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ROCKING HORSE ACADEMY Review

THE SUMMER EDITION OF SCHOOL NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS

MAY - AUGUST 2021

The Swing of Things: Welcoming back RHA families!

We are looking up and looking forward to fun, sun, and learning this summer, as we finally begin to see the light, leading the way to a more familiar sense of normal.

One year ago we were welcoming our RHA families back to school after a month-long quarantine, and now we are so glad to finally welcome our families back into our building. We are so grateful to re-open our doors and appreciate the patience you all have had while having to keep your distance. Though we know it

was a challenge, we are proud of the work and effort our teachers

and you put forth to keep communication flowing.

We are also proud to announce we have been chosen as the Best Private School in North Hays County! (FYI we ranked in the top two schools for Best Day Care and Best Learning Center, too.) Rocking Horse Academy knows the importance of offering quality child care, so we are elated to receive these awards, which shows our mission is being ac-

complished. We strive to be the best and with our teachers we know we will continue to reach this goal.

Our incredible teachers have a world of adventure in store this summer, and we invite you to take a look at what they have planned in this issue of Rocking Horse Academy Review.



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Important Dates:

Mark your calendars!

ROCKING HORSE ACADEMY EVENTS

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 3rd - 7th

MUFFINS FOR MOM

May 7th

RHA PRE-K GRADUATION

May 21st

SUMMER CAMP BEGINS

June 1st

DONUTS FOR DAD

June 18th

TUITION DUE DATES

MAY	3 rd , 17 th
JUNE	14 th , 28 th
JULY	12 th , 26 th
AUGUST	9 th , 23 rd



Date Night Notice:

Date Nights have been cancelled for this summer. Please do ask our front office admin. for a Baby-Sitting list to assist you in arranging date-night childcare.

SCHOOL CLOSED

MAY	_____	31 st
JULY	_____	5 th
AUGUST	_____	13 th

Foals 1

MS. RENEE | MS. BILLIE | MS. JESSICA

foals1@rockinghorseacademy.com

Ready, set, Summertime!

We are looking forward to a world of fun, learning, and growing these next few months in Foals 1! Let the adventures begin. Singing songs is so much fun, especially singing them to the infants. The excitement of their facial expression says it all, along with seeing them moving their hands and feet with joy. We sit with them on the mat and use our singing voices. Songs we like to sing are "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," "Itsy Bitsy Spider," and "Row Your Boat."

Singing to your baby is great for his/her brain development. A fun activity we use in the classroom is playing with shakers. We let the infants explore the different sounds depending on what is inside the toy while we are singing our songs together. We can talk about what colors we see inside the shakers.

Fine motor skills involve coordination the small muscles of the hand, wrist, and fingers. Some fine motor skills development include:

- . Holding and shaking the rattle.
- . Following moving objects with their eyes, and grasping objects with their hands.
- . Looking at an object in hand while bringing it to mouth.
- . Dropping and putting small blocks into a container.

We use several themes during the summer months: Summer Fun, Ocean, and Beach. For the theme of Ocean, we will read a book "Bubble Fun." We will make a fish and octopus with our hands for an art project. We will also work on our gross motor skills by popping bubbles. Our next theme is a Day at the Beach, so we will play catch and roll with a beach ball. For art we will paint a beach ball and make a crab with our hands. We will work on our fine motor skills by looking at books about beaches. Our last theme is Summer Fun. We will make a watermelon and ice cream cones for art.

Foals 1 babies will discover all the best parts about summer while their creative expression and sensory development flourish with our fun art activities.

As always, our babies are learning about abilities; 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 us.

LEARN DON'T BURN

A great sensory learning experience is a mini water blob. Water-filled freezer bags with small (non-sharp/pointy) toys are easy to make and gives baby a cool squishy learning time. See below for directions on how to DIY one.

