



Rocking Horse Review

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

2016

January, February, March,
April

Inside This Issue

Events	
January 25-29	Parent Teacher Conferences
February 29	Scholastic Book Fair Begins
March 1-4	Scholastic Book Fair
March 13	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14-18	Spring Break
April 5-7	512 Portraits
April 11-15	Week Of The Young Child

School's Closed	
January 1	RHA & HCISD
January 4	HCISD
January 18	RHA & HCISD
February 15	HCISD
March 14-18	HCISD Spring Break
March 25	HCISD

Date Night	
January 16	
February 13	
March 19	
April 16	

Tuition Due Dates	
January	4, 19
February	1, 15, 29
March	14, 28
April	11, 25

Events	
Foals I	2
Foals II	3
Colts	4
Ponies	5
Chargers I	6
Chargers II	8
Pintos	9
Wranglers	10
Mustangs	11
Trotters	12
Broncos	13

Supply Fees Are
Charged In
January And
September



FOALS I

Wow! Can't believe that 2015 has come to an end and it has been a busy, fun year. We have made many new friends throughout the year watching them grow up and transition to different classrooms. Now we will prepare for the upcoming New Year 2016, looking forward to the many new fun adventure along with making more new friends.

The creative themes for January: Time, Calendar, Winter, Artic Animals, and Review basic letters, numbers, and etc. Spanish words are **January-Enero, time-tiempo, calendar-calendario, and cold-frio.**

For music we will sing *"Be Kind to Your Fur Footed Friends."*

A fun fact about infants: A baby's eyes are 75% of their adult size, but its vision is around 20/400. By six months, a baby's vision should reach 20/20.

The month of love is February and are themes are: Diversity, Black History, Feelings, and Health and Body, Dental care, Nutrition and Exercise. Our feature Spanish words are **February-Febrero, feelings-sentimento, teeth-diente, and hand-mano.** Reading is part of our daily routine, and the books we will read are:

"You are My Sunshine," "David Smells," "Time for Bed," and "Goodnight Moon." Singing is also fun we will sing *"Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," "Patty-Cake," and "I Love Somebody."*

Children are introduced to numbers through counting through objects, songs, and body parts. A fun fact about infants: Adults have 206 bones. When babies are born, they have 300. Their bones fuse as they grow, resulting in fewer bones as adults. A baby has around 10,000 taste buds, far more than adults. They are not just on the tongue but also on the sides, back, and roof of the mouth. Eventually these extra taste buds disappear.

The school wide themes for March are: Dr. Suess' Birthday, Farm/Rodeo, Spring, Insects, Plants/Gardening and Pond Life. Spanish words are **March-Marzo, farm-rancho, spring-primavera, insects-insectos, and plants-plantas.** Books we will read are: *"Spring Surprise," "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "Little Quack," and "My First Farm Book."* We will sing *"Oats, Peas, and Barley Grow."*

A fun fact about infants: A baby can recognize the smell and voice of its mother

at birth. It takes a few weeks before a baby can see the difference between its mother and other adults.

For the month of April we will focus on: Recycling, Environmental Awareness, Week Of The Young Child, and I am Special. Spanish words are **April-Abril, earth-terra, I am Special-Yo soy especial, and recycling-reciclando.** Our fun, awesome songs that we sill sing are *"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," and "Turkey In The Straw."*

Story time books are: *"Just Like My Mommy," "Honey Bunny," "Who's Hiding," and "Who Is My Mom."*

Parents please help us by checking your child's drawer to be sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate. Also, please be sure to label everything. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

A baby is born in the world every three seconds. We are honored to have your one in a million angel with us. And did you know babies are the only primates who smile at their parents? We love those smiles every day!

Ms. Renee

SIDS SYMPTOMS:

SIDS is the diagnosis given when an infant under one year of age dies suddenly, and the incident cannot be explained by recent illnesses, medical history, an autopsy or the death scene itself. Since SIDS is a diagnosis of exclusion, given when the investigation provides no other explanation, there is not a specific list of symptoms to determine whether a baby is in danger of succumbing to SIDS. However, risk factors have been identified and include:

- Sleeping in the prone position (stomach sleeping)**
- Soft bedding or unsafe beds (couches, daybeds, waterbeds)**
- Loose bedding such as blankets and pillows**
- Overheating due to clothing, blankets or room temperature**
- Exposure to secondhand smoke**
- Mother smoking during pregnancy**
- Mother's age younger than 20 years**
- Mother receiving late or no prenatal care**
- Premature birth or low birth weight**
- Recovering or having recently recovered from a respiratory or intestinal infection**

<https://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-disorders-problems/sudden-infant-death-syndrome-and-sleep>





FOALS II

Greetings from Foals 2! We want to welcome all our new little friends to our class! We are so excited to start the year 2016. Be sure to add a sweater and socks to our drawers in case it gets a little chilly outside. Remember to label anything brought to school so we can help get belongings to the right family.

