



# Rocking Horse Review

Rocking Horse Academy

Linda Ashness



## What's New At Rocking Horse

Al Gore claimed that he invented the Internet. No matter who came up with the idea or who created the technology, we can't imagine our lives without this amazing way of communicating.

This year, Rocking Horse decided to hire a real web designer for the first time since opening for business. Emily Castillo has done an excellent job. I hope everyone will take some time to visit our fabulous new website at our same address [www.rockinghorseacademy.com](http://www.rockinghorseacademy.com).

Some new features you will find on our website include a listing of our **Developmental standards** for all age levels. On our **Home** page, separate tabs take you to Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-school divisions that highlight each program. Our **Contact Us** page has all of our email addresses for your convenience. There's also a form where you can submit your questions to us. Please let us

know how we can best serve you and your family.

We are accredited by SACS CASI and, therefore, recognized by TEA. We now have direct links to these agencies for you to better understand the standards that we uphold that make Rocking Horse Academy an exceptional school for your child.

The **Forms** page will include forms needed when you change your email or phone numbers. Summer camp requires annual enrollment and those forms are conveniently located on our **Forms** page and our **Summer Camp** page. You must have an Adobe Reader program to download, but the link is provided for you. We have 3 ways to pay your monthly tuition now. Please visit our **Forms** page for more details about that. Another new feature that we are so excited to announce is that our forms will now be interactive; you can actually fill them in using your

computer. They will be so much easier for us all to read.

**Our Calendar** page will keep you up to date on our Tuition dates, Events, Themes, Holidays, and Closings. We also post a Themes Calendar here so you know what the subject of study will be for any given month.

Don't forget our **Parent Handbook** is now listed online for families to read. Please refer to it if you have any questions about our policies. It is under our **Parent's** page. Also included on our **Parent's** page are the guidelines for sending a child home, discipline and guidance policies, and a link to the state's Minimum Standards. Our **Parent** page includes an interactive form where parents can leave us comments. We'd especially appreciate any letters in support of our school that we could post on the website as testimonials.

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### Special points of interest:

- *What's new at Rocking Horse*
- *Graduation*
- *Date nights*
- *Center closings*
- *Backyard games*
- *Summer camp*

## Library News

Thank you to all of our wonderful parents who purchased books at this year's Scholastic Book Fair, as well as for all of the parents who donated books to their child's classroom. We were able to acquire almost \$2800.00 in new books, games, flashcards and equipment through sales profits! We also purchased many more new Big Books along with table top easels to display them on. Thank you again for all of your support!

Just a reminder - when Summer Camp officially begins June 7th, the library and computer lab will be closed to preschool classes to accommodate our summer campers. Everyone is still welcome to drop by and check out books at any time.

Everyone enjoy your summer and keep reading!

Maria Matts  
Assistant Director  
Book Diva



(Continued from page 1)

Check out **Our Menu** page for the latest culinary offerings of Mr. Freddy and Mr. Roland. These will be updated every two weeks.

Again, trying to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century and social media, Rocking Horse Academy now hosts FACEBOOK and TWITTER accounts. Become a fan today and keep up with the RHA news with Ms. Maria. And if we ever need to get a

message to parents about a snow day or to inform parents our phone system is down, we will post that on Facebook and Twitter.

I hope our new website is more convenient for our families and effective in communicating the upcoming events we sponsor or the exciting new programs our classes offer. Please visit us regularly online.

Jane

# PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

## MAY 28 @ 11:00 A.M.

### RECEPTION TO FOLLOW PLEASE R.S.V.P.

### Summer Camp for School Age Children Begins On June 7th. Have You Registered Your Child/ren Yet?

#### Parent Date Nights

May 15  
June 19  
July 17



6:30 pm til Midnight

Academy Child \$30/\$15 second child

Non Academy Child \$35/\$20 second child

Employee Child \$15/\$5 second child

#### Tuition Due Dates

May 03  
May 17  
May 31st  
June 14  
June 28  
July 12  
July 26



#### Dates To Remember

Mother's Day May 9th  
RHA Closed May 31st  
(Memorial day)  
**June 3rd-  
School ends**  
RHA Closed July 5th  
**August 10th-CPR/FIRST  
AID @ 6:30 \$25.00**

# FOALS I

During the month of May, we will focus on **zoo, safari, forest and pond animals**. The Spanish words are *animales, zoo-zologico, jungle-selva, forest-bosque, May-Mayo*. Our songs for the month are "*Five Little Speckled Frogs*" and "*We're Going to the Zoo*". We will move and make sounds like animals—snakes, frogs and ducks. Books for May are [Who Is My Mom](#), [The Big Hungry Bear](#), and [Peek-a-Woo](#).

