

ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

January–April 2023

The Official Rocking Horse Academy Newsletter



A SHINY NEW YEAR IS HERE

Twenty twenty-three is here and Rocking Horse Academy has fun and learning on the agenda. Our classrooms are looking forward to celebrating Week of The Young Child, welcoming Spring and getting our Pre-K classes ready for their Preschool Graduation ceremony in May. First, we have plenty of other adventures in store and this newsletter is only a glimpse of what your RHA student has to look forward to. We are so excited to welcome back Stretch & Grow and Soccer Shots to RHA as well. Soccer Shots season will begin February 2nd, see the front desk if you would like more information. Stretch and Grow is available and free to all students age 3 & up.

Keep this page handy for Important Dates but also check our website and Facebook page for any other information we may add over the next few months.

Important Dates

FAMILY CONFERENCES

January 30th - February 3rd 11AM - 2PM

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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

February 27th - March 3rd

Help support your classrooms & teachers while adding fabulous books to your home library. All profits made from the fair are taken in actual books for the rooms.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

March 3rd - 7th

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 18th - 21st

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 1st

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. Open Enrollment begins March 17th.

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Sunday, March 12th
Daylight Savings Time Begins



SCHOOL CLOSED

JANUARY 2nd & 16th

FEBRUARY 20th

APRIL 7th



TUITION DUE

JANUARY 9th & 23rd

FEBRUARY 6th & 20th

MARCH 6th & 20th

APRIL 3rd & 17th & 31st

REMINDER:
Supply Fees are charged in
January & September.



A Happy New Year from Foals !!
Welcome to all our new little friends. We are so excited to start the Year 2023. We are

looking forward to all the new adventures, wonderful growth, and learning experiences to come in the new year. Each day is different as every baby begins to develop his/her own skills at home and at school.

Babies are a blessing, and we look forward to having yours in our classroom as we work with them encouraging new milestones. We spend a lot of time learning through play and encourage you to do the same at home.

We have some great art projects that we will explore in 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 paint with it.

We will have different family art projects each month. Foals 1 enjoys having the family participate in these art projects.

Moving and Grooving

Babies have fun learning through sensory by doing different activities such as playing with sensory balls. They will get to feel 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,

Babies get constant exercise by going through their regular daily routine. Every day, each day baby spends tummy time on the mat to strengthen back and leg muscles.

During feeding time, we practice putting our 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. Encouraging your baby's independence may be difficult at times, but it is beneficial to his/her self-esteem and knowledge. With your support and the teachers in Foals 1, your baby will be moving and growing happily along his/her developmental journey.



We are bringing in the New Year in Foals 2, and there is a lot of growing and learning in store over the next few months.

We are excited your baby will be part of it. Maintaining your baby'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 that we will focus on in the next few months. And we all know how our babies have no problem expressing feelings. Singing songs about feelings- If You are Happy and You Know it and How are You?, and reading books such as Making Faces and Calm- Down Time are a few fun activities we have in store to teach your child about his/her feelings.

In Foals 2, we go with the flow but also try to stick with our lesson plans. We encourage our families to try some of our units at home as well. These can become fun for you and your child, and it is a wonderful feeling to see how your child is intrigued with the various activities. One activity that I encourage families to do with their child/ children is mixing paint colors. (Make sure that you use washable paints, such as Crayola Washable paints.) This activity has numerous learning aspects. (Cause and effect, simple math, and language skills)

In our lesson plans we incorporate language activities such as reading, singing, sign language and

FOALS 2

even other languages. Reading is a big part of our lesson plans in Foals 2. Reading involves not only the story, but also facial expressions and tone of voice. (Read a simple story to your child but add different voices and facial expressions. Make your voice go high or low.) The activities are endless, and it's such a joy to see your child express his/her interest in different activities.

Always remember, a child's work is play. This is how he/she learns the skills that are needed in life.

STAYING CONNECTED

Communication is a vital part of any relationship, and as teachers we would like to make sure we have all forms of communication open to you pertaining to your child.