In the month of January, we will learn about Winter and Arctic Animals. We will be using our hands to make a polar bear, using a paintbrush to make a snowflake and to use our fingers to paint a walrus **brown (café)**. We will be working on our pincer grasp, by picking up Cheerios. We will be singing the following songs: *I'm a Little Penguin, Polar Bear, Polar Bear and Counting Penguins*. We will be reading: *You are My Cupcake, Piggy Paints and Winter is Here*. Our Spanish words for this month are **cold-frio and winter-Invierno**.

February is the month of Love. In this month, we will be learning about Groundhogs, Feelings and Health and Body. Spanish words for this month are

love-amor and body-cuerpo. We will be working on our fine motor skills by turning pages in our books and finger painting. We will be singing the following songs: *I Love You and If You're Happy and You Know It* (with help).

March is going to be full of fun! This month themes are: Dr. Seuss, Farm Animals, Spring and Pond Life. We will be learning the ASL signs for Cow, Chicken, Horse, More and Please. We will be visiting the atrium to discover the world around us, if weather is permitted. We will be reading books about Farm animals and Spring Time. We will be singing *Old McDonald and Baby Bumble Bee*. We will be doing art in a bag and making butterflies with our feet.

In the month of April, we talk about how each of us is special. We will be making I am Special books. We will also talk about how to care for our earth. We will be making an earth with blue and green paint. We will introduce the short circle time with all of our little friends to practice becoming a Colt. We will look at

flashcards and singing songs about our friends. Spanish words for this month are **me-mi and friends –amigos**.

One of our focuses as our young ones get older is to help them move to one long nap a day around noon. We also guide the children into helping themselves eating and drinking, and gaining a little independence. They love to do it for themselves. We spend a lot of time on the floor to show them how toys work and improving our fine motor skills to develop control. We encourage the babies to pull themselves up and to walk along our cabinets to gain confidence in the pre-walking phase.

Remember lunches are available to purchase once your child begins eating table food. Just let us know when you are ready.

Ms. Erica

Question:

I am small as an ant and big as a whale,
I can soar through the air like a bird with a tail.
I can be seen by day and not by night,
I can be seen with a big flash of light.
I follow whoever controls me by the sun,
but I fade away when dark fell like a ton.

Answer:

A shadow





COLTS

Our new year brings change, growth and exciting learning opportunities to the Colt family. Last quarter we said “good-bye” to seven Colts who transitioned to Ponies. Then we said “hello” to eight more friends – seven from Foals II and one friend new to RHA. Even some of the Colt teachers decided to transition. Ms. Erica left us to take Ms. Michelle’s place as Lead Teacher in Foals II so Ms. Jackie stepped in as Lead Teacher for the Colts and we welcomed Ms. Melissa to RHA as the new Assistant Colt Teacher.

What isn’t changing though is our ongoing focus on our Colts. Every day we work on your child’s language development by listening to and signing songs such as “Old MacDonald Had a Farm, Wheels on the Bus, Itsy-Bitsy Spider, Down by the Station and Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”. We read books to your child and always offer board books to our Colts to “read” throughout the day. And above all we talk, talk, talk. We talk about what we’re going to do next, what we’re doing now and what we’ve already done.

Wagon rides inside the RHA building provide an excellent opportunity for the social development of your child. We smile, wave and say “hi” to children, teachers, parents and staff along the way. This helps to teach your child speech patterns and how to interact with others. Because our Colts have limited verbal skills, they sometimes try to get their message across in less than ideal ways so we talk to them about using “gentle touches” with our friends and how biting hurts.

A constant state of motion would best describe our Colts as their physical development takes off. They keep very busy in the classroom throwing and kicking balls as well as pushing and pulling toys. And the RHA Atrium is the perfect place to show off their new climbing skills. Arts and crafts help to perfect those fine motor skills as your child uses a pincer grasp to pick up small pieces of paper to glue on their projects.

Colts love to manipulate items to get a response so they have fun playing with the musical instruments. Their cognitive development at this stage also allows them to mimic movements so we get our bodies moving to songs such as “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, If You’re Happy and You Know It and The Hokey Pok-ey”.

Our Colts are curious about EVERYTHING so the next four months will be fun. In January our focus will be on the winter season and arctic animals. In art we’ll make snowflakes, a snow globe, polar bears and penguins. A few of the books we’ll be reading are “The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats, “Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?” By Eric Carle, and “Penguin Says Please” by Michael Dahl.