The themes for June are **tools and transportation**. Spanish words are *June-Junio, cars-carro, trucks-troco, tools-herramientas*. The music is "*Wheels on the Bus*" and "*Sailing Sailing*" and [Busy Machines](#) and [How Do Dinosaurs Love Their Pets](#) are some of the books. We will look out of the win-

dow at different colored cars and trucks. The skill to practice at home is the bicycle push.

**American history, ocean life and summer fun** are the themes for July. The Spanish words are *summer fun-verano divertido, American history-historia Americano, flag-bandera, ocean-oceano, red- rojo*. We will count stars and stripes on the flag bandana then play peek-a-boo with the bandana. Reading time will include [Witzy Plays Hide and Seek](#) and [Below Us Under the Earth and Sea](#). Pretending to swim is the physical activity.

Please help us by labeling bottles with first name and last initial and lids with initials. Also, food brought in should be labeled. Thanks for your help.

If you take your baby to the doctor for an illness, please bring a note to school stating it is okay for your baby to return to school. Also, doctor's notes for **Tylenol** must state the reason and duration of time to administer it. If your baby is at least 6 months old, you may bring infant **Motrin** without a doctor's note, and it also must be signed in at the front.

Important dates to remember: Mother's Day May 9, Father's Day June 20. RHA is closed Memorial Day May 31 and July 5 in honor of July 4. Thank you for your confidence in us. Questions and comments are always welcomed.

Foals I Staff

# FOALS II

Foals 2 babies have the summer fun bug!

Our curriculum this time around includes:

May - Animals we'd find in the Zoo, in the Jungle, and in the Forest. Books that we will rotate with this theme is "Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell, "If I Ran the Zoo" by Dr. Seuss, "Color Zoo" by Lois Ehlert, and Baby Einstein: Jane's Animal Expedition". We'll make time to watch Baby Einstein "World Animals", "A Day on the Farm - Baby McDonald". We'll also be exploring our senses by finger painting with warm and cold finger paint. Keep your eyes open for our Safari paintings in our hallway! Spanish words for May:  
agua - water  
mas - more  
si - yes  
te amo - I love you

June - Planes, Trains, and Automobiles is what we will learn about and play! The many ways of Transportation. We will enjoy reading the many books we have on transportation. A few books that we will enjoy are "Cars, Trains, Planes, and Trucks" by Nancy

Rindone, "Baby Einstein: What Floats", "Baby Einstein: Things that Go". Much of our Art and Sensory will include the many different sizes of wheels. Look out for painted wheels rolling on our art paper. Spanish words for June:  
carro - car  
amigo/amiga - friend  
vaso - glass  
leche - milk

July - "Summer Fun" is our theme. We will take our early morning walks or have our outside time in the atrium. Books we have set aside for the month of July are, "Baby Einstein : Water, Water Everywhere", "Baby Einstein: See and Spy Color" & "Discover the Day: Baby Einstein Lift a Flap". Ice Paint and Jello Paint will be part of Art, Sensory & Cooking curriculum all rolled into one fun activity.

Spanish words for July:  
dia - day  
noche - night  
sol - sun  
luna - moon

Other parts of our curriculum throughout the summer months include

"Conversation", which will include "Higher and Lower Sounds", which will have us talking in high and low pitches, and "Questions and Answers" which involves listening to words while looking at things you pat or touch. Our "Self Help" area, or "Dramatic Play", has Foals 2 babies playing Peek-a-Boo, watching moving things, following simple directions, and remembering where things are. All of our daily activities include English and Spanish.

We'd like to remind our parents to bring at least 2 changes of outfits for your child. Also, sunscreen and a sun hat/cap are necessary for our a.m. walks or outside play time. We will send our Sunscreen Permission form with the daily sheets.

As always, our Foals 2 babies are learning about themselves their world, and we are here to help and encourage them to reach their goals. If you have questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us.

Thanks, Foals 2 staff

# Colts

Summer is here! These next three months will be fun ones. We will want to welcome all of our new friends to the Colt room. We are so happy to have you with us. Your teachers have planned several fun projects that teach your child about his or her world.

During May, we will learn about places where animals live. The first week, we will study zoo animals. We will paint a zebra with a comb to make his stripes, make an elephant's face out of paper plates, and create a monkey. We will sing *Old MacDonald had a Zoo* and other songs about the zoo. We will read **Peek-a-Boo Zoo**.

The second week, the students will learn about pets. We will talk about how to use soft touches with our pets and friends. We will paint a dog bone, design a goldfish, glue feathers on a parrot and its cage. Those are just a few art projects we have planned for that week. We will sing *How Much Is That Doggy in the Window*. We will read **Our Furry Friends**. We will play a matching game about pets.