Please feel free to contact us with questions, comments, or concerns by calling RHA, by emailing us at

foals2@rockinghorseacademy.com, or through the ProCare APP. We are so grateful to have your child and you as part of the RHA family. We look forward to more growing and learning with your baby in Foals 2.



COLTS

Hello from Colts!

We are so excited for the upcoming new year! The next few months are going to be packed full with exploring all new themes through various activities. We will continue to encourage and teach the children to explore creatively through music, independent play, singing songs, reading books, and so much more!

We incorporate STEAM into our weekly lesson plans that are hung outside the classroom so they are available to you, to encourage critical thinking, problem solving, and sparking imagination. We love to intently create activities with the goal of learning through all different types of fun and riveting projects. "Playing to learn" is also a large part of our curriculum, and we take advantage of different situations like diaper changing and meal times to create those kinds of opportunities. Different activities present different ways to learn; peg puzzles promote problem-solving, block-stacking encourages cognitive development, and reading books is a great way to kickstart imagination. We love to include sensory activities as much as possible; this includes things like peeling tape off walls/windows, playing with water in our sensory tables, and even getting our hands a little dirty playing in shaving cream!


Throughout the next few months we will explore new themes such as winter weather, diversity, feelings, and our environment. New themes mean fun

art projects that we are excited to display on our bulletin boards outside the classroom. We are preparing to create new opportunities for our Colts by introducing new toys, sensory activities, and outdoor play. We are eager to start the New Year and look forward to working with your children! We are available for communication through Procure, email, or phone.

A few reminders: Please label all your children's belongings including each diaper, water cups, and lunchboxes with their first name and last initial. Please bring water cups filled with only water each day, and lastly please bring appropriate clothing we can keep in your child's cubby.

It's A Team Effort

We understand that this age can be a difficult age for our students. Some challenging behaviors may surface such as biting, hitting, and hair pulling. A lot of the time children display such behaviors due to the inability to communicate their emotions appropriately, which leads to frustration. Biting is commonly a part of that frustration and/or caused by teething pain, and we work hard to communicate such behaviors to parents and work together to overcome them.



PONIES

We hope that all our Ponies and their families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! We are so excited to ring in the new year with you! The next few months leading into

spring will be full of activities enabling our Ponies to discover more about themselves and the world around them.

With the new year in full swing, we will further our exploration in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts in our classroom with a big focus on art. As always, we will continue learning our sign language, Spanish words, and review our basics: letters, numbers, shapes and colors. We love to incorporate our fine and gross motor skills in our everyday activities. Playing to learn is our favorite way to discover and master new skills. Our Ponies always enjoy participating in hands-on sensory activities such as painting, coloring, matching and building blocks with friends. Incorporating our special songs, dances and books into our circle time is our favorite part of our morning together! Lesson plans are posted outside the classroom, so that you and your child can also practice at home what we are currently focusing on in the classroom.

As spring approaches, we will be working on our student assessments. Stay tuned for more information regarding parent-teacher conferences. We will spend a great deal of time working on refreshing our knowledge of patterns, shapes, colors, numbers, and big and small comparison.

These are also things that parents emphasize at home. Flash cards, books and singing are our most used tools to help your little one accomplish these milestones.

Rocking Horse Academy will be doing something extremely exciting this spring! The Week of the Young Child will be celebrated in some amazing ways. This is a time to feature your child while having some super-duper fun! We will celebrate with collaborative activities to highlight your child through music, food and art. There will be opportunities for parents to get involved and have some fun too! We will provide more information as we get closer to this awesome celebration.

We are very excited about each one of you and all the learning and fun we will have together! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give us a call or message us on Procure. Thank you!

