

# ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

JANUARY - APRIL 2020



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## HERE WE GO!

We are so honored to kick off this year with some exciting news, Rocking Horse Academy has been named **Best of Hays** in child care, and we definitely agree. Our teachers and staff have a passion for working in the field and it shows. We are also fortunate and grateful to the many families that attend Rocking Horse Academy and recognize our quality of care.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The months ahead are packed with fun and learning. Here is just a glimpse of what's to come be sure to get more information as dates approach from RHA staff and teachers.

Parent - Teacher Conferences are fast approaching. These sessions are a great time to get an in depth look at your child's development from their teacher. Conferences keep you informed on your child's developmental assessments as well as give you the opportunity to have any questions answered. Be sure to sign up in the lobby; report cards will only be given out for scheduled conferences.

Week of The Young Child is one of our favorite events at RHA. The mini-carnival is always a hit and a big highlight of the week. We also love the participation from our family volunteers who come out and join us in various class activities and the special lunch is just an icing on the cake. Please look out for more information as the date for this exciting week approaches.

Corral Kids Spring Break and Summer Camp early registration begins March 1st 2020. Summer camp fills up quickly, so mark your calendars and take the opportunity to pre-register so your child can enjoy a load of fun and learning this summer.



# IMPORTANT DATES



## RHA EVENTS

### PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES

February 3<sup>RD</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> 11AM - 2PM

Parents will only receive a report card during conferences. A sign-up sheet will be available at the front desk. Telephone conference opportunities are available.

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

March 2<sup>ND</sup> - March 6<sup>TH</sup>

Help support your classrooms and teachers while adding fabulous books to your home library. All profits made from the sale of books are taken in actual books for the classrooms and library.

### WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 13<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup>

To commemorate early learning, children, their teachers and families RHA will be continuing our annual tradition with a theme week culminating in a carnival.

### 512 PORTRAITS

April 20<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>

Say CHEESE! Make a moment last a lifetime with pictures. More information on your child(ren)'s picture day will be available as the date approaches.

### CORRAL KID'S SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

March 1<sup>ST</sup>

Summer camp fills up quickly ,so mark your calendars and take the opportunity to pre-register so your child can enjoy a load of fun and learning this summer.

## SCHOOL CLOSED

### JANUARY

- 1st - RHA & HCISD
- 2nd - 6th HCISD
- 20th - RHA (In-Service Training) & HCISD

### FEBRUARY

- 17th - HCISD

### MARCH

- 16th - 20th HCISD (Spring Break)

### APRIL

- 10th - RHA (In-Service Training)
- 13th - HCISD

## TUITION DUE

JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup>

FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>

MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>

APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup>

### REMINDER:

Supply fees are charged in January and September.

## DATE NIGHT

JANUARY 18TH

FEBRUARY 15TH

MARCH 14TH

APRIL 18TH

# FOALS 1

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## GREETINGS FROM FOALS 1

We want to welcome all our new friends to our class! We are so excited to start the Year 2020 and looking forward to seeing the wonderful growth in the infant room. Every day is different as each of the infant's develop on his/her own growth schedule.

We have some fun art projects that we will explore. For January we will learn about Arctic animals and have fun playing with ice. As our sensory unit, we will talk about how the ice feels in our hands and watch the facial expressions of the babies. Also for sensory, we will paint polar bears and feel the paint as we explore with it. We will dance to "Polar Bear, Polar Bear" and read a story to our friends, "Little Polar Bear."

Babies have fun learning through sensory by doing different activities such as playing with sensory balls. They will get to feel the different textures, while we talk about the different shapes, sizes, and colors of the balls. We can play catch the balls, hide them, and stack them just to watch them tumble down. Just seeing the excitement of the babies as they move their hands and feet is so worth it.

## THE EYES HAVE IT

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

## PLAYING TO LEARN

Every day we work on language development, social development, physical development, and cognitive development. While most people think we are just playing, we are learning. Language skills are developed through reading and singing. Learning social skills includes responding to our smiles, laughter, and voices. Physical development skills are when they begin to push up when lying on their tummy, hold their head steady without support, roll over from tummy to back, begin to sit with support, rock back and forth, and sometimes crawl backward before moving forward. Cognitive development occurs in an infant when he/she focuses on moving objects, responding to his/her environment with facial expressions, recognizing and reacting to familiar sounds, and responding to the facial expressions of other people.