February’s themes are our feelings and keeping our bodies and teeth healthy. The Colts will make valentines, a heart collage and a tooth craft. Many of our Colts will be going to the dentist for the first time so we’ll talk about that experience in circle time and read “Brush, Brush, Brush” by Alicia Padron. This

month we’ll also read books about feelings such as “I Love You Through and Through” by Bernadette Rossetti Shustak and “Counting Kisses” by Karen Katz.

March will be a busy month loaded with fun activities. We’ll celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday by reading some of his books, we’ll sing and read about farm animals, go outside and experience the spring season on a nature walk and talk about who lives in a pond. “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle is a favorite so we’ll read it and make a caterpillar craft. We’ll also make colorful butterflies using markers and coffee filters.

April’s themes are recycling, environmental awareness, and I Am Special. April 10-16 is also the NAEYC’s Week of the Young Child. We’ll make an All About Me Book asking each child to bring in family photos to put in it and read “I Like Myself!” by Karen Beaumont.

REMINDER: If you haven’t done so already, please check your child’s cubby for clothing that is size and weather appropriate. Also, please remember to label clothes (especially jackets, hats and mittens), linens, backpacks/bags, lunch boxes, packaged food/snacks, food containers, bottles and cups.

A big thank you from the Colt teachers.

Ms. Jackie

Woman: I’m 2 months pregnant now. When will my baby move?
Doctor: With any luck, right after it finishes college.





PONIES

We hope that all of our Ponies and their families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! 2016 has started with a bang and we are ready to breeze through to spring. We are very excited about each and every one of you and the fun we will have together. The next four months will be bursting with activities that will enable our Ponies to discover more about themselves and the world around them. As always, we will continue learning our sign language and our Spanish words.

Brrr! *January* is here with a chill. Winter is wonderful as we explore the Artic and discover which animals live there and how they survive the cold temperature. The Ponies love to growl like a polar bear and waddle like a penguin as we read books and sing songs about Artic animals. This month brings in a New Year so we will focus on calendars: days of the week, months of the year, and do you have a birthday every year? We will make our own clocks and sing, "*Hickory Dickory Dock*" during circle time.

We will begin *February* by learning about health and the body. The Ponies will learn to identify the basic parts of his/her bodies such as **nose (nariz), eyes (ojos), hands (manos), knees (rodillas)**, etc. The songs '*Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*' and '*The Hokey Pokey*' are fun ways to move our bodies while learning the names of body parts. We will also focus on hygiene; cleanliness is very important to us and we will continue to learn how to wash our hands, clean up after our-

selves following mealtimes, and how to use tissues or our elbows to cover our coughs and sneezes. The second week of February we will talk about feelings such as **happy (feliz) and sad (triste)**. Our students will learn to identify feelings based on facial expressions and we will reinforce appropriate ways to express our feelings. The week of Valentine's Day, we will talk about **love (amor) and friendship (amistad)**. The Ponies will host a Valentine's Day party; keep an eye out for our sign-up sheet. The last week of February, we will celebrate the culture and accomplishments of African Americans and end February by discussing heroes such as firemen, the police, and the military.

March brings the fun of learning about farm animals! Our students love to make animal sounds while pretending to be **chickens (pollos), cows (vacas), ducks (patos)**, etc. You can do this at home as well. Your child will love to show you what they are learning! Spring is here and we will talk about the **beautiful flowers (flores)**, new baby animals, all kinds of bugs, and the weather. Staying active is very important to our growing children and as the weather warms up, we will enjoy some more outside time. While outside we will look at the new leaves on trees, run relay races, and play games such as '*Ring Around the Rosy*'. Our Circle Time books will include *Piglet and Mama, Wow, It's a Cow, The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and *10 Busy Buzzy Bugs*. We will also talk about and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and read many of his be-

loved books.

In the month of *April* your Pony will learn about beautiful and colorful **birds (pajaros)** and how feathers keep them warm. We will learn the sounds they make, pretend to fly, and look for birds while we are outside. We will talk about outer space and look at pictures of **stars (estrellas) and planets (planetas)** through a make believe telescope. We will also learn how astronauts visit space and we'll play with toy rockets and spaceships. The Ponies will learn about our environment and how we can take care of it with the *Three R's- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle*. Rocking Horse will also celebrate a special time, Week of the Young Child. Stay tuned for more information about this special celebration.

