

# Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 9

Issue 7

March 2017

## Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

February was a fun, friendship-filled month! The children loved the Valentine's Exchange -- a big thank you for participating and for all the goodies that were shared! The children also loved learning about what it means to be a "Friend," "Presidents," "Black History Week," and especially "Dr. Seuss!" In the middle of the month we had our free Vision & Hearing Screening and a visit from the "Tooth Fairy!"

March will have its share of excitement as well. The students will be learning about "Space," "Irish Heritage," and "St. Patrick's Day," "Fairy Tales," and "Nursery Rhymes" as they explore traditional stories and rhymes.

Here are a few important reminders and dates to remember:

### St. Patrick's Day Party

On Friday, March 17th we'll be enjoying a little Irish fun! Please see your child's classroom teachers for party details.

### Entering/Exiting the School/Picking Up Children

If you have a designated friend/family member picking up your child, please ask them to stop by the front desk and/or announce themselves to your child's teachers upon arrival with photo identification in hand. Pick-up time is a busy time and we would appreciate your communicating our protocol to your friends and family.

### Spring Forward

On Sunday, March 12th we "spring forward" our clocks one hour for Daylight Savings time!

### Giraffe Students April Field Trip to C'MON

On Thursday, April 20 our Giraffe students will be going on a field trip to the Children's Museum of Naples! Stay tuned for more details. We will require some parent chaperones, so please see Ms. Astrid/Ms. Jennifer/Ms. Kristen/Ms. Krystal if you are interested in participating.

### VPK 2017-2018 School Year

If your child will be 4 years of age *on or before September 1st*, 2017, he or she qualifies for VPK! The VPK program is not "needs based," it is available to ALL Florida residents. This basically means that you will receive discounted tuition for full time enrollment. Stay tuned for additional information to be sure you save your spot for the August 2017-2018 enrollment!

### Easter Egg Hunt

On Thursday, April 13th we will hold our Annual Easter Egg Hunt

### School Closed on "Good Friday"

The school will be closed on Friday, April 14th in observance of Good Friday.

### Picture Day - April 21

On Friday, April 21st, LifeTouch will return to take portraits of your children

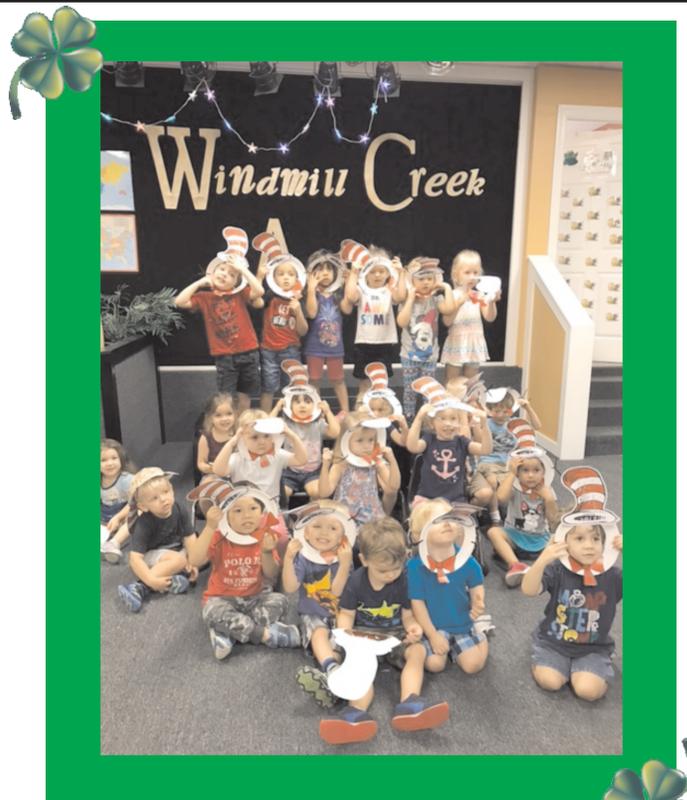
### Bring in Gallon-sized Milk Jugs

The Giraffe students are doing a project that requires gallon-sized milk jugs. If you could bring in a rinsed jug to the Giraffe's class, that would be much appreciated.

Here's to a great March!