Babies get constant exercise by going through their regular, daily routine. Every day, each baby spends tummy time on the mat to strengthen back and leg muscles. During feeding time, we practice putting their hands on the bottle to eventually learn to self-feed. Once your child is 4 months old, he or she will get exercise time in the exersaucers. You will see that hard work pays off as your baby builds muscle and gets mobile first by pushing and rolling and later by crawling, scooting, and walking.

Babies are a blessing, and we look forward to having yours in our classroom as we work with them encouraging new milestones. Parenting can be a challenge, but together we can meet the developmental needs of your baby while also caring for their physical needs.

# FOALS 2

ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

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## LEARNING ON THE HORIZON

In Foals 2 we have a lot of learning and growing in store over the next few months, and we are excited your baby will be a part of it. Maintaining your child's daily schedule is a big part of development in our classroom, and our teachers enhance the learning experience by including activities to support that development. Feelings are a key theme we will be focusing on in the coming months, and we all know most babies have no problem expressing feelings. Singing songs about feelings - *If You're Happy and You Know It* and reading books such as *Making Faces* and *Calm-Down Time*, are fun activities we have in store to teach your baby about feelings. Our class will also have a "Wall of Feelings" displaying various pictures of babies expressing their feelings. These pictures are a great support tool in that we can point to a picture when a baby is feeling that way, state what the feeling is, and offer the appropriate response to said feeling. Your child will be learning so much from this, including:

**language** - sad, happy, mad, etc.

**social & emotional interaction** - how their mood affects others and how to express their feelings.

The "Wall of Feelings" also builds a sense of self for your child; expressing his/her feelings will help connect thought to action and feeling. Another fun activity about feelings we do in the classroom, and you can try at home, is looking in a mirror with your baby and making expressive faces. Smile with your baby and see his/her eyes light up with a smile. Then make a frown and watch them try to mimic it in the mirror as well. Pointing out their eyes, nose and mouth also adds another layer of learning to the fun. Did you know all of these activities also develop trust and impulse control? Impulse control and trust is at the heart of social-emotional stability. The right activities can offer so much growth to your baby, and we are so happy you have chosen us to be a part of it.

## MOVING AND GROOVING

Big changes are always afoot in Foals 2, and one of the most common changes is your baby's mobility. Babies can go from limited mobility to almost running during their time in our class, and we strive to support and encourage every stage of their motor development. Please don't be discouraged if your child isn't walking yet and others are. We all grow at our own pace and have so much to learn. While babies may progress at different rates, the following are some of the common milestones your baby may reach in Foals 2:

- Rolls over easily from front to back and back to front.
- Sits leaning forward on hands at first, then unsupported.
- Bounces when supported to stand.
- Gets on hands and feet and rocks back and forth.
- May creep, scoot, crawl – backward first, then forward.
- Begins to pull up to stand.
- Pulls up to a standing position.
- Can sit back down from standing position.
- Cruises or walks around holding onto furniture.
- May stand next to furniture without holding on.
- May walk holding on to your finger or hand.
- May begin to take steps and walk on own.

## WE ARE LISTENING

Communication is vital in any relationship, and as teachers we would like to make sure we have all lines of communication open to you pertaining to your child. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, or comments by calling Rocking Horse Academy directly or emailing us at [foals2@rockinghorseacademy.com](mailto:foals2@rockinghorseacademy.com). As your Foals 2 lead teacher, I try my best to make myself available during your child's drop-off to discuss any matters. Also please be assured in any case, all teachers in Foals 2 are here to assist you as well. We are so grateful to have you and your child as part of our class and look forward to more learning and growing in Foals 2.

# COLTS

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## LEARNING ON THE HORIZON

Welcome to a brand new year full of learning opportunities!

Our Colts are curious about **EVERYTHING!** They tend to learn best with hands-on activities. We do a variety of art work based on the monthly themes. One main component of our lessons is artwork. Our class loves to do art projects that involve family participation, so be prepared to do a project or two at home. Painting, markers, crayons, chalk, and different painting utensils and different types of paper are a big part of our learning process.