REMINDERS

Just a few reminders as we begin the new year. Please remember to label everything; water bottles & lunch boxes must have first name and last initial on it. Also make sure diapers have first & last name initial as well as making sure wipes have your child's name on them. We have a lot of friends with the same diapers and wipes. We also ask that you label any clothes or jackets that you may leave in your child's cubby. Please note we are a nut free classroom, we do have some friends with allergies. Thank you!

Ready, Set CHARGE!

Make Way! Chargers I are charging their way through 2022 all the way to 2023! Along with the new year comes new learning adventures and milestones that every little Charger will reach. Our class focuses on each child's individual and unique learning style to ensure proper development and success.

The months following the new year are always such a special time because of all the upcoming seasons and holidays. Chargers I will have the opportunity to incorporate various holidays and themes into their learning. From Arctic animals to environmental awareness, your child will be exposed to a variety of learning experiences, including season recognition, health and body awareness, springtime insects, and even age-appropriate tools and building!

Chargers will integrate the weekly focus shapes, numbers, colors, and letters through interactive learning. Our focused learning includes the colors, blue, red, and green, counting to ten, and the shapes, rectangle, heart, and diamond. We will incorporate these learning focuses through songs, books, plays, arts and crafts, and even games. Goals for the class include social skills, language development, and exposure to basic STEAM concepts.

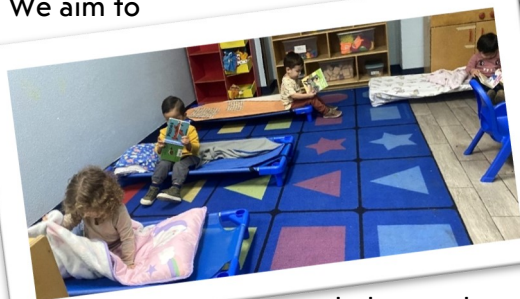
We aim to

incorporate age-appropriate STEAM in the most engaging and fun ways possible! For example, early 2's is a great time to expand vocabulary and practice patience, so

CHARGERS I

what better way to teach it than science? Stay on the lookout for our Salt Crystal Creations that we will be making throughout the year for various holidays. Chargers will get a hands-on experience measuring the perfect salt-water mixture, dipping their items, and patiently observing salt crystals form.

Consistency and communication are key to creating a healthful learning environment maintained by structure and positive reinforcement. Physical and emotional development are encouraged through the introduction of coping skills, behavior charts, and visuals as well as appropriate replacement behaviors. In addition, Chargers are given the opportunity to make their own choices to help develop their independence and decision-making skills. Thank you for being a part of the Chargers I family and giving us the opportunity to get to know and love your kiddo! We are so excited to take on the new year alongside such great families. Please feel free to contact us with any questions!



Potty Party!

It's a potty party in Chargers I as this is the year your child will be introduced to potty training. Your child will follow a consistent potty schedule to help him/her grasp the process. To help your child become familiar with process, we encourage each Charger to sit on the potty even if they do not need "to go." In addition, independence and hygiene are practiced through learning proper hand washing after each potty visit.

REMINDERS

- Important information will be posted on our bulletin board or relayed through Procare.
- Be on the lookout for diaper/wipes notifications on Fridays & reminders on Mondays.
- Please try to bring at least 30 diapers a week to help us follow RHA's 2-hour diaper change policy
- Please check your child's cubby every day for crafts or dirty clothes to take home.
- With the weather changing and clothing layers increasing, please make sure to label all clothing items as well as wipes/diapers, tupperware and lunchboxes.
- Please try to keep at least 2 full sets of weather-appropriate clothes in your child's cubby. This should include 2 pairs of shorts/pants, 2 shirts, 2 pairs of socks, and 1 pair of extra shoes.



CHARGERS 2

Cooler temperatures can only mean winter is here, or is it with Texas weather? In Chargers 2 we will explore many new things, such as playing with

“fake” snow (shaving cream). We will continue to work on our counting, colors, shapes and ABC’s daily. Everyday we go over “using our inside voices” and our “Big Kid” words to communicate with our friends. We could use your help with this at home. The students are starting to grasp the concept of what they do and don’t like, so anything that can help our Chargers verbally express, we encourage it. Our students are continuing to work on alphabet recognition, color recognition, and number recognition. This is hard work, and we are so proud of each child. During Circle Time lessons, we are able to join together, and this also helps each child to learn. We have started incorporating sign language with all of our circle time, it is such a joy to see.

