

# Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 10

Issue 7

March 2018

## 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!" Our older students enjoyed a presentation from the Shelter for Abused Women and Children which encouraged "Hands are for Helping not Hurting."

March will have its share of excitement as well. The students will be learning about "Space," "Irish Heritage," and "St. Patrick's Day," "Spring," and "Easter" and at the end of the month we will enjoy our annual "Easter Egg Hunt!"

Here are a few important reminders and dates to remember:

### **Spring Forward - Sunday March 11**

On Sunday, March 11th we "spring forward" our clocks one hour for Daylight Savings time!

### **St. Patrick's Day Party - Friday, March 14**

On Friday, March 14th we'll be enjoying a little Irish fun! Please see your child's classroom teachers for party details. Don't forget to dress your child in the color green! :)

### **Kite Day**

On Friday, March 23rd, the Giraffe and Lion students will fly kites (weather permitting) as we welcome this windy, blustery month of March!

### **Easter Egg Dying Day - Wednesday, March 28th**

Please have your child wear "old" clothes on Wednesday, March 28th as the students dye eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt on Friday. Parents, please bring in TWO (2) HARD-BOILED EGGS by Wednesday for your child to do in art class. Thank you!

### **Easter Egg Hunt - Thursday, March 29th**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Thursday, March 29th in the morning. Parents, please bring in 12 FILLED plastic Easter Eggs for the egg hunt. Thank you!

### **Friday, March 30 - School Closed**

The school will be closed on Friday, March 30th in observance of "Good Friday."

### **VPK 2018-2019 School Year**

If your child will be 4 years of age *on or before September 1st*, 2018, 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 2018-2019 enrollment in our Lions' VPK class!

### **Medication Administration**

Parents please remember that if we are providing medications to your

child, the medicine must be in its original container and packaging and bottle/tube/etc. You will need to fill out and sign a medication authorization form which clearly indicates the times, dosage, etc. Please do not ask us to provide Tylenol/Motrin, etc., if your child has a fever as children with fevers should remain at home until they are symptom-free. We can administer medications for pain if it is for teething pain, etc. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### **Newsletter Available on Line**

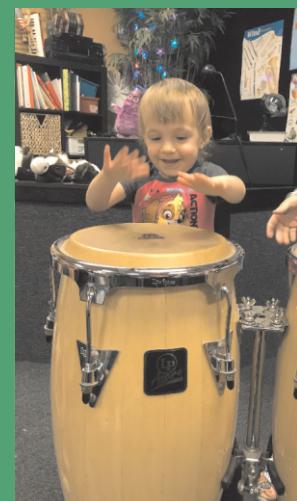
If you'd like to share our Windmill Creek Academy Gazette with family and friends, you can obtain a full color copy on line at: [www.windmillcreekacademy.com](http://www.windmillcreekacademy.com) or on our Facebook page. On our website, simply click on the word "Information" located on the left side of the home page and then scroll down to the monthly Gazette! You will also find current copies of our "Parent Handbook," basic forms, etc.

Here's to a great March!

Warmly,

*Janine*

Janine Connell  
Founder & Director  
Windmill Creek Academy



Dustin and Frances are groovin' on the conga drums!

## 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. Our Bunnies are growing and learning with each new day. This month Noah is already standing by himself with no assistance. Ainslee is holding on to objects as she tries to walk ... growing in confidence and skill with each step. Fox is looking around and observing all the goings on in our busy classroom. He is trying to roll over. Vivi loves to roll around and is almost sitting up on her own. John loves to sit up and play with his toys – he is eating table foods! Luca is now eating solid food, sitting up and rolling as well! It's great to be a Bunny!

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

### Cubs

The Cubs have been moving and shaking in the cooler months of January and February. The Cubs love to dance to CDs in our classroom and we also love to sing and move to the music during Music and Movement classes with Ms. Janine. We had fun in February during Ground Hog Week. We loved our Valentine's Day Party and our favorite activity was listening to stories during Dr. Seuss Week. We continue to enjoy saying words during Circle Time as we look at books and flash cards. In March we will be learning about space, St. Patrick's Day, Spring, the color green and Easter. We can hardly wait for our first Easter Egg Hunt!