This is a difficult age for your child and you. They are no longer babies who depend on you for everything, and yet they are not a preschooler who is very independent. This is the age where "NO" is their favorite word. Many changes happen in this room. We no longer take 2 or more naps a day, drink from a bottle, or use pacifiers. We focus on developing self-help skills (i.e. feeding themselves with a spoon or fork, taking shoes and socks off, washing hands with help, etc...)

One thing that we start focusing on is simple 2 -3 step directions. The main one we do involves the diaper changing process. We are always explaining to our children what we are doing. (First we need to change your diaper and put a new one on. Second, when we are done, we pull our pants up. Last, we wash our hands)

Always remember that a child's work is play. This is how he/she learns the skills that are needed in life. We are here to help your child and you through these developmental years.

Thank-you,  
Ms. Barbara and the Colts teachers.



The STEAM curriculum is a major part of our daily lessons. We do this in a variety of ways (i.e. counting steps, sorting toys by color, etc....) Flash cards, art work, music, and story time just to name a few. We work on manners and sign language with our Colts every day.

## CLASSROOM REMINDERS

Now is the time to check your child's cubby hole for size and weather-appropriate clothing. Please remember to label all clothing (especially coats, jackets, and hats), linens, bags, etc.... with your child's name. Also, please make sure to label each of your child's diapers with his/her initials. (We have numerous little ones that use the same brand and size) Our little ones sure do love their water. Please make sure to bring a filled water container labeled with your child's name on a daily basis. We will gladly refill as needed.

# PONIES

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## LEARNING ON THE HORIZON

We hope that all our Ponies and their families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! 2020 has started with a bang, and we are ready to breeze through to spring. We are very excited about each one of you and the fun we will have together. During the next four months, we will have so much fun with activities that will enable our Ponies to discover more about themselves and the world around them. As always, we will continue to learn and review our basics: letters, numbers, shapes, and colors.

As we begin a new year, we will be including the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concept in our classroom, with a big focus on math. The Ponies use math every day, such as counting our friends or counting out the cups as we hand them out. Parents can also do this at home by counting cheerios or leaves outside and counting our family members when they come for a visit.

The Pony class can't wait to start all our spring activities. One project we are so excited to do is making a small garden in our class that all the kids can help and take care of each day and to be able to watch the flowers grow. We will all have a job to do. We can help each student fill a pot with soil, put a seed in the dirt, and water it every day.

We can't wait to start out this year with a BANG! And we look forward to having some fun in the Pony room these next few months! As always, if you have any questions, your Pony Teachers are here to help!

Pony Teachers

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

As February approaches, we will work on our student assessments. Stay tuned for information regarding parent-teacher conferences. We will spend a great deal of time working on not only counting but refreshing our knowledge of patterns, shapes, colors, numbers and big and small comparison. These are also things that parents can work on at home. Flash cards and singing ABC's and 123's are great tools to use.

As spring approaches, Rocking Horse Academy will be doing something extremely exciting! The Week of the Young Child will be celebrated in some wonderful ways. This is a time to highlight your child and have some FUN!! There will be many opportunities for parents to come and enjoy some exciting activities we have planned for that week! As it gets closer to the event, we will have more information!



## CLASSROOM REMINDERS

Brrr! January is here with a chill and a few reminders. Please make sure your Pony has weather-appropriate clothing and shoes, as well as making sure everything is labeled. Cups, clothes and diapers all need to be labeled. Diapers especially need to be labeled with your child's initials as we do have some students with the same diapers. Thank you!

# CHARGERS 1

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## GROWING AND LEARNING

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, share, and make choices for themselves. We provide a consistent schedule to help with the development process of learning new ideas, concepts and having a routine so the children know what to expect. We begin to introduce 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 to 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.

Chargers 1 will be having an amazing month of March coming up! We will be doing some exciting things with our Chargers focusing on our Rocking Horse Academy Garden! Chargers 1 will be in the dirt getting our garden ready for Spring Planting season. Chargers 1 will be in touch with local plant companies to see about plant donations for the garden. We will be focusing on veggies and fruit such as tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries, watermelons and much more! We will be going to the garden daily for watering, weeding and seeing how

our plants are developing over the next months. For our science, we will learn to mix colors to make different colors such as black and white make grey. In math, we practice counting to ten by using colors and different items. We will also be making different smelling play-dough by adding different flavors such as blueberry and grape Kool-Aid. We are so excited for the fun to begin.