YOU'LL NEED

- 2 freezer bags
- Duct tape
- Water
- Optional: Bath toys (nothing pointy) and a towel

HOW TO MAKE A MINI WATER BLOB

1. Place bath toys in one of the freezer bags and fill with water. Try to squeeze out most of the air and seal tightly.
2. Use duct tape to make the seal extra strong.
3. Place your filled bag, with the taped side down, inside another freezer bag. Again, squeeze out as much air as possible and seal tightly.
4. Duct tape that second edge for extra security.
5. Let baby squish, explore, and play!

Ready, set Summertime!

We are looking forward to a world of fun, learning, and growing these next few months in Foals 2. Let the adventures begin!

Summer will be in full swing as we focus on the Ocean and Beach as part of our monthly themes. Beach ball rolling will improve your baby's gross motor skills. Chasing after the ball and trying to catch or hold it gets those large muscles moving and helps your baby gain strength and confidence in his/her body. "Sand castle" stacking cups skills promote cognitive development; they'll have to concentrate on carefully stacking them and use problem-solving skills to work out how to build the stack without it toppling. These activities are very easy to recreate at home to further support your growing baby's development. It's not just playing, it's learning! Sensory bottles filled with water and

beach elements will nourish social and emotional development. We have an array of books to boost language development along with our Summer Fun theme with our favorites being "Baby Beluga" and "Baby Loves Summer". Foals 2 babies will discover all the best parts about summer while their creative expression and sensory development flourish with fun art activities: making bright yellow suns with our hands and finger paint as well as watermelons, and hot air balloons.

Foals 2

MS. MICHELLE | MS. VALORIE | MS. ALLISON | MS. LEXI

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We will be sure to journey outdoors to our atrium, as long as we are able to, so all our babies can have a little fun in the sun as well. Don't forget the sunblock lotion (no sprays)! You apply in the mornings before school. We will apply in the afternoons before we go for a walk or to the atrium. You must provide the sunscreen with a permission notice.

TEETHING TRIBULATIONS

Teething is a common occurrence among our Foals 2 babies and can cause some discomfort for your little one. Baby teeth, which can appear from as young as 3 months or even as old as 12 to 14 months, will start to grow and eventually have to break through the gums. Symptoms often show up about three to five days before the tooth is visible.

*Common signs of teething and soothing suggestions:

- More biting.** Teething babies may bite on their toys or even friends to help relieve the pressure they feel on their gums. **Offering a chilled teething toy can curtail the urge to bite while soothing their gums.**
- Loss of appetite.** Babies may lose their appetite or refuse to eat and drink because their mouth hurts. **Give your baby chilled fruit to help with teething relief and encourage appetite.** (To help prevent choking, place the fruit in a mesh feeder, and give that to your baby to lick or suck on.)
- More drooling.** Excessive drooling may cause a mild rash around the baby's mouth, chin and chest. **Wipe the drool away to prevent irritation.** Gently wipe often enough to help prevent any rash or irritation, but not so often that you create additional irritation.
- Irritability.** Don't be surprised if your little one is fussy or cranky when new teeth are on their way. Those sore gums that come with teething are likely to make your baby feel more than a little irritable. **Keeping your teething baby distracted or comforting her/him with snuggling can sometimes help with the pain.**
- Teething fever.** It's possible that a baby who is teething may have a slightly elevated body temperature, known as teething fever. However, a true fever – a temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit – is not associated with teething and could be the sign of an illness or infection that may require treatment. **Contact your healthcare provider if your baby is clearly uncomfortable, if the fever persists or is greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or if your baby has any other symptoms of illness.**

REMINDERS

Parents, please always remember to label every item you are sending to school with your child. We have several students with the same items, and we want to make sure they all get sent back home. Diapers, wipes, formula containers, infant food and cereal, clothing and so on. These items can get switched with another child if not properly labeled. This is very important that they are.