The third week, we will talk about jungle animals. We will read **Mommy in the Jungle**. We will color a hippo, put spots on a leopard, and paint a snake. At the end of this unit we will watch

HI-5 DVD about animals. The final week of May will be on Growing up. We will make an "All About Me" book. This book will include handprints, footprints, height and weight. We are asking parents to bring in an infant picture. We will use these pictures to show the children how much they have grown over the year. We will read **When I Was Little**. We will also make a graduation poster for the Bronco and Trotter graduates. We would like to say ***Congratulations to you!***

In June. The first two weeks focus on transportation. We will sing songs like **Wheels on the Bus** and **Old Mac Donald had a Tractor**. We will paint a boat with sugar, finger-paint a submarine, create a road to put the cars and trucks on. We will work on our gross motor skills by taking turns pushing our friends in the toy car. We will play in some water with boats for sensory development. At the end of this unit we will watch ***Baby Einstein: Things that Go***. We will be making a special gift for our daddies.

During the last two weeks, we will talk about tools. We will design a tool box, machines that help build things and also a construction worker and other art projects. We will read ***Daddy and Me***. We will build with Legos and

blocks. We will work on our fine motor skills by coloring with crayons and using paintbrushes.

In the month of July we will have fun learning about summer fun and ocean life. To celebrate summer fun, we will glue sand in the sand pails, color beach balls and paint sand castles. We will throw a beach dance party. July 2nd we plan to have a 4th of July picnic outside. We will make fireworks and streamers.

During the final two weeks, ocean life is our theme. We will make crabs, dolphins, sharks, and we will design a beach mural. We will sing songs like **Baby Shark** and **I'm a Little Fishy**. We will read books on ocean life. We will make an edible fish bowl.

Just a few reminders:\* Please label all items.

Please bring in:

- sippy cups/clean water bottles
- summer clothes
- sunscreen and permission slip for it
- cameras

If you have any questions about activities, please feel free to come by and ask or you can email me at : [coltsareawesome@yahoo.com](mailto:coltsareawesome@yahoo.com)

# Ponies

Spring is finally here and we are so excited! The weather is beautiful and we are being offered more opportunities to go outside and play! Please check your child's cubby for weather appropriate clothing as well as sunscreen as our days heat up. Keeping your Pony hydrated is very important as well so please be sure that you send a water cup to school each day labeled with your little one's name.

Our parent board is located in the hallway across from our big window. Take some time to stop by and read reminders for the week as well as review the

lesson plans detailing what your Pony will be learning that week. Feel free to get a copy of the lesson plan from any of the Pony teachers; we encourage you to continue working with your child on the week's themes so that they can share with you what they have learned in school!

May: In the month of May we get to learn more about animals and their homes. Specifically we will look at the jungle, the zoo, and the rainforest! What do our animal friends eat and what sounds do they make? We will learn to identify animals in Spanish as

well as sign language and play interactive animal action games! Mother's Day is just around the corner so be on the lookout for a special gift from your Pony! We will read "Are You My Mother" and talk about what makes our mommy special. Reminder: We are closed Monday May 31<sup>st</sup> in honor of Memorial Day.

June: Vroom Vroom! This month our Ponies will learn about transportation! How do we get from place to place? We will practice transportation words in

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(Continued from page 4) Ponies

Spanish (bus – autobus, plane – avion, car-carro) and sign language, as well as English. This month also focuses on tools; we will learn to build cars and planes out of wooden blocks, shapes, and items around the room such as tables and chairs. Your Pony will also learn to identify various tools such as hammers, screw drivers, wrenches, and pliers. Using our manipulative center, we will practice demonstrating how each of these tools is used; for example, hammers bang in nails, screw drivers turn the screws, and pliers can help us pull out nails or open something up.

July: As summer arrives we will learn more about our country; what does our flag look like? We will learn patriotic

songs as well as celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with a class picnic on July 2nd! We will talk about the different activities that families do to enjoy their summer – some go to the beach, some go to visit family. Your Pony will also learn about the ocean and the animals that live in it. We will learn more words in Spanish like fish – pez and water – agua as well as sign language. We will review colors and shapes during the summer months as well so expect your Pony to be eager to show you what he/she has learned! You can help at home too; help your Pony practice identifying circles, squares, and triangles, etc. We will also be identifying colors in Spanish such as red – rojo, blue – azul, and yellow – amarillo.

The summer will be packed with fun

new ways for your child to enjoy outside time, and we will offer even more opportunities for you to help your little one show off what he/she have learned here and at home as well! We will continue learning to be responsible little ones by cleaning up our messes (toys, lunch, etc.) and using our soft touches and kind words with friends.

As always, feel free to give us a call during our naptime hours (1:00 -2:00) if you have any questions or just want to check up on your little one. We also encourage you to bring in a disposable camera so that we can take pictures of your Pony so that you can see what we do during our days! Have a wonderful summer!

Pony Staff

## Chargers I

Welcome to Chargers 1

Spring has sprung and we're still having fun! We are working on creating the perfect environment with even more interactions and learning experiences. Our goal is to build a trusting, lasting relationship with each family, while opening minds for listening skills, social skills, and language development. This enhances other aspects of development such as sharing, taking turns, being able to make choices for themselves. Older toddlers learn through consistency, and that is what we provide. We make it enjoyable as we laugh and learn from each other.