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

### Bears

The month of February was filled with lots of love in the Bears' classroom. We talked about Groundhog Day. We found out that this year he did see his shadow, so winter will be a long one – but not so bad for us here in Naples, Florida! We had fun making groundhog projects and it was fun making the groundhog "peek-a-book" as he came out of his hole! We, of course, made lots of Valentine's Day projects. We painted hearts and decorated Valentine's Day bags to hold our Valentine's Day cards from all of our friends. We had such a good time during our party. We learned about what it is to be a good friend and sharing with our friends. We have been practicing using gentle words even when we are upset. During the month of February, we talked about the White House, learned about our President and also talked about Jackie Robinson and that he was an amazing baseball player. Our favorite theme in February was Dr. Seuss. We read so many of his books during our Circle Time. Looking forward to March we will learn about Ireland, St. Patrick's Day and have lots of projects featuring the color green! We will learn about Space, Spring and Easter during the month of March. We can't wait to decorate eggs and go on our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We would like to welcome Cheyenne to the Bears' class as we bid farewell to Barrett who has hopped up to the Frogs' classroom. We will miss him! Looking forward to a great March!

*Ms. Ana, Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Rachel & Ms. Sierra*

### Frogs

In February, the Frogs celebrated many notable holidays and events. We loved learning about Ground Hog's Day and making Ground Hogs. We enjoyed our Valentine's Day and learning what it means to be a good friend. The Frogs enjoyed reading many Dr. Seuss books to honor his birthday. The students made a Cat in the Hat project which is being displayed in the front Gallery of the school. In March the Frogs look forward to learning about Ireland, St. Patrick's Day, and Space. During Space Week we will learn about the sun, moon and planets. The students will also learn about the season of spring and, at the end of the month, we will celebrate Easter with a big Easter Egg Hunt. The students are learning a letter per week and we love trying to find words and objects

throughout the day that begin with the letter of week. The students continue to review shapes, colors, numbers and days of the week. We would like to welcome Barrett to class. It's great to be a Frog!

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

### Giraffes

The Giraffes have had a busy month and have started focusing on a color of the week as well as a letter and number of the week. During "O" week the students made a fruit loop octopus and Olympic rings. We decorated the letter "P" with popcorn and we also made a "personal pan pizza!" During the week of "Q" we made a queen and put quarters on the letter. For Valentine's week we made heart people and an "I love you to pieces" craft which was great fun as we decorated the art with puzzle pieces. During Dr. Seuss week we made "Green Eggs and Ham" with shapes and read "Hop on Pop!" Finally the students loved putting apples on our heads in honor of the book "Apples on Top!" We look forward to Easter egg dying and bringing our classroom to life with the colors of spring and the greens of Ireland and St. Patrick's Day! In Social Studies and Science we learned about a variety of subjects – from groundhog day to presidents to African History. We learned about Rosa Parks and how she refused to give up her seat on a bus and made a real change. The students made their own bus to commemorate the event. We made coffee filter hearts. The students used markers to color the coffee filters and then we sprayed water on the colors. It was fascinating to see the colors then bleed into one another to create fantastic color combinations and even new colors! In March we look forward to learning about the earth, the solar system, stars and astronauts during Space Week. We would like to welcome Josiah, Theodore, Abigail, Elena and Olivia to our class! It's great to be a Giraffe!

*Ms. Daisy, Ms. Krystal & Ms. Sammy*

### Lions

The newly formed "Lions" group has been a great success! We had a busy February getting set up in our new VPK room. We welcomed Ms. Ali to our new morning routine and she has been a tremendous asset to our teaching and learning environment. Our class will be finished with the alphabet all the way to "W" by the end of the month! We continue to work on patterns, one-to-one correspondence, tallies, 10-frames, shapes and more in math. We continue with art projects to enhance and overlap learning of concepts and to practice fine-motor skills. We have been utilizing the STEM lab for more creative exploration and concept building. We celebrated Dr. Seuss Week by reading his books all week and doing some fun story-extension activities. We are enjoying our new classroom and all the extra opportunities we have for more learning! We would like to welcome Selah, Castin, Noelle and Colton to the Lions! Rooooaaaar—it's great to be a Lion!

*Ms. Ali & Ms. Kristen*

### March Birthdays

Ethan C - March 3

Rory A - March 5

Kyler C - March 8

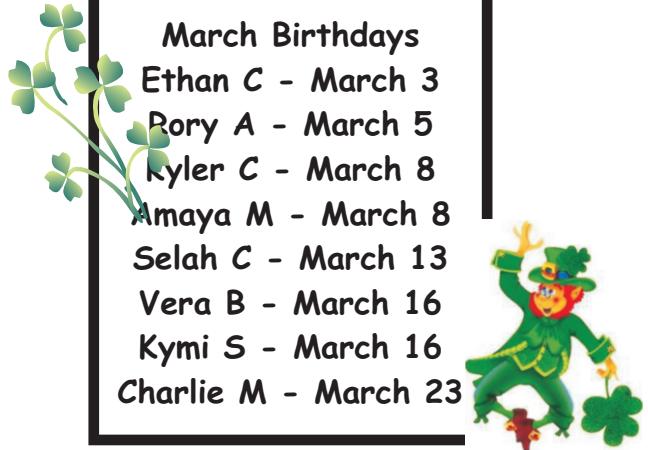
Amaya M - March 8

Selah C - March 13

Vera B - March 16

Kymi S - March 16

Charlie M - March 23



## Teaching Your Child Self-Control from "It'samomsworld.com"

Having self-control is possessing the ability to rise above immediate pressures, such as hunger, and not giving in to impulse. Having self-control as a child is also associated with many positive personality characteristics, coping skill and academic performance. Mastery of self-control develops gradually throughout the childhood years, but you can help your child develop better self-control.

