



May 2019 News



Well, it is time for the last newsletter of the school year. Hard to believe how quickly the year has gone. Soon it will be the last day of school and we will be saying goodbye to many students in our class as they venture on to Kindergarten. The month will be full of roller coaster emotions for students and teachers alike. So much of the joy of our little school is that we get to have the students for two, sometimes three years. However, we also get very attached in that time period. Some of our families have not only brought their currently enrolled child to DT but their older children as well. We will be saying goodbye to families we have known for a very long time...sigh.

April was yet another busy month. We finished out our *Space Unit* and enjoyed the *Bats and Arachnids Themes*. During these earth science-based themes the children explored how there is a delicate balance of life and we are all interdependent. Within the *Bat Unit*, the children learned about these adorable creatures including how they live, what they eat and how beneficial they are to humans. The kids wrote stories about bats and drew facts about what they learned. We discussed the terms fact and fiction. We looked for both of these ideas in the stories we read, and we emphasized getting information from literature. The children looked for facts within text and even when the story was obviously fiction (i.e. bats wearing swimsuits and roasting bug-mallows) there may be some truth included. We discovered how echolocation works and how baby bats are called “pups” and live in “nurseries.” The children also practiced writing non-fiction as they wrote facts about bats and drew pictures of the life cycle of the spider. As we ventured into the *Arachnid Theme*, the children have thus far learned the anatomy of a spider, the life cycle of the eight-legged creatures from egg to adult and how they spin webs using silk that is released through their spinnerets. Using the themes as vehicles to learn developmental skills, the children utilized small motor muscles to cut out folding bats and to weave webs on plates. Crawling through a web is always a favorite and playing “MothBat,” similar to Marco Polo, was also enjoyed.

Dates to Remember

May 8

ZooMobile Visit 10am
(all students invited)

May 9

End of Alphabet Party 8:45-10:45
(all students invited)

May 16

Children’s Museum Visit 10am
(all students invited)

May 17

Pastries with Parents 8:15-8:45am
(all students invited)



May 24

10th Annual Luau 12 Noon
Last Day of School

May 28

Preschool Conferences



Looking Ahead to May

In May, we will continue strengthening our academic skills. For handwriting and alliteration, we will finish the alphabet with Kk and Zz and then we will be reviewing the alphabet in order from A to Z. The Zaner-Bloser writing program we use teaches handwriting from easiest to hardest and by similar movements. For example, the program groups Ll, li and Tt because they all start from the top down and the lines are straight and easy to make. Now we will pull it all together and start from the beginning of the alphabet in review. On May 9th we will have an End-of-Alphabet Party from 8:45AM-10:45AM. All children are invited to attend as we have some special activities planned to celebrate the alphabet. For Science and Math in May, we will conclude our study of Arachnids and head into the theme of *Biomes*. We will learn about different habitats such as the desert, the grasslands, the ocean and the rainforest. Our math program will support drawing conclusions, or alternate conclusions, from information we already know. We will be reviewing numbers 1-20 and practice following three-step directions. The very last week of school we have a mini-unit of *Emotions in Literature* to open the door to discuss the end of the year and the end of the preschool years for some students.

Language Arts

- Learning the meaning of predator and prey
- Discovering the sounds for Kk and Zz
- Listening for the patterns in word families -ay, ee, eye
- Using oral language to discuss our feelings
- Predicting what happens next in Little Miss Muffet

Science

- Understanding venom's role in spider eating
- Interacting with the movement of water
- Discovering what will make an egg submarine sink
- Learning about Biomes



Math

- Revisiting numbers 0-20
- Finding patterns in nature
- Playing with symmetry
- Drawing reasonable conclusions

Social

- Finding and labeling our emotions
- Preparing for the Luau
- Saying goodbye to friends



Specials News

PE (Physical Education)

In April the PE focus was Spatial Awareness. We did line runs using chalk lines we made (starting and stopping on the lines), played 'Rabbit Hole' hopping away from the Fox and jumping in and out of the hula hoop rabbit holes, made up our own obstacle courses, played 'Lions and Bears' (directional and character changes at the whistle), and hula hoop games (directional and using them different ways). We are hoping for warmer weather in May to practice kicking, catching and throwing. We will be trying a variety of sports including soccer, T-ball, basketball, and football and we will introduce using our right and left arms/legs/feet for some activities. ~Ms. Freeland