We also increase potty training to this age group by having students go on a frequent schedule, providing the sturdy stepstool to reassure them as they learn to climb up onto the toilet, then again when they wash their hands independently. We use the words, "It's time to go potty." Or "It's your turn to go potty." We really don't ask if child NEEDS to go potty; most will say "no" because he/

she doesn't want to stop playing. Successes are rewarded with stamps on the back of the hand to reinforce positive behaviors.

In May we will explore the wonderful world of **Animals**: Zoo Animals, Jungle Animals, and Forest Animals. Where do different animals live? Some are in the trees, under the ground, in the water, or in a cave. What are their babies called? What do they like to eat? Some of our books include *My Home is in the Ground*, *Where is Baby Bear*, *Barney Goes to the Zoo*, *Jungle Book*, *The Loudest Roar*. We will learn to identify the different animals and learn the sounds they make. We will paint, color, and paste the animals in a collage art project.

And the final week of May we will talk about **Growing up** and what kinds of things happen to our bodies as we grow: wearing underwear and no more diapers, growing taller and our feet need bigger shoes, our hair is longer. And we will read stories about growing such as

*How Puppies Grow*.

Our theme for June will be **Transportation** by land, by sea, and by air. We will read many stories such as *Up, Up, Up and Away Susie*, *Big City Dump Truck*, *Fire Truck*, *Hello School Bus*. We will make trains, helicopters, and color, paint and create a transportation collage. We will also ask open-ended questions like what type of transportation do your parents drive? Truck? Car?

For the month of July we will learn about **American History** starting with Independence Day for July 4th. How and why do we celebrate? And the rest of the month we will celebrate summer with special activities and picnics. Stay posted for further details.

**Don't forget fresh water in our water bottles and sunscreen every day. Don't forget a change of clothing in the cubby as the weather grows warmer. LABEL EVERYTHING!!!!**

Ms. Laurie

Ms. Cheryl

Ms. Brenda

# Chargers II

We are having a wonderful spring in Chargers II. We have been very busy studying about plants, insects, and birds.

In May we will move on to our study of animals. What fun! Each week we will learn about a new type of animal. We plan to stomp with the elephants, swing with the chimps, gallop with the zebras, and hop with the kangaroos! We will learn about the different environments our animal friends live in, the zoo, the jungle, the forest, and the pond. We will read books like, Starry Safari and Doing the Animal Bop. We will sing songs like *I Went to the Animal Fair* and *Tiny Tim*.

After we have finished having fun with animals, we will look at how much we've grown. We will measure our height, make our handprints, footprints, and sing, "*Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes*." The last days of the month, Chargers II will review all that we have learned. It is so amazing how well we know our shapes, alphabet, numbers, colors and months of the year! We will end the school year with a celebration of our progress this year.

As we drift into summer, we may see changes in our friends and in our schedules. Parents, please keep us informed about your vacation plans as we keep you informed about our fun summer activities!

We begin June with a study of transportation-trucks! Big trucks, little trucks, all kinds of trucks! It also means buses, trains, and airplanes! Listen to the roar of the engines as we race into circle time reading stories such as, Wheels of the Race Car and Diggers and Dumpers. We will sing, "*The Wheels on the Bus*." We will also take a field trip to our parking lot to tour the Rocking Horse Academy school bus; we will see what it's like to sit in the seats, honk the horn, and see the lights!

Tools will then be our next unit of study; our students will get to wear tool belts and play with pretend tools! We will sing, "*Johnny Works with One Hammer*." We will learn about the different tools and how important they are to us. Maybe you and your child can come up with a project at home using tools. Our children love to help.

After our study of tools, we will study dinosaurs. Oh! No! T-Rex is a little scary, but we hope to have fun learning about him and the other dinosaurs. We will ride our playground dinosaurs and make dinosaur footprints! We have fun dinosaur books to read such as, All About Dinosaurs and Giant Dinosaurs. We will also get to watch "*The Land Before Time*."

We begin July with a BANG! It's the 4th of July and time to celebrate the

United States' Independence Day! Chargers II will learn about our country and why we celebrate the 4th of July. We will paint pictures of exciting fireworks. We also will take a walk and look at the Texas flag and the United States flag. We will sing songs like, "*This Land is Your Land*."

"Splish! Splash! We leave our American History lessons for a study of ocean life and summer fun! We will study sharks, whales, eels, and many other unique sea creatures!

Chargers II will pretend to go fishing. Get your bait and tackle ready! We will also play with sand and shells. We will make sharks with large teeth and octopi with eight arms! Also in celebration of summer, we will have a watermelon picnic! We will get to dance to music. We will enjoy eating pineapple and other summer goodies!