As your children are growing in Foals 2, now is a great time to start exploring foods. We ask they try everything at home first, then bring it to school. Sippy cups are also a great developmental achievement we want to accomplish before moving up to the next class. Please feel free to contact us through Tadpoles, phone or our email at any time.

Phone calls are always the best morning time before 10:00 and afternoons around 1:00.



Colts

MS. BARBARA | MS. JOANNA | MS. KATIE
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Ready for some summer fun?

The next several months will be busy ones for the Colts class. During the summer months, we will review our colors, shapes, Spanish words, and signs. (Examples: Can you find the green ball? Where are the pink circles? Donde esta el gato? Some of the signs are baby, ball, and hat.) We reinforce them when we play with our blocks on the floor, work puzzles at the table, or push that yellow doggie around the room. We sing songs using colors help children learn. There are several special days that are coming up. Our Colts will be making special art projects for these events. As a partnership, periodically we will send home a project for you as a family to work on. This may be a difficult age for your child and you. This is the age where a lot of biting occurs. Most of the time when biting occurs, it is done because a child cannot vocalize his/her words. This is his/her way of communicating. As a partnership between the families and RHA, we strive to help the children overcome this phase of their lives with positive reinforcement. Some ways to do so are role playing, offering an alternative activity, or gently reminding

them that teeth are not for biting people or animals; they are for biting food. Offering your child a cold cloth or a teething toy may also help ease the pain associated with teeth coming in. The STEAM curriculum is a big part of our lesson plans. We do this in many ways. Sorting toys teaches math skills, simple science projects create interest and fascination, and outdoor play builds trust and relationships. It may just look like simple "play," but it's a way to teach and for children to learn. The Colts will be using our playground more often. The STEAM program will be used a lot in this area. (Examples: counting steps, how high can you throw a ball, and can you blow/catch

bubbles.) Our Colts love art work; this is a great way to introduce them to simple science and math concepts. (Example: What happens when we mix 2 spoons of yellow and 3 spoons of blue paint? Can you stack 5 blocks together?) Play is a child's work, and this is how they learn best.

REMINDERS

Please apply sunscreen to your little one in the morning. We will gladly re-apply the sunscreen in the afternoon. Remember that we ask for no aerosol sunscreen containers in the school, plus we need a signed permission slip. Please bring a filled water bottle for your child. Our Colts love their water, and we will refill bottles as often as needed. Also, please take your child's cup home daily so that it is cleaned and sanitized properly. We are going through your child's cubby and making sure that he/she has weather and size appropriate clothing. We ask that you make sure to label all of your child's belongings with his/her name and 1st initial of last name. Lunch boxes and food containers must also be labeled and taken home daily. **Remember to label each diaper with your child's initials.** (Several of our little ones have the same size diaper as well as the same brand.)

As always, we will continue to use a lot of repetition with our Colts. This is the best way that children learn the skills that are needed in life. Remember that we are here for your child and you. We may be reached in several ways: our class email, through the Tadpole app, or call during our naptime (12:00 pm-2:00 pm)

Ponies

MS. MONICA | MS. ALYSSE | MS. SAMANTHA

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Circle Time: The fun in learning!

We have been working on so many things during circle time in the Pony room. We have been exploring colors (pink, orange, purple, light blue), shapes (rectangle, heart, diamond), numbers (1-10), as well as singing songs such as, *Twinkle Twinkle, Baby Shark, ABC's, One Little Finger*, and more. The children also enjoy singing *Jump Up and Down* while learning to jump and dance. We read many books while in circle time and the children have their favorites like The Watermelon Seed, Please Mr. Panda, Pete The Cat and the Wheels on the Bus.

The Pony class was so excited as we planted our first flowers during the week of the young child. If you haven't seen them yet, they are located outside our back classroom door please feel free to check them out, each plant is labeled with your child's name on it. They got to help put the soil in, put the flower seed in its place, and they even helped water the flower for the first time. We all had so much fun, and we look forward to doing this again to help this summer in the big garden outside by the playground.

