

Rocking Horse Review

Editor-In-Chief



Linda Ashness



Director's Corner

Rebecca Eichen

RHA in Review

September

Thank you to all of our parents and teachers who made our annual Back to School Night, on September 9th, such a big success. It was not only informative but also fun. It really gave us a chance to meet each other and to get an idea of who we are and what you are looking for in these next few precious years. We also had the opportunity to review our emergency preparedness plan. If you missed any of this, please come by the front desk so that we may share this information with you. Please be sure to keep our school updated with your current contact information. I enjoyed talking with all of you and thank you for continuing to support our efforts in your school.

If you missed ordering your child's group class pictures taken on the 11th, it's still not too late! Please contact Ms. Rebecca in order to receive our photographer's direct contact information.

We completed our Mixed Bag Fall fundraiser and were able to collect a grand total of \$700 to go towards our \$10,000 goal for the playground shade structures and

the purchase of new toddler playground equipment for our infant play area.

October

I am pleased to share that the in-house training we provided on October 14th was a complete success. All of our full time staff piled in the RHA bus or in their own vehicles and traveled to the Highland Lakes Outdoor Training and Learning Center. We focused on team building and effective communication techniques. We had a great time working through our obstacles as a team and had fun in the process. It was extremely informative and very helpful. Thank you, Highland Lakes OLC!

For weeks my teachers worked with your child(ren) to complete some very special artwork. That art work was shipped off to a company called Square 1 Art. This company is known for taking children's art and printing it on some very special keepsakes. Your child's personalized catalogs went home and orders came back in time for the holidays. They are great gift ideas that are so unique and one of a kind. If you missed out on this the first time, it's not too late. Please go to www.square1art.com/

shop and see what they have to offer.

We warmly welcomed Traye Dean, owner of 512 Portrait Company, back to our school on October 21st through the 23rd to come and take individual photos of each child. Traye has been our main school photographer for 12 years now. All of the portraits turned out so well and your children all looked so cute dressed up! The new backdrop and props were stunning! It's not too late to place an order... Please refer back to your email, contact them directly at 512-638-0241 or visit their web-site at www.512portraitcompany.com.

This month, RHA students also enjoyed meeting with and talking to the tooth fairy. They reviewed tips on how kids can practice being healthful by regularly brushing and making healthful food choices. Thank you to Elijah's mom and Children's Dentistry of Kyle for the goody bags and spending the day with us!

Maria and I continued our very busy schedules... We took a road trip where we spent 2 days attending trainings at the TLCCA teaching friends and their families and build an even stronger connection with our teachers. We had a wonderful time

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January 2015

Special points of interest:

January 20 th Closed (in-house staff training)	MLK-RHA
January 26-30 Teacher Conferences	Parent-
March 2 nd -7 th Book Fair Week	Scholastic
March 8 th Savings begins	Daylight
March 9 th - 13 th (HCISD closed)	Spring Break
April 13 th - 17 th	Week of the Young Child

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Director’s Corner

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seeing and visiting with each of your and thank you for making this such a special event for us!

December
We love learning about other cultures and languages. During our Children Around the World unit, each pre-school class selected a different country to study for the month. We learned about their lands, customs and costumes. The classes then created a “booth”, for our 13th Annual Children Around the World Day, to display all that they had learned. There were activities to do, food to taste, and music to enjoy. It was a wonderful experience for the children to learn about the diversity of our world. I hope you all got as chance to stop and explore too!

Lastly, I have some friendly school reminders...

Please be sure to have your child (ren) dropped off by 10am. If you find yourself running late and would like to request a late drop off, please call and contact the front desk to check for availability. As always, doctor’s appointments with a doctor’s note are excused. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

In accordance with TxDFPS Minimum Standards, water will always be provided throughout the day as well as for all snacks and meals. A labeled water bottle or sip cup must be brought in daily, filled with water only (no juice or milk). Please take them home each day and return the following day with a clean water bottle. Bottles will be refilled with tap water unless parents provide an alternative

drinking supply. (i.e. bottled jugs of water)

*Our school will no longer serve beverages sent in children’s lunch boxes from home.
The only exception is parents providing beverages for a birthday or for a holiday/celebration day or field trips. If your child has dietary restrictions or allergies, we must have written notification in your child's file. In some cases, we may ask for a doctor's statement. RHA will not provide for these restrictions or allergies; however, families will need to provide alternate food options for snacks and lunch daily.