Chargers II is looking forward to a yummy, fun-filled summer! Don't forget water bottles and labeled changes of clothes to keep in your child's cubby for this sunny summer! Please remember to apply sunscreen on your child in the morning and fill out a signed permission form so that we may apply sunscreen in the afternoon. Take home your water bottles daily and refill with fresh water. LABEL EVERYTHING!!!

Chargers II Staff

## Backyard Games and Activities

By: Rhea Seymour

**Chalk it up to fun.** An inexpensive box of colored chalk can keep the kids busy for hours. Have younger kids draw pictures on the sidewalk or driveway. For the older children, try a game of Tic Tac Toe or hopscotch: draw a hopscotch pattern with eight squares. Players toss a marker (try a stone or button) into a square and then hop over it on one foot.

**Bet on bug races.** See how many critters the kids can spot—without actually picking them up—in the backyard for a short time period, such as five minutes, says Penny Warner, author of Kid's Outdoor Parties (Meadowbrook Press). "Add up how many bugs they see and give them a sketch pad to sketch as many as they can. Then have them share their artwork."

**Create an outdoor canvas.** Hang an old sheet on a clothesline or tape paper to a fence for your budding artist to paint on. Encourage them to try painting with different kinds of brushes, says Warner. "Try dipping grass into paint and swishing it on paper, then try painting with a leaf or a twig. The kids can also try painting rocks and creating little people or bugs with them."

# Pintos

Over the last couple of months in the Pinto room we have been very busy! Our main focus other than academics has been how to work our problems out with words. The room has more children, so everyone needs to work together more often to accomplish his/her goals. This has given the teachers a good opportunity to help teach basic problem-solving, social manners, and cooperation with peers and adults. All the children in the Pinto class are getting very good at using their words and asking for help. They have also started to help each other out as well! It has been great to be a part of this process, and it couldn't have been accomplished without the help of Ms. Cynthia, Ms. Tiffany and Ms. Amber.

May holds lots of new and fun ideas. We will learn about pets and how to take care of them. We will focus on our class pet Chocolate. This will allow the children to practice taking care of something other than just themselves, finding out the similarities in the basic needs of animals and people. It will also be fun to learn about the way animals communicate without using words. Another topic will be about different zoo animals. I will use Teeth, Tails, and Tentacles (a counting book by Christopher Wormell) to help introduce different animals. This will also help with counting up to 20. The last two weeks in May we will concentrate on our growing bodies. We will make self-portraits, fact sheets about our likes, and get to know ourselves better. We will contrast what babies do and what we can do. We will compare and measure and share ideas with each other. What a great math skill!

During June we will learn about differ-

ent forms of transportation. One week we will concentrate on air transportation, one week on land transportation and the last week will be on water transportation. We will take pictures of our cars and make a class book with them. We will make our own vehicles and have lots of creative fun with this unit. The last two weeks in June will be spent on tools. It will be good practice to learn how to use the tools safely. We will learn the names of each tool as well as what it is commonly used for.

In June the Pintos will talk about swimming and how to stay safe in the water. Froggy Learns to Swim by Jonathan London will be read often during this time. Since the weather will be warm, we will also talk about water and its different forms. This will be a great opportunity for us to do some science experiments in and out of the classroom. We will also spend a couple of weeks playing board games together in small groups. We will work on turn-taking, counting, following consistent rules, and cooperative play.

As three year-olds, the children are learning that they now have an effect on other people around them. As this happens, they start to test each other's boundaries both physically, by pushing or sitting too closely by each other or verbally, by using silly names and arguing about different topics that come up. I have already started seeing this take place in the classroom. This gives me the opportunity to help the children socialize with each other in a more positive manner. You will hear me use the phrases, "You can call her/him by his/her name." "If you need to call names, do it in the mirror." Giving children an

outlet for certain unwanted behavior makes the behavior not as desirable to the child. The bigger the reaction we or other children give them, the more fun it is to do. So if they start to invade each other's personal space, I just explain that they can move somewhere that has more room. There is also the time when children need to move their bodies and become more physical with each other. Again, I will give them positive and safe ways to meet that need. We will do a lot of gross motor games that require cooperation and large muscle movements. Outside we will do a lot of running, jumping and climbing.

With all of our themes and activities we will work on pre-math and pre-reading skills with the children on a daily basis. By incorporating these desired skills in the everyday routines and fun activities, the children retain the information faster and in a more concrete way. Like with everyone, if you make the activity fun then learning the information will be fun!

As the weather gets warmer, water will become even more important for the children. Please remember to send fresh cold water for your child to drink in your personal water bottle. We will take these bottles to the playground each day. Also please label all personal items and clothes. A quick reminder about shoes; Rocking Horse Academy rules state that the children should not come to school in open-toed shoes such as sandals and flip flops.

