are so proud of his development. Javi is starting to speak more in English as well as in Spanish. We love hearing her practice new words every day. Vera began to stand on her own and is practicing holding her balance with teachers' assistance. Elliott is standing on her own and is taking steps with a little assistance. She also uses the walker on her own when we play outside. We look forward to many activities in April including learning about animals, nursery rhymes, fairy tales and, of course, our annual Easter Egg Hunt! It's great to be a Cub!

Ms. Ally, Ms. Kelsey and Ms. Sofie

### **Bears**

The Bears are swinging into spring with flying colors! We would like to welcome Landon, Javiera, and Presian to the Bear's Den. In March the Bears class talked about space and our class is surely out-of-this-world as we had fun talking our planet earth and singing, "Twinkle, twinkle little star." We decorated the classroom with lots of St. Patrick's art work. We loved painting clovers, wearing green and eating green food at our party. We have been learning about spring and reading stories about spring where flowers bloom and

birds sing. We loved learning about bugs and insects as we colored pictures and even found and pointed to different types of bugs outside while we were playing. In April we look forward to learning about animals, nursery rhymes and fairy tales. We really are looking forward to the annual Easter Egg Hunt and creating colorful eggs! Happy spring!

Ms. Kayla, Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Lesley & Ms. Rachel

### **Frogs**

The Frogs are hopping up to spring time. We would like to welcome Brady back to our classroom! In March we learned about outer space and our earth. We had fun learning about St. Patrick's Day and learned how to make a green shamrock by mixing yellow and blue paint together. During "Spring Week" we learned about flowers and rain. We explored these areas of interest through art, books, playing outside and looking for bugs and insects. In April we will talk about life cycles of frogs and flowers. We will read book with pictures of animals. We look forward to reading lots of nursery rhymes and learn about sequencing as we act out fairy tales like the "Three Billy Goats Gruff!" Finally, we will definitely have fun dying Easter Eggs for our annual hunt! Spring is here!

Ms. Kayla, Ms. Lena, Ms. Raquel, Ms. Alma, Ms. Ana & Ms. Sami

### **Giraffes**

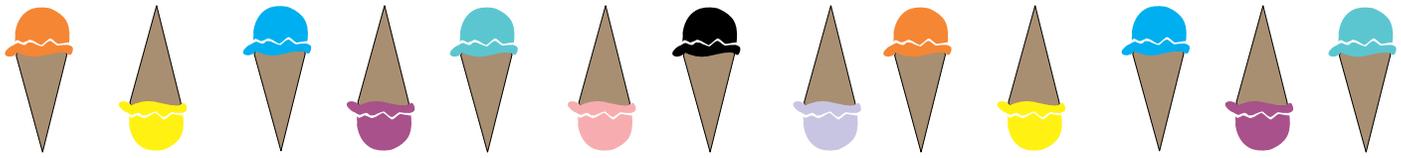
The month of March went by so quickly for the Giraffes! We continued to learn our letters and create exciting projects. We learned about the planet we live on and spoke about the earth and space. We placed space bingo and we learned a new song about the planets. Our St. Patrick's Day parts was a blast – we made rainbows using fruit loops and graphed lucky charms. We had a great time digging for coins in a pot of gold! The Giraffes used puffy paint to make shamrocks. We are "Egg"-cited for spring as we made eggs for our classroom bulletin board. The Giraffes made "Spring"-tastic flowers to display at the front of the school. We picked leaves for these flowers. The class loved painting tulips using forks! Such creativity! For the last week of March we few kits and blew bubbles. The Giraffes loved playing with "worm" noodles and exploring bugs and even went on an adventurous bug walk. In April we look forward to an amazing time as we create lots of spring and Easter crafts and we look forward to a great egg hunt. Parents please provide us with gallon sized milk jugs. Thank you!

Ms. Alonda, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Daisy & Ms. Krystal

### **Lions**

March was a whirlwind of activity! We started with "Hands are for Helping not Hurting." Then we had our field trip to the Zoo. What fun we had learning about scales, fur and feathers! We continued eating our way through the alphabet with Unicorn pop tarts and Unicorn cereal. We ate "V"egetables and "W"atermelon and "W"affles! April will prove to be a busy month as we begin preparing for our VPK Graduation and finishing the alphabet. We will have our end-of-year field trip to the Children's Museum and our final VPK Standards Assessments. It's hard to believe how fast the year is flying by . . . don't blink!

Ms. Ali, Ms. Kally & Ms. Kristen



**It's a tie!  
Ms. Kayla & Ms. Kelsey  
April's  
Teachers of the Month**



Ms. Kayla and Ms. Kelsey are April's Teachers of the Month. Ms. Kayla has been teaching primarily in our Bears' classroom. She has been with WCA almost two years now. Ms. Kayla possesses a loving, caring and gentle manner which is the perfect personality and skills are perfect for our younger Bear students. She has grown as both a teacher and colleague over her tenure here at WCA. Ms. Kelsey is a vibrant and joyful teacher to both our Cubs and Bear students. For almost two years, she has been a wonderful team player and she, too, has grown in her skills. Please join us in thanking and congratulating these two lovely teachers. We are blessed to have such a talented and professional group of teachers here at Windmill Creek Academy!

**April Birthdays**

- Kinley C - April 8
- Elliott S - April 11
- Lucille P - April 11
- Henry B - April 15
- Isabella S - April 15
- Emery J - April 16
- Harbour M - April 18
- Mary M - April 21



**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



The Lion students at the Naples Zoo Field Trip



# Good times and activities at WCA!