Please be sure to call the front desk and speak with an administrator should your child become ill or not feel well. Informing other families of possible signs or symptoms of possible illnesses helps us to minimize the spread of contagious diseases.

With the change of weather and daylight saving time, it is time to refresh your child(ren)'s extra clothes. Please stop by your child's cubby and make sure there are at least two sets of clothes for both warmer weather and for the cooler weather. Layers work great for this. Please don't forget to label everything. On that note, don't forget to also check the lost and found box frequently for lost items.

If you refer a new student to our school, we will credit your family acct. \$25 when they start!
Thank you again for choosing our school. We are deeply honored to be a part of this community and a part of your

lives. Here is to another 12 years!
(Hint- Look for the free RHA water bottle phrase hidden in the newsletter...)

Up-Coming events

January 1 st &2 nd	RHA Closed
January 17 th	Parent Date Night
January 20 th	MLK-RHA Closed (in-house staff training)
January 26-30	Parent-Teacher Conferences
February 14 th	Parent Date Night
March 2 nd -7 th	Read Across America Week and Scholastic Book Fair Week
March 8 th	Daylight Savings begins
March 9 th – 13 th	Spring Break (HCISD closed)
March 21 st	Parent Date Night
April 13 th – 17 th	Week of the Young Child
April 19 th	Parent Date Night

* First Aid and CPR Classes & Parent Date Nights are offered throughout the year. Come check it out!

It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get.

Confucius





Foals I

Here we are into the New Year 2015 looking forward to see the wonderful growth in the infant room. Every day is different as each of the infants develop on his/her own growth skills. **January** is going to be a cool month so our school-wide themes for **January** are *New Year and Winter Arctic Animals*. For story time we will read:

- “Biscuits Snowy Day”
- “Good Night Moon”
- “The Big Hungry Bear”
- “Panda Bear Panda Bear”
- “Snowflake The Snowman”

Spanish words are January-enero, New Year’s-Año Nuevo, white-blanco, winter-invierno, snow-nieve, cold-frio.

The babies will stack blocks and see the different colors for manipulative activities. A fun song to sing is “Be Kind to your Fur-Footed Friends.” Fun exercises to work on are rolling over from back to stomach, and stomach to back.

The school-wide themes for **February** are *Health, Dental, Black History, Heroes and Feelings* so for story time we will read:

- “Good Night Moon”
- “David Smells”
- “Time For Bed”
- “You Are My Sunshine”
- “Caillou-A Visit To The Doctor”

Our Spanish words are February-febrero, teeth-diente, nose-nariz, hand-mano, mouth-boca, feelings-senimento, I love you-te amo. Fun songs to sing are “If you’re happy and you know it”, and “Head Shoulders, Knees and Toes”. The happy face bandana will be out to play peek-a-boo.

A family fun game to do is learning parts of our face ears, eyes, mouth, and nose.

The school-wide themes for **March** are *Gardens, Farm, Spring, Insects, Spiders and Plants* so for story time we will read:

- “Moo, I’m a cow”
- “Spring Surprise”
- “My First Farm Book”

Spanish words are March-marzo, garden-jardin, farm-rancho, plants-plantos, insects-insectos, spring-primavera. For music we will sing “Itsy Bitsy Spider” and “Old MacDonald”. We will touch and smell farm animals for sensory. Taking fun walks and talking about the changes in the spring is on our schedule for **April** while we use the themes of *Space, Earth, Birds and Recycle*. For story time we will read:

- “Hatch”
- “Below Us”
- “Under the Earth and Sea”

Spanish words are April-abril, space-espacio, earth-tierra, birds-pajaros, eggs-huevos, recycle-reciclable.

Our music is “Had a Little Rooster” and “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”. We will play with colored plastic eggs for manipulative and physical development. We also practice time being on our tummy to help make us stronger for our babies getting closer to crawling.

When your baby goes to the doctor for a sick visit, please inform us of the diagnosis and bring a release note when your baby returns to school. Also, please remember to bring a copy of updated immunization records after shots are given. Some tips for what to do at home to continue what we do at school that has a positive effect on children:

- Talk to your baby. It is soothing to hear your voice.

When your baby makes sounds, answer him/her by repeating and adding words. This will help him/her learn to use language.

Read to your baby. This helps him/her develop and understand language and sounds.

Sing to your baby.

Play music. This helps your baby develop a love for music and math.

Praise your baby and give him/her lots of loving attention.