Our developmental focus over the next several months will include activities such as using a drinking glass, using a pencil, putting together 24 piece puzzles and learning how to share with friends. We will be doing small groups daily that include these skills.



## CLASSROOM REMINDERS

Our parent board is located outside our door. It will have our weekly lesson plans, monthly newsletter, lunch menus and other important information. Please don't forget to check your child's cubby for any soiled clothing or make sure that they have an extra change of clothes in case of an accident. Please label everything.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss them with us. We want to have good communication with our parents! Is there anything we need to know? Is there something we need to tell you? Just send us a text with Tadpoles, and we will text you back. Our doors are always open.

# CHARGERS 2

ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

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## STEAM-ing AHEAD

Happy New Year, Chargers Two! We are excited about a new year and some exciting new activities!

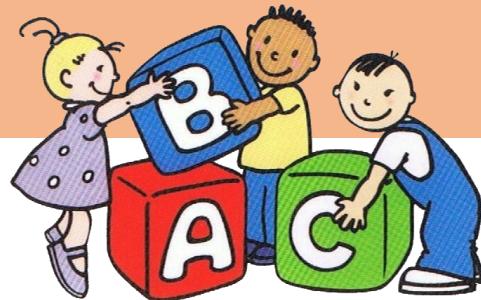
With January in full swing, we will continue reviewing our shapes, colors, and, of course, counting. Sign-Language and Spanish are reviewed as well. We use flashcards during Circle Time to review many of these lessons. We started a fun new matching game during Circle Time that the children look forward to. Each child sits in a certain spot on the carpet. They are given a card that matches the shape of their spot. They get excited to go and find the matching spot. Many of the children are extremely serious about their card and spot. This game helps with shape recognition and allows for a little fun!

As always, we implement the STEAM concepts in our classroom. Math skills are used when counting our friends and even when we sing and use fingerplays like "The 5 Little Monkeys." We use counting cubes that the children love. These not only allow for counting but help with recognizing colors as well.

Since cold weather is upon us, we are planning some exciting science experiments using ice to paint with and will even make SNOW! With spring not far away, we plan on getting our hands dirty and working and planting in our RHA garden. We will read the book, Growing Vegetable Soup and hopefully, be able to cook vegetable soup after our garden starts producing. It will be so exciting to see the process from planting, watering, harvesting, cooking, and finally, eating what we grow. We have an exciting engineering project coming up in April during Recycling week. The children will use recycled trash for an engineering challenge. Stay tuned to see what the children come up with!

## POTTY TALK

As you know, this is the potty-training age. If you feel your child is ready to begin the process in underwear, we ask that you supply us with plenty of extra changes of clothes, including shoes. Accidents are going to happen but don't give up! It is an important part of the potty-training process. Plastic bags are our best friends! Another part of the process is teaching and allowing your child to independently pull their bottoms and underwear down in order to go potty and pull them up as well. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child for the day. Let us know if you have any questions so that we can all be on the same page when it comes to this developmental milestone.



## REMINDERS:

Please remember to send your child with a jacket each day. With Texas weather, we never know what each day will bring. Don't forget to label his/her jacket and check your child's cubby for weather-appropriate clothes.

As always, we are here for any questions or comments you may have. You may call during our nap time (12:00-2:00) or drop us note in Tadpoles.

Ms. Leslie and the Chargers Two teachers

# PINTOS

## ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

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## LEARNING ON THE HORIZON

Pintos is ready for a fabulous, fun New Year. Speaking of a new year, we are ready to take 2020 on with some exciting, new learning experiences. We have done amazing work with letters A thru D and our name recognition as well. Your children have also enjoyed learning simple Sign language and Spanish word recognition, and we are often amazed at what they remember during group time. We also enjoyed sorting and counting and will continue to work on our number recognition. January will be a month of review and what we have learned as we start doing individual assessments to see how much your child has learned and grown while being in the Pinto's classroom.