Parents, as the weather warms up, please remember to switch out the spare clothes in your child's cubby. This time of year is unpredictable so it may be a good idea to stock different types of spare clothes for any type of weather. And as always, please label everything you bring to class, especially your Pony's cups, clothes, and linens to avoid confusion and potential lost items.

Thank you so much for all of your help and we hope you enjoy a wonderful spring!

Ms. Leslie

Shower Schizophrenia

The constant belief that you hear a child crying while you're trying to take a shower.





CHARGERS I

The Chargers 1 are ready to start off the new year with a bang! We have so many activities and fun learning experiences in store for our class. Our goals are to enhance listening skills, social skills, and language development all while having fun along the way! We always teach and encourage toddlers to take turns and to share and make choices for themselves. We provide a consistent schedule to help with the developmental process of learning new ideas, concepts and having a routine so the children know what to expect.

We begin to introduce children to the potty and keep them on a frequent potty schedule. We make sure that all children are sitting on the potty even when they do not need to go. This helps them become familiar with potty training and its steps. Children are naturally curious, so when they see the rest of their friends sitting down on the potty, they will be comfortable and want to do the same! We always teach the children to wash their hands after going potty. This helps them learn about personal hygiene and staying healthy.

Entering the New Year in **January**, we will begin *our Arctic animals, and the New Year time* and calendar! We will discuss the seasons, and colder temperatures. We will also study Arctic animals, talk about their habitats, what they eat, and how they survive in such cold climates. We will be counting polar bears from 1-10. Penguins, art, whales and more, as well as reading *Penguin Pete's New*

Friends and Polar Bears on Ice.
Our themes for **February** will be Health and My Body. We will learn how to keep our bodies healthy with healthful food and exercise. Why it's important to wash our hands? What are our bones?, and What do they look like? We will also learn about *Our Feelings*. How do you feel? We will learn about our different emotions, and expressing our feelings verbally and non-verbally. We will be counting our big bones as well as dancing to *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*. We will focus on the Colors: Red and Pink Shapes: Heart and Square Books we will read: "*Kiss Kiss*", "*Say Please*", "*Head to Toe*"

Our themes for **March** will be *Farm, Spring, Plants, Gardening, and Insects/ Spiders*. We will discuss different farm animals and their importance. What's the weather like in spring? How do plants grow? Bugs, where do they live? What do they eat? We will be learning how to plant seeds and watch them grow. We will also be counting different type of insects and making lady bug art.

Mr. George is going to help us build a small flower garden just outside our classroom along the porch railing. Look for the new Charger garden for Chargers I and II.

We will focus on the Colors: Green and Yellow Shapes: Rectangle and Circle Books we will read: "*On the Farm*", "*Wow, it's a Cow*", "*You Can Fly Bumblebee*", "*Beetle Bop*"

Our themes for **April** will be *Space, Birds and Eggs, and Our Environment*. We will learn about the sun, the moon, and the stars. What are the planets in our solar system? What animals lay eggs? Why do birds have feathers? We will discuss how to keep our Earth safe. What is recycling? What can we recycle? Why are trees important to our Earth?

We will focus on the Colors: Orange and Purple Shapes: Circle and Triangle Books we will read: "*Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*", "*That's Not Fair, Hare*", "*What is the Sun?*"

- Our Parent Board is located outside of our door. It will have our lesson plans, monthly newsletter, lunch menu and any other important information parents should know.
- Please don't forget to check your child's cubby for any dirty clothes or make sure that they have an extra change of clothes in case of an accident. Label everything please. Don't forget to pick up art work as well.
- Parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss any issues with us. We want to have good communication with our parents! Is there something we need to know? Is there something we need to tell you? Our doors are always open so please come and talk to us if you need to!

Ms. Laurie

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter?

"Quack! Quack! Quack!"





CHARGERS II

Cooler temperatures can only mean winter is here. We will be exploring many new things, such as playing with “fake” snow, building a “recycled” snowperson, working on simple patterns and numbers 1-10. We will work on “using our inside voices” and our “Big Kid” words to communicate with our friends.

Our biggest accomplishment to date is seeing the entire Chargers 2 class move closer and closer to being fully potty trained! We are so proud of all of our students that are sitting and going potty in the toilet! Diapers and pull-ups are a thing of the past! It makes us very happy when we see a child transition from diapers to underwear, because he/she is so proud of this new accomplishment, and we can actually see a little stride in his/her step!

The children are continuing to work on alphabet recognition, color recognition, and name recognition. During Circle Time, they are learning the days of the week, simple patterns, matching and identifying different shapes.