Thank you,

Amber McCathern &

Pinto Staff

## Backyard Games and Activities

By: Rhea Seymour

**Send them on a scavenger hunt.** Your child can do this activity alone, with a friend or in teams, says Lisa Hall, director of the Eastern Start School Age Program in Oriskany, N.Y. Give your child a list of items to find in nature, such as a rock, dandelion, leaf or something a bird would eat. Have the kids draw pictures of what they find and finish the hunt by tallying up how many things they ticked off the list.

# Mustangs

WOW!! Spring is finally here, and it's countdown time to summer! I love springtime in Texas; the vibrant colors of all the wildflowers, the cuddly critters, and slimy frogs are great topics for our classroom! Which, do you think, is the students' favorite theme?

May is a month of celebrations. Mother's Day is May 9, so, of course, we are planning a special surprise for Mothers, but it's a secret! After Mother's Day, we will start preparing for the Broncos' and Trotters' graduation. The Mustangs have been invited to perform the "The Pledge of Allegiance." Graduation will be May 28, at 11:00 a.m. in the gym. Parents, you are

invited to come and join us in watching your children perform. Afterwards, you are invited back to the classroom for a small celebration of our own. We are so proud of our Mustangs and all they have accomplished this year! Yea, Mustangs!

When we aren't preparing for a celebration, we will learn about animals and their habitats. One of our science projects will be "raising" tadpoles and observing their transformation into frogs. It's better than TV any day!

Monday, May 31, we will kick off our summer schedule. This is transition time, which means some students will

be moving up to the Trotters & Broncos and some Pintos will move into the Mustang class. During the summer months, we will review our numbers and letters, we will practice our counting, and we will read many fun books. The major themes will be transportation, tools, and dinosaurs. Weather permitting, we will get to spend lots of time outside practicing our gross motor skills.

Thank you for sharing your children with us this year; we love being a part of their journey to pre-K and kindergarten! Every day is a learning day at Rocking Horse Academy!

# Trotters

Hear ye, Hear ye.....It is with great pride we announce the graduation of the Trotter class. May 28th is our graduation ceremony. We are practicing a song to perform during the ceremony. The graduation ceremony will start at 11:00 a.m. in the gym. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. The gym will fill up fast, so don't be late or you might be standing!

May brings more than spring flowers. Our main theme this month will be animals of all sorts; each week we will explore their habitat, food, protection, and much more. The animals we will cover will fall into several categories: zoo, jungle, forest and safari animals are just a few. One of the most exciting events to look forward to is a field trip to the San Antonio Zoo the week after graduation. In order for this to be successful, we will need as many parent volunteers as possible. More information will become available as the field trip gets closer.

June welcomes summer and a new Trotter class. As we familiarize our-

selves with our new students and get settled into our new routine, we will learn all about transportation, tools, and dinosaurs. As we drive into our transportation unit, we will learn of all the different ways to get from one place to the next. We will also discuss the importance of using transportation. As we move into our tool lessons, we will talk about the different types of tools and what they are used for. Ms. Jessica will bring in real tools for the Trotters to use in a safe setting. They will try hammering a nail, screwing in a screw, and use a level. Dinosaurs round out the month of June. We will become paleontologists and dig for dinosaurs in the sandbox on our playground. We will also make a book about the dinosaurs we have learned.

By the time July rolls around, our lessons will have us diving into the life under the sea. We might even see Ariel and Nemo swimming by as we study our friends the whales, sharks, octopi, and jellyfish. Not only will we learn about what lives in the ocean, Ms. Jes-

sica will bring in a piece of coral reef she found on the beach in Mexico. We will learn about the life on a reef and try our hand at building our own in our classroom. Celebrating the 4th of July, our Trotters pledge to learn about American history and our nation's heroes. We will celebrate the Fourth of July on Friday, July 2nd with a picnic. (We will be closed for the holiday on Monday, July 5.) Everyone will be encouraged to wear red, white, and blue to show his/her patriotism.

Please remember to change out the extra clothes in the children's cubbies. It's important that you bring fresh, cold water every morning in the drinking bottles. Our children must stay hydrated throughout the day. Please apply sunscreen in the morning; we will apply it in the afternoon after nap. Of course, we will need your permission slips and a bottle or tube of sunscreen for your child. Don't forget to label everything you bring to RHA. If you have questions, please call anytime between 1:30- 2:30 p.m.

# Broncos

Bronco Families,

Wow, I cannot believe how quickly the year has passed. The children have grown so much since they first came to us last June. Watching them grow and change has been such a wonder and pleasure. Now we have to prepare for a bittersweet graduation, where our little ones are growing up and moving on to a new phase. It is exciting and at the same time a little sad. Before discussing the busy month ahead I would like to thank the parents that helped make our field trip to The Crowe's Nest a success. Thank you to Hector Servantes, Tom Barbisch, Edna Strittmatter, Lea Reiner, Karen Leake, Marielle Gilbert, Jena Abel and Jonathan Paez.