Warmly,

Janine Connell  
Founder & Director  
Windmill Creek Academy

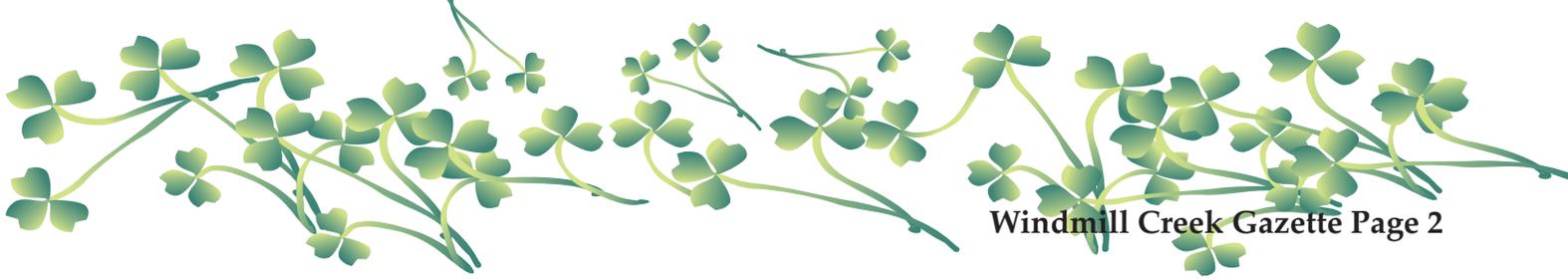


The Frogs' Students become "The Cat in the Hat!"

## Character Training

### March's Character Training Values

Kindness = Tenderheartedness & Consideration  
Forgiveness = Understanding and Pardoning



## Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

### **Bunnies**

The Bunnies stole our hearts for Valentine's Day! Thank you for all the love! March is here – bringing St. Patrick's Day and soon, Easter to our Bunnies! We would like to welcome several new Bunnies to our patch! Riley, Leighton, Evelyn, "Tripp" and Corbin! They are all adapting so well! Sarah is crawling and reaching for toys. She is standing up and loves to eat her green veggies and fruit. Frances is sitting up and eating table food. She loves to wave at herself in the mirror! Our five new bunnies love watching the older bunnies and are really adapting well to playing, watching and napping in their new environment. We would like to welcome Ms. Lindsey back to the classroom after being away on maternity leave. As we look forward to Spring, we will create beautiful decorations full of spring and "Easter Egg" colors in our classroom. It's great to be a Bunny!

*Ms. Iris, Ms. Kaira, Ms. Lesley & Ms. Lindsey*

### **Cubs**

In the month of February the Cubs learned about friendship, presidents, colors & shapes and Dr. Seuss! The Cubs had fun finger painting a picture of past presidents and also the American flag! For friendship, we practiced taking turns and giving hugs! During shapes and colors week, we sponge painted using different shaped sponges using different colors. Every day was a new shape and color for the Cubs to learn about. During Dr. Seuss week we had a busy and fun week – we read many Dr. Seuss books such as, "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Hop on Pop." We participated in a Dr. Seuss puppet show and made a One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish art project! Moving forward to March, we look forward to learning about Space, St. Patrick's Day, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. The Cubs plan on taking a trip through space and learning about the planets. We will sing nursery rhymes while also doing a Humpty Dumpty project! St. Patrick's day will be full of shamrock fun, the color green and Irish dance music! Be sure to wear green on Friday, March 17th! We would like to welcome Drew and Grant to the Cubs as we bid farewell to Jackson and Camila as they moved up to the Bears. Finally, we will read about many fairy tales and play dress up as some of the many characters like Little Red Riding Hood and perhaps even the Big Bad Wolf!

*Ms. Donna, Ms. Kellie & Ms. Sofie*

### **Bears**

February was a wonderful month in the Bears room full of love and caring; we learned a lot about sharing and being a friend. We made a lot of fun art – filled with hearts for Valentine's Day. We had our Valentine's Day Party and it was a blast – thank you, parents for helping us throw such a terrific party! We exchanged Valentine's Day cards and had yummy treats. We also learned about different shapes and made shapes out of popsicle sticks. We loved Dr. Seuss Week – all of his stories are so imaginative and we loved turning our ears to all the silly rhymes. We made Cat in the Hat pictures together. We made another project of "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish." We would like to welcome Jackson and Camila to the Bears Room as we bid farewell to Owen and Grayson as they hopped up to the Frogs' class. March will be an exciting month as we explore about Space, Irish heritage and St. Patrick's Day and then delve into Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales.