December was great and brought up our

themes of *Holiday Traditions around The world, Children and Culture, and Music and Movement*. Chargers 2 learned about how Christmas is celebrated in Ireland. We learned and sang Irish holiday songs, did some Irish Jigs, and celebrated the holiday season with jingle bells and lots of cheer. The children really enjoyed all of our activities, and we focused on how the holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends.

We ring in January 2016 with a change of seasons and what winter brings. “*Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You See?*” will help illustrate different Arctic animals and show them in their environment. We will study penguins and polar bears and learn about what they eat and where they live.

In February we will focus on the “Dental Health” and do a cool experiment where we learn how to clean our teeth properly and also talk about our bodies and how important it is to be healthy. We will celebrate “Black History” and the meaning of diversity by looking at pictures and creating a mini book as well.

Then as the seasons change, we will blow into March winds and talk about *Farm Life* and all the workings of a farm and the animals that you would see there. We will then talk about *Spring* and plant some seeds so we can record and watch to see how long it takes for them to grow. We will talk about Pond Life and look at photographs of the type of animals that live and breed there.

Then April will bloom with activities as we will talk about the *Earth* and what we can do to take care of it, as well as do an art project with recycled items. We will also celebrate the ‘*Week of the Young Child*’ with lots of special activities and a get together with our friends in Chargers I.

Please remember to bring a change of weather-appropriate clothes, especially during the *Potty* training process. Label all personal items and check daily sheets for any important information or reminders.

Ms. Diane



Q: How do you fix a broken tomato?

The quickest way for a parent to get a child’s attention is to sit down and look comfortable.

Lane Olinhouse

A: With tomato paste!





PINTOS

Happy New Year and welcome 2016. We will study the season of winter through observations when we go on nature walks, conduct science experiments with ice and water, and, of course, read several different books. We will learn about all the different types of Arctic animals. We will study the homes they live in, the food they eat, and why they are equipped to live in the cold Arctic weather.

Because everyone will be celebrating the New Year, so will we! The children are slowly getting some concepts of time at this age. They understand about tomorrow, yesterday and of course, "stay home days." I will help expand their knowledge to include weeks, months and years.

February is a very exciting month. We appreciate our friendships on Valentine's Day, but we will also learn appropriate ways to express our feelings and learn some new vocabulary words at the same time.

Keeping our bodies healthy is very important. We do this several different ways: eating healthfully, exercising, and getting check-ups. We will study which foods are healthful foods and which foods just taste good but don't help our bodies grow. We will practice different kinds of exercises, showing the children how fun this can be. To help the children understand how important check-ups are, we will talk about and pretend play doctoring and dentistry.

Another theme for February is diversity and Black history. I take the approach of learning about people's differences and their similarities. We will introduce students to Martin Luther King Jr. and other African Americans who have accomplished great things.

March What a perfect time of year to

learn about how plants grow and what they need to grow. The best way to learn about plants, of course, is to grow some of our own. We will experiment by planting seeds in different ways and places to see how well they do in each environment. For example, planting seeds in water versus soil, planting seeds in shade versus the sunlight and finding out which combination works best to grow our seeds. Learning about plants is a great way to start learning about why farmers are so important to us and where our food really comes from. A very important part of plants and farming is insects. I will get live caterpillars and ladybugs so that the children can watch the metamorphosis.

In April we learn about the different ways we can help keep mother earth healthy. We will pick up trash outside, learn how to recycle, and how to reuse different materials.

Around Easter time the children see and even decorate eggs at home, so I will take this opportunity to teach the children about birds and eggs and their life cycle. Natural science is always fun to learn about.

In April we celebrate Week Of The Young Child to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

May holds lots of new and fun ideas. We will learn about the different types of transportation and how they work. Part of how to get from one place to another is the importance of maps. To help keep the theme of how things work we will also be learning about some different types of tools and how to be safe with them.

Now that the children have gotten to know each other, they naturally pair up and play in small groups. At this stage in their development, the children will more likely pair up in same gender groups to play. They do a lot of gender identity at this time, saying things like, "only boys can do this," most of the time the children presumptions are incorrect. I make sure to point out all the different things that both boys and girls can do. So don't be surprised if some of those conversations start to come up. As the children start to play in small groups, they also might start excluding others from their play. My job is to help the child who is trying to join in do so successfully or find another group to join. I do this by giving them phrases like, "I can be the brother." "I can help you build that tower." "Which toy can I use?" This way you are not giving the children the obvious opportunity to say, "No." Phrases like, "Can I play?" usually come back with the "no" response.

Excluding at this age is not personal or as hurtful as you might think. The children are only trying out a new social skill to see how it works. They are all still really good friends; the teachers always make sure everyone is safe, both emotionally as well as physically.

All of the children can recognize the first letter in their name when they see it in the environment. Most of the children can recognize their entire name in print.