### Be a Role Model for Good Self-Control

As you can guess, parental behavior directly influences a child's willpower. Studies were done wherein children were presented with the choice to either choose a small, immediate reward or wait for a larger, more appealing reward. Kids who watched adults choose the smaller, immediate reward imitated the adult's behavior. The same was true for children who watched adults wait for the more appealing reward. Set an example for your child by exercising self-control. Giving them an explanation for your 'self-controlling behavior' is of the utmost importance. Use explanations such as 'I'm not going to buy this cookie right now, even though I really want it, because that way I can save my money and spend the money at the fun carnival next week!'

When they face a decision between delay of gratification for a big reward or immediate satisfaction for a smaller reward, help them work through the benefits of delaying gratification. Your child should be able to make the right decision with your guidance. Just remember to focus on the benefits of delaying gratification!

### Temperament Plays A Role

Although it is parents who influence their child's self-control, a child's temperament also enters the equation. Toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children who are particularly emotional have difficulty with self-control. Emotional children will need more guidance in developing their willpower.

Your child's temperament also plays a role in how you should guide their self-restraint. Let's divide children into two categories—those who are fearful of wrongdoing and those who are not fearful of punishment. If your child is particularly fearful or nervous about wrongdoing or getting caught in the act, provide them with reminders about self-control, such as 'don't eat those cookies until after dinner.' Gentle discipline works to reinforce compliance in your child. If your child is not fearful of wrongdoing and punishment, then it's necessary to ask your child to cooperate using a positive, warm manner. Basically, you want to appeal to your child by reminding them of your strong, nurturing relationship. They will comply in order to avoid upsetting the parent-child relationship.

### Improving Self-Control

An individual usually resists temptation by first reminding themselves of the benefits of long-term over short-term goals and then distracting themselves from the temptation or reducing its attractiveness. You may be shocked to discover that preschoolers begin to develop these coping strategies. How do kids stop themselves from giving in to temptation? They usually have a concrete coping strategy:

- remind themselves to stop looking at the tempting object (friend's toys or plate of cookies)
- remind themselves of the rules prohibiting them from the tempting object
- design activities to distract themselves from the tempting object

Some kids sing a song to themselves about rules against eating cookies while others try to leave the room. These concrete strategies help develop willpower.

### Give Up Your Own Control

Studies have found that children of parents who are controlling or very strict with their kids have poor self-control. This is because by always controlling the child's behavior, the parent never allows the child to act on their own and learn from the consequences of these actions. It's important to give up your control on your child's actions so that they can develop their own self-control.



**Keep your eyes peeled for the patter of Leprechaun feet on Friday, March 16th!**

**... will we have a little visitor? Only time will tell!**



**Ms. Noreen, Ms. Janine & Ms. Jennifer Proudly display our 100% Inspection Report from DCF Childcare Licensing**

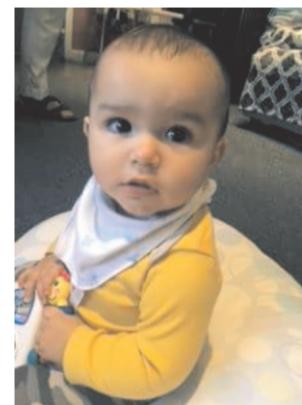


**Ms. Krystal (left) and Ms. Jennifer (right)**

### **Ms. Jennifer March's “Teacher” of the Month!**

Congratulations to Ms. Jennifer our “Teacher” of the Month! Ms. Jennifer is the school's

Assistant Director. While she is not officially a “teacher” any longer in any one particular classroom, she does float in and out of classrooms when needed to assist when a teacher is out, requires extra assistance, etc. Ms. Jennifer has been a teacher to every age group in her more than 15 year history at the preschool. Ms. Jennifer is our Curriculum Specialist and general “can-do” leader! She assists all of us with her amazing organizational skills and her ability to quickly assess a situation to help determine where/how it could be improved. Thank you, Ms. Jennifer, for all you do for our students, families and colleagues. We are blessed to have such an amazing group of professionals here at Windmill Creek Academy!



*Musical Exploration!*