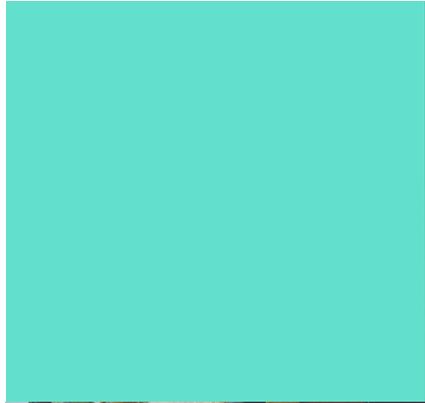
The Ponies are continuing our STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concept in our classroom, focusing on science for the next few months. We will work on color recognition when doing art projects such as making puffy paint with different colors. We will be growing a new plant in our classroom in the next few months, and the students will get to observe as the

plant grows and changes over the next few weeks. We will work with math. We will hand out different blocks or toys with different colors and ask our friends if they can find the color on our carpet. Where we will count as a group and see how many blocks each friend has in that color square.

REMINDERS

The Ponies are very excited to see that spring has arrived, and we are anxiously awaiting summer! As the weather warms up, please check your Pony's cubby to make sure he/she has cool attire and that clothing fits properly. Keeping your little Pony hydrated is very important to us, so please be sure to bring a labeled water cup for your child each day. Also, as the children begin wearing their new summer clothes, please remember that for their safety, it is recommended to always bring them to school in closed-toe shoes (preferably tennis shoes). Finally, with hot sunny days, it's very important to use sunscreen. You should apply it in the morning *before* arriving, and we will reapply some after nap in the afternoon. We will be checking for sunscreen in our box, and we will let you know if your Pony is running low on sunscreen.

Please make sure it is the **lotion** type. With new families joining our room, we have had some questions about diapers and wipes. We have 6 scheduled diaper changes a day. Diapers are also checked periodically throughout the day, so your child can potentially use 5 to 7 diapers a day. I check supplies on Monday and try my absolute best to give you 2 days' notice to bring in supplies. We currently do have some friends with the same diapers and wipes, and we ask that you please label all diapers with your child's initial on the folded area. We also ask that you please label wipe packages as you bring them in. We also ask that all items brought into the school are labeled, including water bottles, lunchboxes, nap items, or any other personal belongings.



Chargers 1

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Full STEAM Ahead!

We are ready to splash into some summer fun in Chargers One. The summer months are a review on the academics that we learned throughout the school year. With that, we will pick some of our favorite letters and explore more into beginning sounds with our word and picture board. We will experiment with what happens when we mix our primary colors of red, yellow, and blue to make orange, green and purple. It is so fun to work on our counting with number songs such as "5 Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree" and "5 Little Ducks." We also love to count to the date during our calendar time.

We will review our shapes and get some movement in by doing a shapes obstacle course where the children can walk, hop, or tiptoe on large shapes on the ground. We incorporate a Physical Education or P.E. time in our daily schedule where we will do some indoor exercises such as yoga, stretching, dancing, or playing group games such as ring around the rosies or duck, duck, goose. We enjoy doing STEAM activities throughout the day in our classroom. With warm summer months coming up, we look forward to getting outside for

some fun science experiments. Some things to look forward to are making our own bubble solution and building or using different tools to make large and small bubbles. We will also add some color to the solution to do some bubble art on large butcher paper. We will experiment with melting ice outside to see if different colors or surfaces make the ice melt faster or slower. Inside the classroom we will count popsicle sticks and build shapes with them and do some ice pop painting.

POTTY TALK

Around 2 years old your child may become interested in using the potty. This can be an extremely exciting time for both parents and child. Some helpful phrases to use during this time is "It is time to go potty before we take a nap" or "Before we go outside let's use the potty." Having your child to sit on the toilet during diaper changes is a great way to begin the learning process. Toddlers love to practice their newfound independence by "doing it by myself." Dressing your child in clothing that is easy up and down and washing hands after potty is a great way to work on self-independence.