Spend time cuddling and holding your baby. This helps him/her feel cared for and secure.

The best time to play with your baby is when he’s/she’s alert and relaxed. Watch your baby closely for signs of being tired or fussy so that you can take a break.

Parenting can be hard work! Take care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. It is easier to enjoy your new baby and be a positive, loving parent when you are feeling good yourself. We strive to meet the development needs of your baby while caring for his/her physical needs. Free RHA water bottle. Thank you for your confidence in us. Enjoy spring,

Foals 1 Staff





Foals II

For January, we will explore Winter and Arctic animals. We will read short stories and look at picture books of Arctic animals, and touch ice cubes. Spanish words for January are cold-frio, amor-love. We will introduce Foals 2 to a Fall Flannel Board. Science will be all about sensory with leaves, large rocks, and soft toys. A few books we will be reading are "I am Special", "All the Children of the World" and "Ruly's Rainy Day". Our movement and music includes, Fall Fun", "Scarecrow, Scarecrow", and some circle time activities include reach and feel, fall finger plays .Spanish words for January are cold-frio, amor-love. January dates to remember: 1st, 2nd, & 5th H.C.I.S.D. Closed 2nd Groundhog Day 17th Parent Date Night 19th R.H.A. & H.C.I.S.D. Closed 26th thru 30th Parent Teacher Conferences

Our February themes are Feelings, Hero's, Black History and Our Bodies. To incorporate these themes in our lessons, we plan on looking in mirror and talking about our feelings, making happy faces, sad faces, questioning faces. the children

will learn a new song, "Put Your Finger in the Air" to learn about our body parts, our fingers, and to work on a fine motor skills of managing our fingers separately. Every day we continue to exercise and work on our gross motor skills: pulling up, balancing reaching. To practice fine motor skills, we introduce new toys where the baby can put a certain shape into a hole or close/open a toy door. Our Spanish words are: love-amor, I love you-te amo, like-gustar, I like-me gusta, please-por favor, and thank you-gracias. Ask your teachers for help learning these new Spanish words and phrases .Free RHA water bottle February dates to remember: 2nd Groundhog Day 14th Parent Date Night 17th President's Day 24th Flag Day 28th Agri Life Training

With March winds comes Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration. Our themes include Farm life and animals, Spring plants & growth, and bugs. We will introduce a flannel board with farm animals and a barn story book. We will sing Old MacDonald's had a Farm and begin teaching the sounds animals make. Our Spanish

words are, Dad-Papa, Mom-Mama. Our new signs will be Dad, Mom, and Please. March Dates to remember: March dates to remember: 2nd thru 6th Read Across America & Book Fair Week 8th Daylight Savings Begins 9th thru 13th Spring Break 17th St. Patrick's Day 21st Parent Date Night

April showers brings May flowers. We like to begin our daily stroller rides in early spring to look at the trees budding new leaves and watch the birds flying overhead. This month we focus on Birds and Eggs, Space, Planet Earth, and Recycling. We will practice our gross motor skills by pushing and pulling string toys. In our Learning Skills center we explore cause & effect. Our Watch the birdy game will help our babies acquire some balancing skills, depth perception, social interaction and trust. Our Spanish words are, more-mas, thank you-gracias. Our new signs will be more, juice, eat. April Dates to Remember: 5th Easter 13th thru 17th Week of the Young Child



Recall Summary

Name of product:

- Dream On Me Play Yards model 436A
 - Hazard:

The play yard's rails can collapse, presenting a strangulation hazards to young children.





Colts

How time flies when having fun. Hard to believe it is winter again and spring will bloom in just a few short months. We want to welcome our new Colt friends. We are glad to have you a part of our family. The next four months will be exciting ones. We would to welcome Ms. Marissa to the Colt family!

In the month of January, we will learn about *Winter, Arctic animals and Time and Calendar*. The first two weeks, we will talk about winter and Arctic animals. We will play with ice for our sensory lesson. We will try to make an igloo and color a polar bear as examples of some art activities. Then the last two weeks, we will explore the world of *Time*. We will make clocks, talk about each other's birthdays and other time and calendar activities. We will read "*A Clock Goes Tick Tock*".