Music

This month, the students have been learning about emotions in music and dance. Using scarves and ribbons while we danced were fun ways to express how music we listened to made us feel. We have learned that changing the tempo, dynamics or instruments used in a song changes the emotion we feel in the song or music. Taking turns singing songs using different tempos and emotions made us all laugh. One of our favorite activities was making different types of lines on paper to match the music we listened to. Next month, we will be learning about music from different cultures. ~ Mrs. Draper

Art/Drama

Luau Practice, Luau Practice, Luau Practice. Did we mention Luau Practice?



Sign Language

During the month of April, the students have reviewed signs for: weather, animals and numbers. They have also learned household words such as: kitchen, bedroom, dresser, sofa, bathroom, etc. We used these signs as we played a fun "Cat in the Hat Comes Back" board game. We have also been learning neighborhood/community signs and will play games with those next month. Back by popular demand was the song, "We Are All Connected". In May we will review family signs, learn signs for feelings and emotions, as well as make feelings books. ~Mrs. Draper

Hands-On S.T.E.A.M.

April STEAM was all about Spring. The students enjoyed creating a Spring marble maze, painting with feathers to go along with the book *Birds* by Kevin Henkes and doing experiments with PEEPS! Hopefully the weather in May will cooperate as the STEAM theme will be water. We will make submarines out of plastic eggs experimenting with what will make the egg sink, we will observe moving water and interact in water stations and test what will absorb water and does not. ~Ms. Baker

Jackets

As we all know, Colorado weather W-E-I-R-D! During Spring we can have beautiful weather one day and snow the next (or one hour and the next). We can also have a forecast of 75 degrees, yet it only gets up to 55. Please, please be sure your child has a jacket/sweater each day. If it is warm, we will not use it, but oftentimes when the forecast calls for a nice warm day, it is still chilly at our 10AM recess time. State regulations require children to have a jacket or sweater if the temperature outside is below room temperature. We consider this 68 degrees. We use the temperature at 10AM to guide us, not what the high temperature is supposed to be for the day.

Sunscreen:

It is that time of year again...please remember to apply sunscreen on your child every day before school. Please check your child's sunscreen for amount and expiration date as well as your child's first AND last name. Include your initials on the sign in/out sheet verifying you have put sunscreen on your child before school. We will apply additional sunscreen on your child if we spend extended time outdoors.

ABC May 9th ABC

End of Alphabet Party!

(all children invited to attend-those who do not attend school on Thursdays may attend from 8:45-10:45)



The Annual Luau is a tradition for Discovery Trails to celebrate the last day of school recognizing the end of a wonderful school year. The children are learning hula dances and Hawaiian songs for your entertainment pleasure! Our retired art/drama teacher, Mrs. Ruth, was here in April to help us learn our moves :-D. This event is a potluck with Discovery Trails providing the cold cuts, rolls, condiments and table settings. There will be a sign-up sheet out soon for families to bring sides, drinks, vegetables, fruits and desserts. Aloha!



May 24th: Last Day of School Checklist-don't forget to get all of your child's belongings, pick up your child's report card, take home your child's journal and have your child get an end-of-the-year year gift from teachers.

Please plan to join your child(ren)!
 Pastries with Parents
 May 17th 8:15am-8:45am



Enjoy a treat before school with your child. If your child does not come on Fridays, please come by for a treat!

Preschool Conferences Tuesday, May 28th

Von Lintel	8:00-8:25
Bohnert	8:30-8:55
Sory	9:00-9:25
Lavezzo	9:30-9:55
Price	10:00-10:25
Kamarad	10:30-10:55
Spencer	11:00-11:25
Winn, Ry.	11:30-11:55
Maxson	12:00-12:25
Woerner	TBD

Miss Spider's Tea Party!



Cheyenne Mountain ZooMobile May 8th



Pike's Peak Children's Museum May 16th