*Ms. Alondra, Ms. Jenny, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Kellie, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Raquel & Ms. Sammy*

### **Frogs**

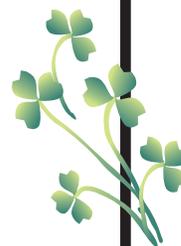
February flew by but not without a lot of hugs, love and friendship! We made many heart crafts using stickers, paint, glitter and our favorite was the heart that had our pictures in a frame for our parents. The students enjoyed their Valentine's Party and a great big, "Thank you!" to all of our parents that made it possible. During Presidents' week we highlighted the biographies of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We made an art project of Abe Lincoln including his top hat and beard which we proudly displayed in the school's gallery. Next, we touched upon reviewing our colors and shapes. We made a project making a landscape of a house (square) roof (triangle) tree (oval) windows (Squares) door (rectangle) and sun (circle). The children were able to pick their own colors to make their house unique and we spoke about how many people live in their house. The end of February/beginning of March will usher in a week of Dr. Seuss – reading lots of his books, making art projects and well, "Oh ... so much to do!" In March we will also learn about space, St. Patrick's Week/Irish heritage, nursery rhymes and last but not least, fairy tales! We would like to welcome our newest Frogs: Grayson and Owen!

*Ms. Carina, Ms. Jenny, Ms. Joy, Ms. Lena, Ms. Pat & Ms. Raquel*

### **Giraffes**

During the month of February, we talked about making messes and cleaning them up. We started learning about washing clothes, folding laundry and putting it away. We painted our washer and dryer that we created out of boxes. We also learned about washing other things such as dishes and cars. We worked on clean-up routines in the class schedule. The students also made "messes" in a variety of ways – including art projects. We took pictures and posted them in our dramatic play center. During the month of March, we will learn a lot about space such as the planets, sun, space station, NASA, earth, rockets, astronauts, space shuttle and space travel. We will create a space station in the dramatic play area! In Art, February was a fun month for the Giraffe students. During African American week we made a baseball craft for Jackie Robinson. On Groundhog Day we made a special groundhog that "popped up!" Valentine's week was fun and the students enjoyed decorating a shoe box for their Valentine's cards. We also played Valentine Bingo and made crafts as "Bee Mine" bees. During "Colors and Shapes" week, we made a rainbow out of fruit loops and built a house with various shapes. Dr. Seuss Week s fun as we made Cats in the Hats and Green Eggs and Ham. In March we look forward to exploring space crafts and St. Patrick's Day/Irish art! In Reading, Writing & Math Readiness we will finish up the alphabet and then move on to syllables, compound words and review all of the letters and numbers to 20. We will continue learning number patterns, ordinal numbers and one-to-one correspondence. The students are making great progress!

*Ms. Ally, Ms. Astrid, Ms. Kristen & Ms. Krystal*



### **March Birthdays**

Ethan C - March 3  
Isaias S - March 6  
Kymi S - March 6  
Kyler C - March 8  
Amaya M - March 8  
Braelynn B - March 10  
Vera B - March 16  
Ms. Lindsey - March 18





**Keep your eyes peeled for the patter of Leprechaun feet on Friday, March 17th!**

**. . . will we have a little visitor?**

**Only time will tell!**

### What Does “Kindergarten Readiness” Really Mean? by Eliza Clark

As the new year turns, parents of four and five-year-old preschoolers are looking back and looking forward and thinking: can it be that there is only half a year of preschool left? **And then we're onto...kindergarten?!** And each one of us is also thinking: is my child ready for this? Am I ready for this?

Even though kindergarten is not necessarily so very different than a good pre-k program, it still feels like a big jump. The hours will be longer, no doubt, and the days more structured. But the biggest difference is that our little ones will be going to the same school as the really big kids! Preschool can feel like a cozy extension of babyhood.... Not so kindergarten. Sigh.

So maybe some of us parents are not quite ready, but that's not the truly important question, is it? Rather, this is a good time of year to begin asking whether or not our kids will be ready to make this big transition by the fall.

Your child's preschool teacher can give you most of the answer to this question, but as a parent it is useful to know what sorts of things a teacher looks for in a kindergarten kid. Overall, it is not so important that a child enter kindergarten with any particular set of knowledge, but rather that he or she be equipped and ready to learn in a school setting.