The first month is February. We will learn about *Health and My Body, My Feelings, Heroes and Black history*. The first week we will learn about our bodies and how to take care of them. We will also talk about what foods are good for our body. We will practice how to brush our teeth, so please bring in a toothbrush and toothpaste for your child. We will have fun dancing to the *Hokey Pokey* and *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*. To help us learn our body parts, we will

make handprints and footprints. We will talk about and name body parts in English and Spanish. The second week, we will learn about our feelings and how people express feelings. We will make a collage of smiles. We will sing *If You're Happy and You Know It* and read *I'm Feeling Sad*. We will work on using our gross motor skills by throwing and catching balls and playing *Ring Around the Rosey*. We will learn how to take our plates and cups to the sink. The third week, we will talk about our heroes and create a wall of heroes. On February 11th, we will have a Valentine's Party. Please look for the sign-up sheet and the class list.

The month of March. We will discuss the *Farm*: Who lives on the farm? How do plants grow? The first week, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by making cats and the hats out of our footprints. We will also read some of his books that he wrote like, *Cat and the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*. The second week, students will learn about the farm and the animals that live there. We will paint a horse with string and glue a tail on our horse; we will color spots on a cow. For our science center we will learn how to milk a cow using rubber gloves. We will have great fun with that experience. The third week, we will learn about gardening and how plants grow. We will also meas-

ure how much we have grown in the last year. As one of the art projects, we will make a spring tree with our handprints. The last week, we will study bugs. We will make inkblot butterflies, ladybugs out of paper plates, and other fun projects.

The final month is April. We will learn about *Space, Eggs and Birds, Our Earth and Environment and Recycling*. The first and second week, we will talk about space and make our solar system in the room. We will read a book called *Space*. The third week, we will learn about *eggs and birds*. We will do a golf ball art project. We will also go on a bird-watching walks and count how many birds we see. The last week we will learn how to take care of our earth and how to recycle our trash. We will play a sorting game and sort paper and plastic items.

- Just a few reminders:
- * Please label **everything** with first and last name.
 - * Please bring in clean sheets and blankets every Monday.
 - * Please bring in a sippy cup with a name on it. Free RHA water bottle

Thank you for your help and understanding.



Kidde Smoke and Combination Smoke/CO Alarms Recalled. The alarms could fail to alert consumers of a fire or a CO incident following a power outage. Description: This recall includes about 1.2 million Kidde alarms and involves three models: residential smoke alarm model i12010S with manufacture dates between December 18, 2013 and May 13, 2014, combination smoke/CO alarm i12010SCO with manufacture dates between December 30, 2013 and May 13, 2014, and combination smoke/CO alarm model KN-COSM-IBA with manufacture date between October 22, 2013 and May 13, 2014.





Ponies

We hope that all of our Ponies and their families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! 2015 will start with a bang and we are ready to breeze through to spring. We are very excited about each and every one of you and the fun we will have together. The next four months will be bursting with activities that will enable our Ponies to discover more about themselves and the world around them. As always, we will continue learning our sign language and our Spanish words.

January: Brrr! Winter is wonderful as we explore the Arctic and discover which animals live there and how they survive the cold temperatures. The Ponies love to growl like a polar bear (oso polar) and waddle like a penguin (pinguino) as we read books and sing songs about animals. This month brings in a New Year so we will focus on calendars: days of the week, months of the year, and Do you have a birthday every year? We will make our own clocks and sing “Hickory Dickory Dock” during Circle Time.

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

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

March brings the fun of learning about farm animals! Our students love to make animal sounds while pretending to be chickens (pollos), cows (vacas), ducks (patos), etc. You can do this at home as well. Your child will love to show you what they are learning! Spring is here and we will talk about the beautiful flowers (flores), new baby animals, all kinds of bugs, and the weather. Staying active is very important to our growing children and as the weather warms up, we will enjoy some more outside time. While outside we will look at the new leaves on trees, run relay races, and play games such as ‘Ring Around the Rosy’. Our Circle Time books will include Piglet and

Mama, Wow, It’s a Cow, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and 10 Busy Buzzy Bugs.

In the month of April your Pony will learn about beautiful and colorful birds (pajaros) and how feathers keep them warm. We will learn the sounds they make, pretend to fly, and look for birds while we are outside. We will talk about outer space and look at pictures of stars (estrellas) and planets (planetas) through a make believe telescope. We will also learn how astronauts visit space and we’ll play with toy rockets and spaceships. Finally, the Ponies will learn about our environment and how we can take care of it with the Three R’s- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle- as we groove to Jack Johnson’s music.

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

We are definitely looking forward to the next few months and we are excited about all the wonderful things we will learn!