This winter we will talk and learn about winter and animals that hibernate and also those animals that like the cold weather. We will build a snowman out of recycled materials, make an igloo out of blocks and hibernate like a bear. We will make our own snow and play with it and even have a snowball fight. We also do a science project that consists of things that are hot and cold. Then we will have a special day where we wear our pajamas to school, drink hot cocoa and sit by a "campfire" and sing songs.

Then we will move into February and March and talk about "Diversity" and being fair with our friends and family. We will learn to express our feelings and practice using "nice words" and hands with our friends and talk how we can help one another when we are happy or sad. We will then go into talking about being healthy and taking care of our bodies. We will try some healthful foods and see what we like and dislike. We will continue doing yoga in our classroom and learn some new exercises as well. The dentist will come to visit, and we will talk about taking care of our teeth. We will start working on memorizing, trac-

ing and spelling out loud some age- appropriate sight words, then sharpen our number counting and memorization with numbers 10 - 20.

We will then move into April and talk about ways that we use transportation and how to read a simple map to get somewhere. We will "fly" the friendly skies and go on an imaginary trip with a boarding pass and carry on and use our imaginations to tell what is happening and where we are traveling to. Then we will go into tools and building. We will have a center set up to create our own buildings and "tools" available to help us build and create them. Last, but not least, we will go back to prehistoric times and learn about different dinosaurs and see how we compare to them in size and what we eat versus what they eat.

Our days are always filled with fun and learning, and we are always beyond excited to be there with your child as they learn and grow.



## CLASSROOM REMINDERS

We are doing amazing with our potty training. The children are showing tremendous progress, and we are extremely proud of them. Please continue to work with your child at home and make sure he/she always has 3 sets of extra clothes and underwear, a pair of shoes (to be kept at school) and socks.

# WRANGLERS

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## LEARNING ON THE HORIZON

I just want to take a moment and express how thankful we are to have your children in our classroom and be able to watch them learn and grow during their time with us. Our Wrangler class only has 5-6 more months with us before they transition into the Pre-k classrooms.

During the month of January and February, we will start assessments and parent-teacher conferences. We will be discussing your child's progress during these meetings. This is an important time of year to see where we need to concentrate more to prepare them for Pre-k. Those scheduling a conference will receive a report card showing achievements, and we will discuss future goals.

I am really excited that the Wranglers class will be starting a new curriculum in our class. This curriculum will be based off the Scholastic Big Day curriculum. This curriculum is based centered on daily "Big Experiences" that integrate academic, social-emotional, and physical development. Divided into eight engaging, child-friendly themes, the curriculum builds over an eight-month period to coincide with the traditional academic school calendar.

We will also introduce ABC 123 mouse on our computer lab days. ABC 123 mouse is a great online tool to help teach the children reading, math, music and science through games designed for their specific age groups and learning level.

In the spring, one of the science units that we are excited about is the hatching of the butterflies. This is one of my favorite science experiments to do! We will learn about the life cycle and observe daily how they develop from caterpillar to butterfly. We will observe

and learn how to journal our observations. Once they have grown into a butterfly, we will then release them into our garden. The children love to see them fly away and see where in the garden they fly to. For more science later in the spring, we study plant life and how plants grow. Students will plant grass seed in cups. We will observe how much water it takes to keep the ground moist. We will chart the daily growth and measure as the blades peak through the soil. We can also compare or contrast the amount of sun needed for growth. If some plants are in a shady spot and others are in a sunny spot, which one will grow faster?

As we are heading into the next half of our time together, I will be working individually with the children to improve their writing skills, number/letter recognition, and letter sounds. As a class we will also work on these skills by learning through play. We will create games that will help us learn and prepare us for our transition into the Pre-K classrooms.

Thank you for all of you support.

-Ms. Katie and Ms. Kelsey



# MUSTANGS

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## FULL STEAM AHEAD

The year 2020 has officially kicked off, and I am so excited to be joining Mustangs as the new lead teacher. Not only am I excited to be working with your children, but alongside Ms. Winter and Ms. Adyson. I am eager to go into this new year of learning! We have so much planned for your star pupil over these next four months, including learning about Arctic animals, feelings, gardening, and so much more.