The month of May is packed full for you and your little one. We will learn about different animals and in what region those animals live using maps and globes. We will study animals that live in the zoo and where they originated from, as well as what they eat and how they adapt to their surroundings. In class we will also be preparing for our graduation ceremony. Finally, to end the month of May we will have graduation on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am with a reception to follow. This is such a wonderful and emotional time.

Once June arrives the Bronco class of 2010 will move on to the summer camp program. If you are not enrolled in Summer Camp, enjoy your summer before Kindergarten begins. If your child is enrolling in Hays CISD, the Kindergarten Roundup (registration) will be held May 13-14 at the assigned elementary schools. A list of documents needed to register is posted on the Bronco classroom door. If you need summer care at RHA, you must register for that ASAP. Also, if you plan on using RHA for your after-school care needs, you will need to reregister for that program. Contact Rebecca if you have any questions.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> we will welcome our new Bronco class of 2011. It's the start of a new year as we dive into summer themes and learning. We will begin by learning about different types of transportation and where those vehicles are used. The following week we will study tools: tools used for modes of transportation, houses, computers, carpentry, etc... To end June we will study one of my favorite topics, dinosaurs. The kids really love this one.

As July arrives and Independence Day approaches, we will move into studying

American History. We will also talk about how Texas became a part of the United States. Following American History is another one of my favorite topics, Ocean Life. What lives in the Ocean? What do they eat? How deep is the ocean? Finally, to end July we will have lots of fun as we study SUMMER FUN. We will plan activities: have a picnic, dash through splash day, and become beach bums.

We are so proud of all the work the Broncos have been doing and the accomplishments and progress they have made. And we are confident that they are well prepared for and will exceed expectations as they move into Kindergarten. We will miss them all dearly and hope you will remember to come visit us and share your Kindergarten experiences. Good luck to the Bronco class of 2010.

We would also like to welcome our Bronco class of 2011, we are so excited to start a fresh new year and watch the children learn and grow. We have so much fun ahead so get ready.

Warmest Wishes,

Mrs. Casey and Mrs. Pat

# Corral Kids

## CK Summer Camp 2010

Summer camp is right around the corner and we look forward to spending it with you. Our summer camp students will enjoy weekly swim trips on Thursday and Friday afternoons, field trips, special guest performers and that's just the beginning of the fun we have in store. Take a look at our weekly themes for a sample of what is to come.

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **You've Got Talent**

And we what to know what it is!!! Let's

explore and celebrate our many talents; be it is singing, dance, jokes or magic. So grab a mic, get on stage and shine like the super star that you are!

**June 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**

### **Quiz Kids**

The price is right for a week of fun and games as we take a trivial pursuit through the wonderful world of TV game shows. We double dare you to beat the clock as we take a ride on the wheel of fortune all the way to the million dollar pyramid. Whether you win, lose or draw be sure not to press your

luck. You bet your life it's going to be a great time.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> &**

**June 28<sup>th</sup>- July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Sci-Fi Adventure**

Let's travel to another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind; — Next stop, the Corral Kid Zone. Trekkies and Trekkers alike don't just send your avatar; come ex-

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plore the outer limits of your imagination in our sci-fi laboratory.

### July 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> &

#### July 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> First Annual Corral Kid Challenge

Get fired up and show off your inner Olympic athlete. Team work is the key here as our campers compete for gold in events including radical relay, obstacle course scramble, and goofy gymnastics.

### July 19<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> &

#### July 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Treasure Island

A-hoy me Hearties! All hands on deck for sailing our sea rovers across the open waters and we scourge for booty where X marks the spot. Landlubbers beware as we take our adventure above and below the ocean surface.

### Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> &

#### Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Once Upon a Time...

...our campers were all transformed into Knights in shining armor and proud Princesses as they went on a fantastic voyage to practice the magic of Merlin, compete in the royal joust and slay any dragons that happened to be hanging around. Come and create a fairy tale castle with us.

### Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> Scavenger Hunt

What once was lost will now be found! Mysteries are lurking around every corner and our campers are just the super sleuths to solve them. Let us hear the suspicions and we will look after the proofs.

For currently enrolled Corral Kid, Trotter or Bronco students there is no registration fee for summer camp. Spots are filling up fast so be sure to get in on the fun. Registration information is available at the front desk. Please feel free to contact me, Mary Foster, summer camp supervisor, if you have any questions. Thanks!

[corralkidsrha@yahoo.com](mailto:corralkidsrha@yahoo.com).

512-405-3700

### Days to Note

-Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Last day of Hays C.I.S.D.

-Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>, Corral Kids open for full day care. Sign-up will begin May 21<sup>st</sup>.

-Monday June 7<sup>th</sup>, First day of Summer Camp!

- Monday July 5<sup>th</sup>, Rocking Horse Academy Closed.

- Monday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, First day of Hays C.I.S.D.