REMINDERS:

Please label all of your child's belongings, diapers, wipes, cups, lunch boxes, backpack, clothes, bedding, and jackets. This helps reduce confusion and lost items. Also, with the weather warming up please bring sunscreen (lotion only) to be reapplied in the afternoon and a water only cup daily.

Chargers 2

MS. LESLIE | MS. MONETTE | MS. KAILEY

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Welcome back parents!

We are so excited to see you and cannot wait to share some exciting fun projects with you.

The cold has left the building and spring is in the air! We will continue reviewing our colors, shapes, even talking about hexagons and octagons, and of course, counting to our number of the week. Sign-Language and Spanish are reviewed as well. We use flashcards during Circle Time to review many of these lessons. Our beloved puppet Buzzy Bee loves to show up for Circle Time to sing some of the children's favorite songs such as, *I'm Bringing Home a Bumblebee*, *Five Little Monkey's*, and *the Itsy Bitsy Spider*.

We continue full STEAM ahead with concepts of science, technology, engineering, art, and math in our classroom. Math is used daily, especially when focusing on our number of the week. The children LOVE counting to our number and are learning to use their fingers while counting. Technology and engineering will be used in

some exciting ways when we learn about maps and even create our own, as well as construct some cool inventions with random objects that we will be collecting. It is always fun to see what the children create and what they name their projects.

With summer quickly approaching, some of our favorite themes test our knowledge of ocean life as we dive into learning about ocean and beach life. We will study up close some starfish and seashells using magnifying glasses and even look at a real fish.



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 his/her 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 labeled cup of water every day. As always, we are here for any questions or comments you may have. You may call during our nap time (12:00-2:00), email us at chargers2@rockinghorseacademy.com or drop us note in Tadpoles.



Pintos

MS. SHELLY | MS. TASHA | MS. HANNAH

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Goodbye spring, hello summer!

It's been a busy couple months, and I'm so excited to share upcoming adventures in the Pinto room.

In the following months, we will make shape vehicles, learn about inventions, go deep sea exploring, and then take a rocket ship to outer space! In addition, students will learn to identify shapes, colors, transportation vehicles, and even step into the science lab and invent new colors! We will encourage the children to identify vehicles and the jobs they perform in the community. It's important for teachers to acknowledge what children know and help fill in the gaps. Students will act out these roles in dramatic play, and our little engineers will be doing a STEAM filled activity by counting out the blocks they will be using and then building bridges.

Pintos will go deep sea exploring in the ocean with picture books and learn about ocean life. Using our sensory table filled with Orbeez and ocean animals, students will get a fun hands-on experience. We will also talk about

habitats in the ocean and then create our own fish. Students will be introduced to scissors and glue (if they have not been introduced already) for this project! Pintos will be using a magnifying glass to identify the texture of sea shells. I will encourage students to use different words to describe what they see and what they feel.

Looking ahead to our adventurous space-themed activities, we will talk about planets, make alien handprints, review our shapes by making a spaceship, and learn about astronauts! We will also make a telescope to take home to see the stars at night!

All year we focus on manners. We have been using our words to express our emotions rather than using actions like hitting or throwing fits. We also have been talking about taking turns and sharing and how we can do this especially when we are playing in our groups in centers. To continue this learning at home, we suggest that you acknowledge your child when

they use proper manners. When you catch them being "good" and address this behavior positively, they will be more likely to repeat it.

REMINDERS:

WATER

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 his/her personal water bottle every day.

POTTY TRAINING

Potty Training is still an ongoing, learning experience for the Pinto room. Please remember to have at least 2 full sets of weather-appropriate clothes in your child's cubby at school. This should include 2 pairs of shorts/pants, 2 shirts, 2 pairs of socks, and 1 pair of extra shoes. If potty training, please bring 3 of everything except for shoes. Accidents are going to happen but don't give up! It's an important part of the potty-training process... Plastic bags are our best friends! Another part of the potty training process is teaching and allowing your child to independently pull his/her bottoms and underwear down to go potty and pull them up as well.