Most of the children can count at least five objects successfully and many can count up to ten objects, pointing to each one as they count. We have been working a lot on this with simple finger plays and fun sorting toys. As the children start to master these skills we will do some simple addition and subtraction.

Ms. Amber





WRANGLERS/MUSTANGS

Wow, where did the time go? There are only 5 more months before our Wranglers & Mustangs graduate to Pre-K. We will be have our parent teacher meetings sometime at the end of January to discuss the progress of your child. Our Wrangler & Mustangs rooms are unique and different because I absolutely strive to stimulate the natural curiosity of each child.

The goal of our lessons is to get him/her involved with open-ended questions and actual hands-on experiences. Our environment is neat and organized, which promotes respect and responsibility from the teachers and the children. Our learning centers are clearly defined and inviting. Our shelves are labeled with pictures to enhance pre-reading skills. We take care in making sure each shelf is fully stocked with a variety of activities, which helps eliminate negative behavior. As teachers, we consistently model the behaviors we expect from each child. We teach them to be good example-setters at school and at home.

Along with our weekly topics, we will do more handwriting practice, letter and number recognition, as well as pre-reading activities in preparation for Pre-K. I will communicate with the Trotters and Broncos teachers to assure that each child is properly prepared for their next level of learning. If you have any questions concerning your child's next transition, please don't hesitate to ask. The time frame will be the second week of June.

We have several great topics planned for January starting with time and calendar. We will focus on simple concepts such as how many hours are in a day. We will create personal clocks and a favorite time of the day chart. Days of the Week

and Months of the Year will finish off this lesson topic. Our next topic for January will be about Winter Weather and Arctic animals. We will explore what it is like to live in Arctic areas and what animals need to survive there. We will do a science project in class on how animals like polar bears, seals, and walruses stay warm in the icy water of the Arctic and Antarctic?

In February we have several topics starting with Dental. We will talk about ways to keep our teeth clean and strong. We will discuss the importance of regular dental check-ups, as well as not eating too much junk food, which is not good for our teeth and our bodies. Wranglers will look through magazines to look for food that is healthful and non-healthful. They will use scissors to cut them out and paste into the correct column, which leads us into discussing health and body.

We will talk about which meals and snack are healthful foods that provide energy and help us grow. We want to encourage the Wranglers healthful eating habits and exercise routines. During circle time we will encourage the children to participate in learning children yoga and other activities that motivate exercise. During this lesson, we will also review proper hand-washing techniques.

During this month, we will celebrate Black History. We will learn about the contributions made to our country by African Americans. I will introduce fact sheets and handouts for us to explore. We will do a matching game linking inventions to the inventor. We will also talk about respecting each other's differences.

Another theme during the month of February we discuss is feelings. We want each child to know that his/her feelings

are important, and we will talk about ways to better express disappointments and anger.

Now onto March, will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2. We will have a dessert inspired by Green Eggs and Ham. In addition March is the month that we spring forward. We will talk about spring plants, growth and gardening. We will grow a bean in a Ziplock bag to see it grow. Then we will plant it and take it home to continue to watch it grow and care for it. Our discussions will include the changes in the weather, the days becoming longer, the nights shorter and the grass turning back to green. The month will close with insects. We will go on a nature walk and discover what insects we see on our walk and write them down.

In April, we will celebrate The Week of the Young Child. The ladies and I are already working on new activities to do with the children and parents. We will also have a class party that Friday; please look for the sign-up sheet located next to the attendance clip board. Finally we will learn about environmental awareness during Earth week in April. I personally love this week because of the art projects the child make with items that are not your typical art supplies. Seeing their reaction when they make something awesome from something they would normal just throw away is priceless. RE-DUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!!!!

There will be a recycling bin located in our classroom for yourself and your child to place items that we can reuse to create art projects and center activities.

Ms. Angie





WRANGLERS/MUSTANGS

Wow, where did the time go? There are only 5 more months before our Wranglers & Mustangs graduate to Pre-K. We will be have our parent teacher meetings sometime at the end of January to discuss the progress of your child. Our Wrangler & Mustangs rooms are unique and different because I absolutely strive to stimulate the natural curiosity of each child.

The goal of our lessons is to get him/her involved with open-ended questions and actual hands-on experiences. Our environment is neat and organized, which promotes respect and responsibility from the teachers and the children. Our learning centers are clearly defined and inviting. Our shelves are labeled with pictures to enhance pre-reading skills. We take care in making sure each shelf is fully stocked with a variety of activities, which helps eliminate negative behavior. As teachers, we consistently model the behaviors we expect from each child. We teach them to be good example-setters at school and at home.