### Bicycle Safety

Spring has sprung and there is no better way to enjoy it than out on two wheels. Bicycling is a great way for families to enjoy the beauty of Texas in spring together. While biking is great exercise and lots of fun, keeping up on bicycle safety should always be a part of a family's routine. [Parenting.org](http://Parenting.org) has these tips on keeping you and your children safe while taking to the road this spring and summer.

Knowing the rules of bicycle safety is important so your child can avoid a serious injury. Here are some facts about bicycle injuries:

- Children ages 5 to 14 have a higher rate of bicycle injuries than older riders.
- Bicycle injuries in younger children most often result from errors they have made.
- Injuries to the face and head are the most severe injuries for bicyclists.
- Fatal injuries are most often caused when a cyclist crosses an intersection without looking for cars, or by drivers who have been using alcohol.

Children are at risk for injury no matter where they are riding. One study found the same severity of injuries among children bicycling in their own neighborhood as older children using the bicycle as a means of transportation.

### Know the Rules

Bicycle rules need to be appropriate for the age of the child. Children should not ride in the street until they demon-

strate a good understanding and ability to follow the rules of bicycling.

### General safety rules:

- Always wear a helmet
- Always wear protective shoes (no bare feet or sandals)
- Avoid riding at dusk or at night. If a child must ride at night, proper bicycle lights and reflective clothing are important

### Never carry another passenger on the bicycle

### Street safety rules:

- Ride in a single file and only in the direction of traffic
- Ride in a straight line while near the curb
- Always obey stoplights and stop signs
- Never assume that the driver of a car sees you at an intersection
- Use good balance and steering, proper hand signals, and brakes safely
- Get off the bicycle safely
- Look behind you when you turn across a traffic lane

Children frequently do not learn or have the skills needed to ride on the street until age 10. Even after this age, you should periodically check your child's skills. Check to see if your child pays attention to potential obstacles or dangers such as rocks, tree limbs and cars exiting driveways or alleys.

### Wear a Bicycle Helmet

Helmets are very effective in reducing the risk of serious head injury or death as a result of bicycle accidents. Get a bicycle helmet before your child takes his first bicycle ride. Even a child riding in a bicycle carrier should wear a helmet. A child should always wear a helmet every time she gets onto a bicycle.

Parents can do a lot to encourage a child to wear a helmet. Some ways include:

- Always wear a helmet yourself

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when you are riding a bicycle and make an effort to ride with your child.

- Allow your child to pick out his or her own helmet.
- Buy some stickers to "jazz up" a helmet.
- Praise your child for wearing the helmet and address her concern when the helmet does not fit properly

Always insist that your child put on a helmet before he or she gets onto a bicycle. If your child breaks this rule, remove bicycle privileges for one week.

### Choose a Proper Bicycle Size and Type

Having the right size of bicycle is im-

portant for the safety of your child. Children riding bicycles that are too big for them are injured more often than children with the proper size of bike. Never buy or allow the use of a bicycle that the child will "grow into."

A child should be able to touch both feet on the ground comfortably when standing over the bicycle. The top bar of the bicycle should be at least one inch below the crotch while the child is standing. Your child should be able to reach the handlebars comfortably while sitting on the bicycle seat in an upright posture.

Children just learning to ride on streets should use a bike with foot brakes because they require less coordination for safe use.

Children who can safely ride on road-

ways can use bicycles that require more coordination (such as those with hand brakes and manual gear shifts).

### Maintain Your Bicycle

A child or parent should regularly check the bicycle's brakes and tire pressure. If the bicycle has rapid release hubs, check the hubs before each ride. Bicycles with damaged parts such as wheels, spokes or handlebars should be repaired before they are used again.

### For More Information:

For more information on bicycle safety, contact your local bicycle shop or police station. Information on bicycle safety is also available from the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml97/97138.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml97/97138.html)).

## Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag

Milk can become homemade ice cream in five minutes by using a bag! This homemade, creamy treat is a summertime delight for kids and adults alike.

### What you'll need:

- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 cup milk or half & half
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 6 tablespoons rock salt
- 1 pint-size plastic food storage bag (e.g., Ziploc)
- 1 gallon-size plastic food storage bag

Ice cubes

### How to make it:

1. Fill the large bag half full of ice, and add the rock salt. Seal the bag.
2. Put milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag, and seal it.
3. Place the small bag inside the large one, and seal it again carefully.
4. Shake until the mixture is ice cream, which takes about 5 minutes.

Wipe off the top of the small bag, then open it carefully. Enjoy!

### Tips:

A 1/2 cup milk will make about 1 scoop of ice cream, so double the recipe if you want more. But don't increase the proportions more than that -- a large amount might be too big for kids to pick-up because the ice itself is heavy.

## Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag

By: The contributors of Kaboose.com, plus additional recipe testing and photography by Christina Stanley-Salerno

Difficulty: **Very Easy**

**Parental supervision is recommended**