

The Spotted Zebra Learning Center

APRIL 2022



What is Happening in the Classrooms....

VIOLET ROOM NEWS

Happy April Violet Room Families,

During the month of March, we transitioned from a seven-day calendar to a monthly calendar to increase number recognition, patterns and number of days in a month. We introduced the children to classroom jobs. Our job chart is a great way for children to take responsibility in the classroom, take turns, and reinforce name recognition. The children are really enjoying jobs and showing so much pride.

The themes for the month of April are Community Helpers, Spring, Ovals/Eggs, Earth Day/Recycling.

Friday April 1st Albany County Sherriff K-9's will be visiting Spotted Zebra.

We will focus on the letters G, S, J, and D. Our numbers of the month will be 5,6,7, and 8. The children will start signing in each morning by tracing their names. We will continue to find names on name sticks and spelling out our names on our Velcro name boards.

As the warmer weather is arriving, puddles are so tempting and fun to jump in while playing outside. Please remember to send in extra clothes.

Please note that there is no special education programming the week of April 18-April 22, 2022.

Happy Spring,

Ms. Danielle, Ms. Chris, Ms. Katina, Ms. Lauren and Ms. Heather



Blue Room News

Spring has arrived! It has been a cold and wet winter and we are ready for warmer days and spending more time outside. If the weather cooperates we will be going on walks and will spend time on playground daily. Please remember to send your child in wearing weather appropriate clothing (including sneakers). Please check cubbies to make sure they are stocked with spring clothing.

March was a very busy month! We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday, St. Patrick's Day and learned about many different Community Helpers. We discussed police officers, firefighters, doctors, dentists and veterinarians. We had a blast discussing what we want to be when we grow up. The children were very creative! We also transformed our dramatic play area into a veterinarian office which the children loved!

In April we will dive into spring. We will focus on the changes in weather, flowers, and birds. Our next dramatic play area will be a flower shop. We will also be exploring a unit on Eric Carle with a focus on "The Very Hungry Caterpillar".

Happy Birthday this month to Jacob, Kiaan and Miss Erica.

Ms. Erica, Ms. Jenna, Ms. Kathryn, Ms. Brittany & Ms. Karen



Bizzy Beez News

Bizzy Beez is hoping April showers bring the most beautiful May flowers! Looking forward to the sun and warm weather ahead.

We will start off the month by becoming botanists and learning all the parts of a flower and what they need to grow! We will get some experience with getting our hands dirty by planting some seeds and watching them grow! Our friends will then buzz into the world of insects and learn some fun facts about their habitats and what makes them amazing.

We will take a small break (we are closed from April 18-22nd) and come back ready to explore butterflies. We will get the opportunity to watch the amazing metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly!

We want to wish Radi and Landen a very happy birthday!

Ms. Carrie, Ms. Christina, Ms. Mary, Ms. Ang, Ms. Marlis and Ms. Megan

Upcoming Dates to Note for Holiday Closures

- No special education programming April 18th - April 22nd
- Picture Day - April 26th and April 27th (more information to follow)
- May 27th - Closing at 1:30 for Staff Training
- Memorial Day - May 30, 2022
- Juneteenth- June 20, 2022



Green Room News

Spring is in bloom and the Green Room has been talking long walks to look for its signs! We have very much enjoyed getting outside as often as possible since the weather has been getting nicer and nicer. As we close out March, we will be talking about community helpers, we even had a visit from a K9 unit, police officer and a firefighter!

As we move into April, we will explore the subject of weather and continue looking for signs of spring; learn how to be an "Earth Helper" have an Earth Day party; and learn about farming and farm animals. We will finish out letter of the week curricula with the letters N and A and the review the whole alphabet by making our own alphabet books.

During circle/story time we are continuing to practice taking talking turns and listening turns. Everyone is doing well given various cue ("raise a quiet hand"; "listen to ___ for his/her talking turn", etc.) We also continue to work on patterning, counting, identifying the month of the year and the day of the week, reviewing, and learning out sign language, as well as the weather, to determine where we will have gross motor play. All are doing well reading the circle time report sentences with a "loud and proud voice". Tracking print, reading from left to right, and reading high frequency words is also practiced during the daily report.

We are looking forward to the science projects and math activities that can be integrated into this month's themes. We will also watch the weather to see when we can have outside playtime on a rainy day, we that we can look for worms, jump in puddles, and play in mud. Stay tuned!

Please start sending in a water bottle with your child's name clearly labeled, we will be bringing them outside to the playground daily.

We would like to wish Joseph a very happy birthday this month (2nd)! We will also be celebrating Earth Day this month as well! We hope everyone is enjoying their spring so far!

Ms. Kim, Ms. Elle, Ms. Christiana & Ms. Liz





Orange Room News

Happy spring? We made kites and flew them in the windy, sunshine in mid-March and by the end we saw more scattered snow showers. We hope that we will see more signs of spring arrive and remain with us as we head into April.

In addition to spring, we will we learn about the spring holidays of Ramadan, Passover, and Easter, as well as Earth Day and Arbor Day. Content area instruction (literacy, math, social studies, and science) will be woven into the following topics: reptiles, mammals, birds, eggs, and plants. We will study the life cycles and practice distinguishing between living and non-living. In science class, the children will enjoy discovering more about our Solar System/Space.

April will also feature an Author of the Week. The life and works of Mo Willems, Eric Carle, Laura Numeroff, and Syd Hoff will be explored. The children are certain to feel some inspiration that will fuel their own writing and drawing.

Leveled reading groups were off to a great start in March. All are budding or blossoming readers. Finding "Popcorn" words continues to be a fun activity for all. We are also working on stretching our words out, thinking about letter sounds, and using digraphs and blends to decode words. When deconstructing and reconstructing sentences, all are doing well with making sure the first word is capitalized and that the sentence ends with a punctuation mark. We introduced and will continue to practice using finger-spacing to separate the words in the sentences we write.

During math, we worked on addition and subtraction by learning associated vocabulary words (e.g. put together, add, plus; take away, apart, subtract, minus). We will continue to work on subtraction and addition within 10, as well as identifying teen numbers using tens and ones place value. We have introduced counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s and will continue to practice. Identifying and describing 2-D shapes will be covered next in our Go Math curriculum.

There are no birthdays to celebrate this month. We will take every opportunity to celebrate all of the amazing growth and achievements we see throughout each and every day!

Ms. Carol, Mrs. Sbardella, Mr. Jason, Ms. Casey, and Ms. Liz