Along with our weekly topics, we will do more handwriting practice, letter and number recognition, as well as pre-reading activities in preparation for Pre-K. I will communicate with the Trotters and Broncos teachers to assure that each child is properly prepared for their next level of learning. If you have any questions concerning your child's next transition, please don't hesitate to ask. The time frame will be the second week of June.

We have several great topics planned for January starting with time and calendar. We will focus on simple concepts such as how many hours are in a day. We will create personal clocks and a favorite time of the day chart. Days of the Week

and Months of the Year will finish off this lesson topic.

Our next topic for January will be about Winter Weather and Arctic animals. We will explore what it is like to live in Arctic areas and what animals need to survive there. We will do a science project in class on how animals like polar bears, seals, and walrus stay warm in the icy water of the Arctic and Antarctic?

In February we have several topics starting with Dental. We will talk about ways to keep our teeth clean and strong. We will discuss the importance of regular dental check-ups, as well as not eating too much junk food, which is not good for our teeth and our bodies. Wranglers will look through magazines to look for food that is healthful and non-healthful. They will use scissors to cut them out and paste into the correct column, which leads us into discussing health and body.

We will talk about which meals and snack are healthful foods that provide energy and help us grow. We want to encourage the Wranglers healthful eating habits and exercise routines. During circle time we will encourage the children to participate in learning children yoga and other activities that motivate exercise. During this lesson, we will also review proper hand-washing techniques.

During this month, we will celebrate Black History. We will learn about the contributions made to our country by African Americans. I will introduce fact sheets and handouts for us to explore. We will do a matching game linking inventions to the inventor. We will also talk about respecting each other's differences.

Another theme during the month of February we discuss is feelings. We want each child to know that his/her feelings

are important, and we will talk about ways to better express disappointments and anger.

Now onto March, will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2. We will have a dessert inspired by Green Eggs and Ham. In addition March is the month that we spring forward. We will talk about spring plants, growth and gardening. We will grow a bean in a Ziplock bag to see it grow. Then we will plant it and take it home to continue to watch it grow and care for it. Our discussions will include the changes in the weather, the days becoming longer, the nights shorter and the grass turning back to green. The month will close with insects. We will go on a nature walk and discover what insects we see on our walk and write them down.

In April, we will celebrate The Week of the Young Child. The ladies and I are already working on new activities to do with the children and parents. We will also have a class party that Friday; please look for the sign-up sheet located next to the attendance clip board. Finally we will learn about environmental awareness during Earth week in April. I personally love this week because of the art projects the child make with items that are not your typical art supplies. Seeing their reaction when they make something awesome from something they would normal just throw away is priceless. RE-DUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!!!!

There will be a recycling bin located in our classroom for yourself and your child to place items that we can reuse to create art projects and center activities.

Ms. Angie





TROTTERS

This fall semester has come and gone so quickly. Needless to say, it has been a great school year so far. I'd like to take this time to thank all the parents, students, and staff that all contributed to this successful semester thus far. It was a pleasure getting to know the parents and their aspirations for their children at Back-to-School night. I can't even begin to explain how much fun our classroom had in the months of October and November.

Our Halloween parade was a blast, followed by our Thanksgiving Family Feast a few weeks later where we took the time to learn about Native Americans, Pilgrims, and the significance of Thanksgiving.

The month of December is culture awareness month. We took the time to talk about Children Around the World. Our class in particular took the time to discover the culture and traditions of France along with any other different cultures and traditions we had amongst our classroom.

In the span of those 3 months our classroom has eagerly participated in the curriculum: Ready for School, Families, and the Community. Activities, projects, guest speakers, and guided discussions have all been incorporated in our classroom to help ensure and scaffold children's learning. Memories are continuing to build and lessons are continuing to be learned personally and intellectually. It has truly been amazing to see in these short amounts of months how much these children have grown socially, emo-

tionally, physically, and intellectually. That was just a recap of the fall semester; now on to the spring semester.

In the New Year, January, February, and March our Trotter Classroom will continue to grow as the year progresses. After a nice long break, our class will jump back in the curriculum by finishing up with our "Imagine it" theme, then move into "Growing up" by February, so by March our class will be able to discuss our great state Texas (personal addition) and begin our "Nature all around us" theme.

In January I will begin to conduct assessments of each student so by the time parent-teacher conferences come around we will be able to discuss goals met, progress, and new goals for the New Year.