CUBBIES

Parents, please remember to check your child's cubby at pick-up. The Pintos crew will more than likely have everything your child needs to take home in there.

Wranglers

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We Applaud You!

I want to start off with a huge **THANK YOU** to all the families for their support during this school year!

The month of May will be filled with celebrations and fun. Mother's Day and Teacher Appreciation week are upon us. We will be doing a survey on moms and their favorite things; it's fun to hear what the children come up with. During the same week, we will have Teacher Appreciation week, celebrating teachers all over the school. It's an honor to be entrusted with these children; they are a joy to teach! As the month comes to an end, our current mighty Wranglers will be getting ready to transition to Broncos and Trotters.

Part of our summer learning themes include the topics of tools, transportation, invention and technology. In our discussion about tools, we brainstormed the different types of tools we encounter in everyday life such as garden tools, classroom scissors, kitchen basters and, of course, hammers and wrenches.

For transportation the children will get to "wash" cars with shaving cream and water, paint with cars and observe and discuss the types of transportation we see from the playground, and talk about how different vehicles move and take us from place to place. Next, we will move on to inventions and technology. We will learn about famous inven-

tions and inventors and how they have shaped our world! For our invention theme week, we will have an "inventor box" full of recycled items, scissors, tape, glue and all sorts of building materials to let our children use their imagination and invent something new. For invention, we will do the "Potato light bulb experiment" which shows how our electrical currents work. We will also talk about and compare our technology in the past to our current time.

Before you know it, June is here and with it, all things summer! We will cover the themes of summer fun, camping and the beach/ocean life by playing with faux sand, making smore's in a solar bin and some water balloon fights. First, we will prepare ourselves to beat the heat with a lesson in sun safety. We will experiment with spreading sunscreen on one half of colored construction paper and leaving the other untreated to give our Wranglers a visible example of the power of the sun. We will have an ice cream party to celebrate our summer fun theme with toppings as sprinkles, fruits and yummy syrup.

Once we roll into August, summer will be coming to an end and children will get into gear to begin our journey into the school year. Our first theme will be Back To School during this theme stu-



dents will get acquainted with new students, classroom rules and new routines.

In closing, I would like to remind parents to be mindful of the Texas heat and dress your child accordingly. Please allow a little extra time in your routine to apply sunscreen to your child prior to drop off and leaving a tube of sunscreen (NO AEROSOL) in class so that we can apply on your child before going outside in the afternoons.

Please don't hesitate to call contact us through tadpoles or email for any questions, comments or concerns you might have during the school year, we here to help you ease your mind. I look forward to the upcoming months.

REMINDER: Please provide fresh water in your child's water bottle daily. Please send weather-appropriate change of clothes in case of a potty accident or if we engage in some messy play or activity.

Mustangs

MS. ANGELA | MS. GRACE | MS. REBECCA

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Full STEAM Ahead!

Hard to believe we are so close to being half way through the year 2021! The next few months are going to be chocked full of lot of fun and exciting activities with May coming and the Pre-K classroom getting ready for graduation. The Mustangs class will be kicking things up, increasing sight words, letter recognition, and name tracing activities to help prepare them for Pre-K in June!

STEAM has always been a part of the activities we do in the Mustang's classroom, but we will be stepping things up! STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. The next few months have so many amazing themes, and they are going to be so easy to include STEAM activities. Building our technology skills by using the computer to help research new things and learning how to work the mouse, creating blueprints of our classroom during our tools are all exciting activities to fill our construction week. Using our imagination to create masterpieces is essential in our class.