We will ring in the new year focusing on winter and Arctic animals. We will talk about the 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.

Social and Emotional development is a key learning topic over the next few months. Talking about “feelings” and learning how to express our emotions are just a peek into what we will be working on.

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 watch how they grow. This will lead us into our earth theme. We will focus on our planet and what everyone must do.

REMINDERS

In Chargers 2 we are continuously working on becoming potty trained. We have friends in all stages of the potty-training process. Some friends are being newly introduced, others will use the potty here and there, and we also have some friends who are fully potty trained. We root for them all equally and ask that we have the same help at home in guiding them through the process.

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



PINTOS

Then we will have a special day where we wear our pajamas to school, drink hot cocoa, sit by a “campfire”, and sing songs.

Hello Pintos! We are getting ready for a fabulous, fun New Year. Speaking of a new year, we are ready to take 2023 on with some exciting, new learning experiences. We have done amazing work with letters A through 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 circle time. We enjoyed sorting and counting and will continue to work on our number recognition. January will be a month of review of 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.

February and March themes have us talking 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. We will share 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. We will continue doing yoga in our classroom and learn some new exercises as well. We will start working on memorizing, tracing, and spelling out loud some age- appropriate sight words, then sharpen our number counting and memorization with numbers 10 - 20.

This winter we will talk and learn about winter and animals that hibernate and those animals that like the cold weather. We will build a “snowman” out of recycled materials, make an igloo out of

In April the class will 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 practice using tools and building structures. 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 them in size and what we eat versus what they ate.



REMINDERS

We are doing amazing with our potty training. The children are making 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.

blocks, and hibernate like a bear. We will make our own snow and play with it and even have a snowball fight. We will perform a science project that consists of items that are hot and cold to talk about the differences.

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.



WRANGLERS & MUSTANGS

Happy New Year! Our Wranglers & Mustangs are ready and looking forward to new learning opportunities and are getting ready to transition to the Pre-K classes in a few months. We still have tons of new learning and preparation to undertake.



Through our winter months we will explore arctic animals and where they live in cold temperatures, what they eat, and how their bodies stay warm. Then we will proceed to make a class “Arctic shadow box”, which will include arctic animals colored and cut by the children. It’s a fun way to start a conversation about what they have learned so far while putting together the box.

As the months continue, we will tackle diversity by using the “white and brown egg” experiment, that let children know that even when we look different on the outside, we are the same on the inside. Next, we will focus on health and body by eating healthful snacks, and the importance of practicing good hygiene such as brushing out teeth, washing our hands, bathing often, washing our hair and more. It’s important at this age to teach health and nutrition. If we build good life habits now, they may follow the child through it. We will do the pepper and soap experiment to show the children how germs work and why is so important to wash our hands often.

Spring is one of our favorite seasons to teach because we learn about both the plant and animal life cycle through observing and exploring in our school garden. We will plant our own classroom flowers and watch a plant grow daily out

of a bean seed. We will make charts to measure and log the daily growth of our plants and guess how many days will take to see the plant grow. We will do the “leaf experiment” by observing how liquids travel through leaves over a period of three days. As always, we will log what we see during those days.

There will be lots of celebrating going on these upcoming months such as Week of the Young Child, a national holiday 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. During all these fun learning weeks, we will start assessments and parent-teacher conferences. We will discuss your child’s progress during these meetings. This is an important time of year to see where we need to concentrate more to prepare students. Those scheduling a conference will receive a report card showing achievements, and we will discuss future goals. Please sign up! I am thrilled to see the children learn and achieve things they didn’t think they could do. Thank you for letting us be able to do something we love every day.