Our theme of "Growing up" will consist of subject content such as senses, taking care of ourselves, eating well, and staying safe. Our class will conduct experiments and activities to help discover and enrich our senses. One activity we will conduct is making our own playdoh from scratch and using Kool-Aid to enhance its aroma. During this theme, I would like to take the time to ask for any guest speakers such as nurses, doctors, dentists, nutritionists, and trainers to find the time to visit our class to help discuss with our class the importance of growing up and taking care of our bodies; which shall take us to the end of February.

In the beginning of March we will take a break from our curriculum for a week to learn about our great state, Texas, since

Texas Independence Day falls on March 2; curriculum will continue the following week. During this week the students will learn the history, geography, the state flower, tree, flag, etc. through guided discussions, books, song, projects, and activities. Once our studies of Texas have come to an end we will pick back up with the curriculum with our "Nature all around us" theme.

Our science center will incorporate animals and insects the children may observe and investigate such as pictures, x-rays, and microscope slides of actual insects. Our math center will involve counting bears, insect and animals patterns, along with animal and insect memory games. The ABC center will allow the children to work on puzzles of animals or insects antonym and spelling.

Centers in our classroom are used to encourage our students to use their knowledge and curiosity over lessons we have been learning throughout the month.

In closing, I like to remind all parents to please check their child's folder daily for updated information and daily information. Also, please keep in mind of the weather changes and update child's extra clothing as necessary, along with labeling everything that is brought into the classroom to help ensure it gets returned to its rightful owner every time.

Ms. Marcey

Why did Johnny get such low grades after Christmas?

Because everything is marked down after the holidays!





BRONCOS

Happy Holiday's Bronco Families! Thank you from all the Bronco teachers for you gifts and kindness this holiday season. Our true gift is being able to teach and care for your children and watch their little minds continue to grow! Now that we are starting the 2016 year we are in the home stretch before you child enters kindergarten and the next four months will be some of the busiest.

In our previous months our Broncos have learned many things. We have focused on letters A-K through the weeks. We have covered community helpers and buildings, family members, different kinds of families, using our imaginations, tools we use, and Italy. The children have grown confident in writing their first names and all letters of the alphabet. They are also able to independently recognize and read numerous two and three letter words, as well as other short syllable words. I am very proud to say that Bronco teachers have noticed all the children using their words to explain their actions and feelings not just to teachers and adults but with their peers also. It is, however, always a work in progress to manage classroom behaviors.

Starting off the New Year we will be wrapping up our unit on Imagine It, Think It with learning about things we build and art all around us. Be prepared for to see all the artwork, new inventions and buildings our kids will be constructing. Creativity and art is one of my favorite lessons to teach, and I look forward to seeing what all the kids will create. Also in January we will learn about Arctic animals, winter (despite our not so cold Texas winter), time, and reviewing all of the

basics and general concepts we have learned in the previous months to keep things fresh. Parent-Teacher Conferences will begin the end of January. I am looking forward to speaking with each parent and working together to help your child flourish and grow.

Towards the end of January and gushing into the month of Love (February) the Broncos will be learning about health and taking care of their bodies. In our Healthy Me unit we will cover our 5 senses, exercising, doctors' visits, eating healthfully, proteins, fruits, vegetables, staying safe, and 911 emergencies. Be on the lookout out for information as Valentine's Day draws near. We will be having a class party for the kids to pass out Valentine's and enjoy the special day!

Blooming into the month of March is our next unit: Nature all around us. This unit will cover the different part of plants, how they grow, the sky, clouds, stars, sun, our weather and the seasons. Projects for this unit will include growing our own little bean sprouts and flowers to watch and observe and making charts to show the differences between day and night and the four seasons. March is also the month of Dr. Suess' Birthday. We will spend some time reading childhood classics and embracing our own creativity.

April will be an awesome month. Awesome Animals is the unit for this month and I am sure every child will be excited for it. We will be learning about all kind of animals, their homes, insects, animal skin, fur, their babies, and how they grow and change. April is also the month for Week of the Young Child, a national holi-

day celebrating your Awesome Child and recognition for children in early learning, their parents and teachers. This is a weeklong event at our school with dress up days and celebrations in tow. Lastly, I am excited to announce that at end of April I will be getting married here in Kyle. How AWESOME!

Brace yourselves as these few months fly by very quickly. Before we know it, it will be graduation time and summer right around the corner. All the Bronco teachers are looking forward to these busy months and are excited to see what all the children learn best. If you have any concerns or questions, I do not mind having brief discussions in the morning as you drop off, but please remember that I am supervising children. If you have a concern or question that will take more than a couple of minutes to discuss, please feel free to call or let me know a time I can contact you. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at 405-3700. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being a part of your child's life.

Ms. Carmen

What key has legs and can't open doors?

A turkey!