One thing the Mustangs will be doing is to learn about *Health and Body* by focusing on teeth, food and exercise. During this time, we will engage in different experiments such as the “Taste Test.” As we discuss health and body in an age-appropriate manner, we will first discuss the food pyramid, and the kids will get to create their own healthful plate. As the students are creating their plates, they will think about the foods they eat at home and school and will incorporate these on their plate. We know that as children grow, they are continuously deciding between the foods they like and dislike, and this will be graphed in the “Taste Test” experiment. This will consist of bringing in different fruits and veggies for our Mustangs to try and, don’t worry, we’ll capture the moment for you and all of our friends to see.

As spring approaches, I am excited to discuss plants and gardening with our students. As we learn about the plant life cycle and gardening, Mustangs will get to grow their own plants with an ice-cream cone. Yes, that’s right! An ice-cream cone. With the ice-cream cone acting as our planter, we will use soil and different seeds to plant. By doing this, your child will get to be hands-on and watch his/her plant grow.

Although these two specific themes have a major focus on science, it also integrates multiple areas of STEAM. Art will be incorporated as your child create their healthful plate, and math will be incorporated as we discuss the food pyramid by looking at which portions of

the plate are bigger or smaller. You can also expect our other themes to include projects/activities, and experiments that incorporate STEAM.

Along with our experiments and activities, we will continue to enhance our fine and gross motor skills. As children continue to work on holding a pencil and using scissors, different tabletop and teacher-led activities will be incorporated to help develop those motor skills. Teacher-led activities will include creating a fine motor kit consisting of different objects that promote fine motor skills. As we provide different options for the children to create projects, such as building with small objects like pom-poms, buttons or pipe cleaners, our students will be constantly working on those motor skills to further prepare them for the PRE-K classroom. As adults, we see the importance of motor skills and these skills are needed for children in their everyday tasks. By allowing them to help zip and button their jackets during this winter season, you are helping your child grow.

These next four months will be full of excitement all while your child is learning and growing. We can’t wait to continue to watch them learn and develop as they take on this new year!

Ms. Moya- Lead Teacher,  
Ms. Winter- Assistant Teacher & Ms. Adyson- PM Teacher



# TROTTERS

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## HELLO TROTTER FAMILIES!

2020 is here, and I cannot wait to see what it has in store for the Trotters. Since the children have started in Pre-K, I have seen them blossom into independent little humans, and I am so proud of them. Some of the things that we have been doing to practice being independent and responsible in the classroom is cleaning up after ourselves during snack and lunch and after they are done in their centers. Another way they are being independent is by having classroom jobs. These jobs consist of being a line leader, electrician, librarian and so forth. As a class, we talk about how the class is OURS, and it is our responsibility to keep it clean, to respect the things around us, each other and to respect everyone who comes into the room.

With the start of the new year, we will learn more sight words on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. We will start with simple words such as "can", "the", "at" and so forth. We will continue to review syllables and compound words as well.

Some of the fun units that we are looking forward to in the upcoming months is Valentine's Day where we will learn about feelings, do activities such as build with candy hearts and, of course, have a class party. I am excited to once again get caterpillars and ladybugs and learn about the life cycle. We start to watch them evolve from larvae into beautiful butterflies. We do this every year, and it never gets old to see the children's faces light up when they see the transformation.

We will also review number and shape recognition. We will build shapes with toothpicks and marshmallows. We will play some number-seeking games to help with recognition. During the Things We Build week, we will construct The Three Little

Pigs homes using different materials that we have in the class, and we will graph which material is stronger than the other and why.

Another thing that I am excited to begin with the children is ABC Mouse. With this new online curriculum, we will have access to many online books, puzzles, math and games. They will also learn about science and social studies. We will be able to track their progress. I am looking forward to working with the class on this.

The week of February 3rd, we will have parent/teacher conferences. During the months of December and January, I have been assessing the children. Some of the skills I have been looking for are knowledge of rhyming words, alliteration, syllabication, and onset/rhyme. I have been evaluating them on simple subjects such as the alphabet, numerals, shapes and colors. Please feel free to sign up at the front desk if you would like to have a conference. Those attending a conference will receive a report card.

These next few months will be fun and will go by quickly. Soon we will be getting ready for Pre-K graduation. We take pride in preparing the Trotters for their future. I thank you for being such awesome parents!



# BRONCOS

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## HELLO BRONCO FAMILIES!