Beginning in May, our themes include Maps and Transportation. We will use a special treasure map and our awesome map reading skills to find North on a compass and count out the steps to see if we can find the buried treasure! We will zoom across the globe using Google Earth to see faraway places and amazing sights! Using our math skills to chart the different types of vehicles, we will categorize to what type of transportation each vehicle belongs. Students will create some masterpieces with different truck and car tires, use different types of shapes to create buildings and streets, and put them all together to make one big Mustang City! After we are all mapped out, we

will move into Summer Fun! Students will explore the deep sea and look for the monsters that lurk in the deepest parts of the ocean. We will use our thumb-print fireflies art and place them around the room to help us count fireflies while we learn and explore different state parks around Texas. We will use the sensory bins to find beautiful sea shells on the beach! The month of May is Asian and Pacific American Heritage month, so we will explore and learn all about these beautiful places by coloring beautiful mandalas and watching as the dancers tell a story through hula dancing. Students will explore the different islands and the types of food they eat and learn how the different islands' natives say hello and good-bye! We move on to July and American History to study where the first 13 colonies were settled and what the Early American children's days looked like. To show American pride, students will learn the President's song and practice the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blasting off into outer space, we will be learning about the solar system and create constellation with stars stickers and learn about the difference between stars and planets. The Mustangs will build a rocket ship from recycled items and see how high we can make it go! We will use Google Maps to explore the different ancient ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru! We will use the awesome Story Bots Thinkers Time Machine and go back into time and visit the dinosaurs to learn which dinosaur was the smallest one and see if we can outrun the fastest. Women's History month is in August, so we will read a story about the amazing Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was the second female

LEARN DON'T BURN

Water painting minus the paint is a world of cool fun. Grab a bucket and fill it with water and have your child use a paint brush or sponge brush to paint away!

The movement not only encourages the use of their large motor skills but you can add to the fun of learning by calling out letters, numbers, or shapes for your child to "paint." This activity is also very cool because you can talk to your child about the science side of it. In our hot Texas weather that cold water will evaporate quickly leaving a whole new surface ripe for more art work.

Be sure to wear sunscreen and keep a towel handy for when the fun inevitably turns into a splash party!

and the first Jewish female Justice of the Supreme Court. We want to include the first female Vice President Madam Vice President Kamala Harris and the first woman in space Sally Ride to our lessons on amazing women in our country!

As spring gave way to summer, our garden got some special attention. We will continue to care for our soil as we make way for the new summer seeds and plants. We will build on our knowledge of seeds and how they grow and what we can do to help them. Taking trips to our garden helps gives the children a sense of responsibility and helps teach us respect. We go over our rules for the garden before we enter the gates. The flowers and seeds need the dirt, so the dirt stays in the flower beds. If we dig up the flowers, then the roots will not be able to grow big and strong. Our feet can hurt the stems, so our feet stay on this side of the garden. And most importantly what a flower needs to grow: water, dirt, sun and lots of love! We say good-bye to the seeds and the flowers each time we are ready to leave and blow kisses to them and say "I love you, I love you, I love you!!!"

We cannot wait to see how the children continue to learn and grow over the next few months! Thank you for all your support and love!



Trotters

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School's Out for Summer!

The end of the Pre-K year is almost here, and it's almost time for graduation! The children have been working hard and practicing, ready to show you parents what we have been working on. Although this past school year has been difficult on the teachers, parents and students, we would like to thank you so much for trusting us to educate and build a bond with your child. We teachers have watched your child flourish into an independent human who is ready to take on the kindergarten world. We are excited to see what more he/she can accomplish.

An event we have been preparing for is Pre-K graduation. This will take place on Friday May 21st at 11 am. Their last day in the Trotters will be on Friday May 28th. If you wish for your child to continue with us into the summer months, please do not forget to register for summer camp. In June, we will be ready to welcome the new group of children into our classroom. We are excited to show them the ropes of being a pre k student and get them ready for kindergarten. Some of the skills we are going to teach the children is how to be more independent, responsible, and manage self-regulation. As the months go on, they will learn letter recognition, sounds, numbers up to 30, rhyming, compound words and more. Our goal is to have the class ready for kindergarten both socially and academically.