#### Self-care skills

Most kindergarten classes have a significantly lower teacher-student ratio than in preschool, so it is important that the children be able to handle their own basic needs. Among these: wiping their own noses; using the toilet independently; washing their own hands; taking off and putting on their own coats, hats, shoes; eating unassisted; cleaning up after themselves; and so on.

#### Social skills

Learning in a large group requires everyone's cooperation, so social skills are crucial. A child will do fine if he or she can separate comfortably from a parent or caregiver; follow an adult's directions; play well with a group of other children; sit and listen for short periods (circle time!); understand and follow basic rules.

#### Intellectual skills

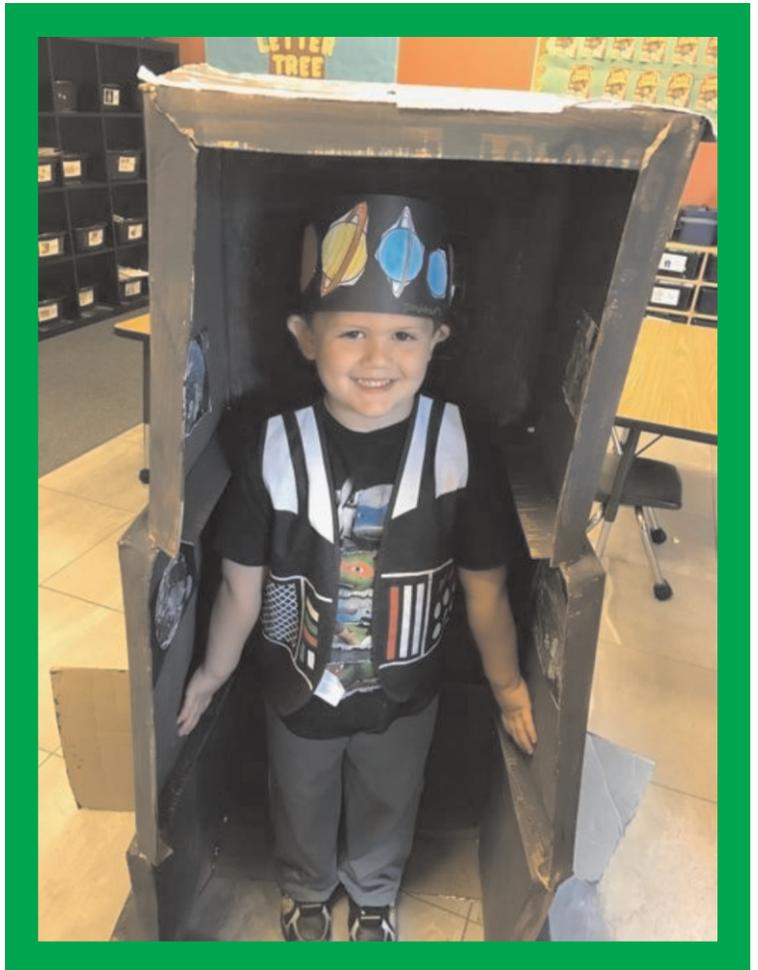
Here it is important to caution that children learn letters and numbers and all the rest at dramatically different rates at this age, and generally most kids catch up to each other a couple of years down the line. When entering kindergarten, the key is that a child be comfortable in a school setting and express curiosity and eagerness to learn. Tell-tale signs of readiness are: an interest in books and reading; knowing some songs and rhymes; recognition and/or writing of some letters; pretending to read and write; knowing how to use pencils and scissors; expressing ideas through drawing; ability to retell a story; counting to twenty; willingness to try to complete a task.



### Ms. Kellie March's Teacher of the Month!

“Loving, creative, gentle, and always smiling” are all words that have been used to beautifully describe our beloved teacher Ms. Kellie! Ms. Kellie is a wonderfully creative and caring teacher and colleague here at Windmill Creek Academy. She is always ready to

provide a helping hand wherever she may be – and with any student she sees. Ms. Kellie has an eye for beautiful photography and some of her photos of the students are included in this month's Gazette. Thank you, Ms. Kellie for your ever-present smile and sincere thoughtfulness!



**Astronaut Jonathan blasts off to space!**