We have now reached the middle of the school year. In the upcoming months Bronco students have many fun-filled activities and events in store. The Bronco students have all been working very hard to master letters, numbers, shapes etc. As we continue to review, learn and practice these topics we will also be introducing sight words to the class. This will be done using songs, games, and individual activities. We will be utilizing ABC Mouse to teach sight words as well as many other topics. ABC Mouse is a great tool that will engage students and have them eager to learn more.

Spring is fast approaching and we are excited to begin exploring nature. Students will get to make an edible mud pot consisting of ground Oreos, cool whip, and gummy worms. We will observe the butterfly lifecycle. Students will get to see a step-by-step process of the lifecycle and watch the caterpillars hatch. We will have our very own butterfly garden in the classroom as well as a ladybug land. This unique experience allows students to observe the growth, development and the metamorphosis of a ladybug and a butterfly. As we explore the butterfly lifecycle, students will also get to do an experiment where they will learn about chromatography. This project is hands on, allows each student to be creative, and includes stem.

Students have been working on using their words to solve problems and working it out with each other as we guide them. As we move forward, we

will start to encourage more and more independence among students. We will encourage independence through a variety of everyday classroom tasks such as, fixing cots before nap, zipping our jackets up, packing up our lunches, and more. Parent-Teacher conferences are right around the corner, and we are excited to share your child's progress. Assessments will cover letter recognition, number recognition, phonological awareness, rote counting, shapes and observed classroom behaviors. Parents our families who are attending a conference will receive a report card of their child's progress.

Graduation will be here before we know it, and we are thrilled to share this moment with our students and families. We will begin preparing students for this event as well as their transition to kindergarten in the near future.



# CORRAL KIDS

ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

JANUARY - APRIL 2020

## LEARNING ON THE HORIZON

Can you believe it's already a new year!!

We are saying goodbye to 2019 and excited for all the adventures 2020 will hold for our Corral Kids! We want to remind you that while the weather has been up and down this season, it is important to be sure to send your Corral Kid with coats, sweatshirts, hats and gloves, etc. as we will be spending time outside and weather appropriate clothing is important to stay warm and healthy! The Corral Kids staff is excited to make 2020 a year of kindness, joy and purpose. Thank you to our parents and Corral Kids for an amazing 2019...Happy 2020!

December is a month of *JOY* and January is a month of *CELEBRATION*, so we are choosing *LOVE* for February. January is in full swing, and we are excited to learn more about what respect means in our daily lives. Corral Kids will be creating one-of-a-kind Valentines and then delivering their *LOVE* to classes and staff around RHA, learning an easy lesson on participating in acts of kindness and how the smallest action can generate the happiest of reactions.

March madness is upon us, giving us warmer weather and more daylight aka more playground time!!!! March isn't just all about basketball and Dr. Seuss but is also **SPRING BREAK!!!!** This means a week off school and an opportunity to enroll in Corral Kid's Spring Break Camp. Make sure to sign up with your Corral Kid's teacher! Space is limited due to our college students being off that week, too.

We will have hands-on activities like tie-dye, planting flowers, Paper Mache, and more! As if that was-

n't enough excitement about vacation and fun to look forward to, RHA will also have Pre-Enrollment for Summer Camp available, only to our Corral Kid parents the week after Spring Break! This will allow our parents to sign up ASAP as our spots fill up fast!!! So much going on in March, it's giving us mad happiness!

April showers will bring May flowers...couldn't segue us into our Environmental Awareness/Recycling theme better! We will be focusing on implementing a recycling program within the Corral Kids to teach the importance of what we consider "waste" and how recycling can transform other forms of potentially useful materials. This is going to be a group-wide project on creating and designing the best form of recycling that works for our After-school program. We are looking forward to all April has to offer, even if it brings us some showers, we will still have sunshine on those cloudy days!

## WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You can reach Ms. Kimberly anytime during school hours at 512-405-3700 or by email at [corralkids@rockinghorseacademy.com](mailto:corralkids@rockinghorseacademy.com)

This is a wonderful way for you to let us know about your child's expected attendance, questions about the programs and services that we provide, or any other questions that you may have.

Please feel free to contact me any time!

\*School involved clubs will be starting again, so please give us some heads-up for any changes to your Corral Kid's schedules.

## SUMMER CAMP SIGN-UP BEGINS MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>!