This summer we will be exploring many themes. One of my favorites is ocean animals. The Trotters will be learning about the different creatures in the ocean, where they are more common as well as the different layers of the

ocean. A fun activity we will be doing is the salt water experiment.

We will add some salt, baking soda and regular water to cups. We will then see in which cups small objects sink or float. The children will learn that salt water is more dense than normal water, so things float in salt water.

One of the other subjects we will learn is space. We usually teach one week about the planets and their characteristics and another week learning about astronauts and what it takes to be one. One of the fun activities we will do is make our own moon rocks. It is very hands-on, and the children will practice fine motor skills by rolling the materials into a ball and then using a dropper to drop vinegar onto their moon rock creating creators.

We will be closing out our summer with some fun themes, one of them being dinosaurs! In my years of teaching, I have found this to be a favorite subject. Students will learn about carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. In a math activity we will introduce how to graph. We will use a graph to see which dinosaur has the most fans. We will continue to graph facts throughout the year. At the end of August, we will resume with our Big Day curriculum. We are ready and excited to welcome the Pre-K class of 2022 into our class! We thank you for trusting us with your little ones as we embark on this new school year.

Broncos

MS. CARLIE | MS. MACKENZIE | MS. BRIANNA

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REMINDERS

Bring a water bottle to school
Apply sunscreen before leaving home and bring one to school (No spray sunscreen please)
Label any and all items that is your families i.e. water bottles, extra clothes, sunscreen

IMPORTANT DATES

Graduation May 21st
Field Trip: May 25th
End of Year Party: May 28th

Oh The Places You'll Go!

Graduation is Here!

Broncos Families as our time comes to a close, we want to take a moment to say thank you for sharing your pride and joy with us.

We have enjoyed all of their hugs, smiles, and kind words they have shared. We could not have asked for a better group of students to teach during a pandemic. We will remember them forever. Their exciting personalities and brilliant minds are a few reasons why we love working with our students. We have had so many great memories together and can't wait to make more.

Graduation is less than a month away, May 21st and we are excited to show you what your student has worked so hard to showcase. We have a couple of events planned to celebrate our Broncos in the weeks following our Pre-K Graduation. We will go on an End of year trip to The Austin Zoo and have an End of the year class party.

We will be sad to see our students leave, but they are off to the next chapter in their lives, Kindergarten. We know they will do great and will remember them forever. Also, please remember to register your Pre-k Graduate for Summer Camp. If you and your family decides not to participate in Summer Camp then our last official day of school is **May 28th**. After graduation, the Broncos teachers will be looking forward to welcoming the class of 2022. We are excited to meet and get to know these new students and their families in the first week of school. Once they are settled in and know each other, we will begin working to-

wards understanding classroom rules and routines. Throughout the year, we will also work on social skills, manners, problem-solving and learning to work both independently and in groups.

This summer we will grab our backpack and maps and become Explorers! Our lesson plans will take us through many different adventures starting with exploring different types of animals from the jungle to under the sea, We will then "camp out" and discover the great outdoors; we will go on scavenger hunts, make S'mores and use the binoculars we made to look up at the sky. This will then lead us to my favorite adventure of all, our planet! We will not only learn about the different planets that make up our solar system, we will be making our own solar system display.

LEARN DON'T BURN

If you have access to a swimming pool this summer try some sight word swimming!

Cut strips (big enough to write words on) out of non-slip matting. Write sight words such as, *THE, AND, IS* etc. Toss the sight words into the water and have your child jump in (SAFELY!) to retrieve the words you call out.

You can also try this out with ball pit balls and an inflatable pool as well. Either way this game is lots of fun and of course encourages lots of learning! Have a happy and COOL summer!