TROTTERS & BRONCOS

Hello Trotter & Bronco families! We hope you all had a great holiday season with a lot of love and family time. We cannot believe that it is a new school year, and now the remaining days will go by so quickly. We as a class, have a lot to work on to get ready for the events that are to come such as parent/teacher conferences, Week of the Young Child, and Pre K graduation to name a few.

This upcoming month we will have conferences. Since your child has entered our room, we have been working on letter, number and shape recognition as well as letter sounds. We have also been learning about compound words, rhyming, and punctuation. During conferences, we will talk about what your child has learned, and this will be the time to ask any questions or voice concerns.

One topic we will be excited to learn about is insects. A fun activity we will do is go on a bug hunt. We will venture out in the playground to see if we can find any bugs and try our best to draw them. After we are done, we will make a bug book to share with others. Another subject we will work on is problem-solving. The teacher will give the class a “What is missing?” problem, and they will try to figure it out. At the same time, the Trotters will learn about grids, columns, and rows. By doing this, we will see if the children can solve matrix problems through classification.

One subject we will continue to learn about is using our imagination. The Trotters & Broncos are continuously using their imagination as they play and learn daily. But this time we'll take it to another level. We will read different versions of The Three Little Pigs and attempt to make our own structures to investigate which is the strongest. We will also use different shapes to see what sort of things we can create from them.

As we near the end of our school year, we will be getting ready for graduation and discussing moving up to the “big kid school” they talk so much about. We are so thankful and grateful that you have given us the opportunity to teach and spend time with your children every day.

KINDERGARDEN READINESS

At this wonderful age, self-regulation is something that we are teaching the children daily. Self-regulation is a skill kindergarteners need to allow them to listen, to wait, and to react calmly to things they don't want to hear. It's a skill that even we adults need to calm down and react calmly and peacefully. There are many ways to help a child with self-regulation, but the one we have found that is more effective in class is teaching them breathing meditation. When a child does need help, we ask him/her to put a finger up and to pretend to blow out the candle. It does help a lot and distracts them from the initial problem. A couple things to keep in mind, give your child ample empathy and consistent praise for their efforts and progress. Your child will learn these skills gradually. If you do want to learn more about the subject, let us know and we can provide more information on that.



2022 has come and gone.

We are excited to ring in the new year with each of our Cor-

CORRAL KIDS

ral Kid families. 2023 will be full of many new adventure and opportunities for the Corral Kids. In January we will focus on celebrating the New Year and showing kindness. We will challenge our Corral Kids to display a random act of kindness every week. At the end of each week our students will be encouraged to share with their group his/her act of kindness. Each act of kindness will earn a Super Buck, and on Fridays your child will be able to turn in his/her super buck for a treasure box prize. Super bucks will continue for the rest of the year to encourage kindness. February is geared toward love and feelings. Our students will create one-of-a-kind Valentines. We will incorporate kindness and love together to show our Corral Kids that small acts make the happiest reactions.

Before we know it, March will be here and oh, are the Corral Kids excited for what March has in store for us! It will be a month filled with more light from daylight savings meaning more outside

time. Spring Break means a week off from school and an opportunity to enroll in our Spring Break Camp. Make sure to sign up with your child's teacher at pick-up or with Ms. Kira between now and March 2nd to secure your child's spot.

April showers bring May flowers. We will focus on using our green thumbs and learn all about plants and growth. Each child will decorate his/her own pot and grow a plant that he/she will be watering and watching for the entire month.

ALL-DAY CARE

Corral Kids will be offering All-day care for days the school district is closed. All-day care tuition is \$100/ Wk plus \$40 each day your child attends. If you do not wish to use All-day care, no tuition will be charged only for the week of Spring Break, March 13th- March 17th.

All day care will be available the following days:

Tuesday, January 3rd – Wednesday, January 4th

Friday, February 17th

Spring Break: Monday, March 13th – Friday, March 17th

Monday, April 10th