Mother Goose’s Little Miss Muffet

*Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet,
Eating some curds and whey.*

*Along came a spider
Who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.*





Chargers 1

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

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

Entering the New Year in **January**, we will begin *our Arctic animals, dinosaurs, and the New Year time* and calendar! We will discuss the seasons, and colder temperatures. We will also study Arctic animals, talk about their habitats, what they eat, and how they survive in such cold climates. We will be counting polar bears

from 1-10. Penguins, art, whales and more, as well as reading *Penguin Pete's New Friends* and *Polar Bears on Ice*. Our themes for **February** will be *Health and My Body*. We will learn how to keep our bodies healthy with healthful food and exercise. Why it's important to wash our hands? What are our bones?, and What do they look like? We will also learn about *Our Feelings*. How do you feel? We will learn about our different emotions, and expressing our feelings verbally and non-verbally. We will be counting our big bones as well as dancing to *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*. We will focus on the Colors: Red and Pink Shapes: Heart and Square Books we will read: "*Kiss Kiss*", "*Say Please*", "*Head to Toe*"

Our themes for **March** will be *Farm, Spring, Plants, Gardening, and Insects/ Spiders*. We will discuss different farm animals and their importance. What's the weather like in spring? How do plants grow? Bugs, where do they live? What do they eat? We will be learning how to plant seeds and watch them grow. We will also be counting different type of insects and making lady bug art. We will focus on the Colors: Green and Yellow Shapes: Rectangle and Circle Books we will read: "*On the Farm*", "*Wow, it's a Cow*", "*You Can Fly Bumble-bee*", "*Beetle Bop*". Free RHA water bottle.

Our themes for **April** will be *Space, Birds and Eggs, and Our Environment*. We will learn about the sun, the moon, and the stars. What are the planets in our solar system? What animals lay eggs? Why do birds have feathers? We will discuss how to keep our Earth safe. What is recycling? What can we recycle? Why are trees important to our Earth? We will focus on the Colors: Orange and Purple Shapes: Circle and Triangle Books we will read: "*Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*", "*That's Not Fair, Hare*", "*What is the Sun?*"

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

Mrs. Laurie, Ms. Theresa, Ms. Tina

Turtles Poem

One baby turtle alone and new.
Finds a friend, and then there are two.
Two baby turtles crawl down to the sea.
They find another, and then there are three.
Three baby turtles crawl along the shore.

They find another, and then there are four.
Four baby turtles go for a dive.
Up swims another, and then there are five.





Chargers II

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

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

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

December was great and brought up our

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

We will ring in January 2015 with the themes of New Years, Winter and Arctic Animals. We will discuss 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. We will study penguins and polar bears and learn about what they eat and where they live.

In February we will focus on the “Dental Health” and do a cool experiment where we learn how to clean our teeth properly and also talk about our bodies and how important it is to be healthy. We will celebrate “Black History” month by looking

at pictures and creating a mini book as well. Then as the seasons change, we will blow into March winds and talk about Farm Life and all the workings of a farm and the animals that you would see there. We will then talk about Spring and plant some seeds so we can record and watch to see how long it takes for them to grow. We will also go on a “Bug Hunt” with our “BIG” magnifying glasses and collect a few to look at closer up.

April will bloom with activities as we jet away on an imaginary trip to Space and make Space Helmets. Free RHA water bottle. We will talk about the Earth and what we can do to take care of it, as well as do an art project with recycled items.

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

OH, I WISH I WAS

Tune “Oscar Meyer Song”

Oh, I wish I was a hippo at the zoo,
That is what I’d really like to be.
‘Cause if I was a hippo at the zoo,
I could shake my head and splash, you!
Oh, I wish I was an elephant at the zoo,
That is what I’d really like to be.
‘Cause if I was an elephant at the zoo,
I could fill my trunk and spray, you!
Oh, I wish I was a seal at the zoo,
That is what I’d really like to be.

‘Cause if I was a seal at the zoo,
I could splash my tail and drench, you!
Jean Warren
[Can you or your children think of other zoo animals,
That could get you wet?]





Pintos

January

This is where everyone is starting to slow down and things are getting back to normal. We will study the season of winter and all the wonders it brings. We will do this through observations when we go on nature walks, conduct science experiments with ice and water, and, of course, read several different books.

The Pintos will also learn about all the different types of Arctic animals. We will study the homes they live in, the food they eat, and why they are equipped to live in the cold Arctic weather.

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

February

February is a very exciting month. Not only do we have a chance to appreciate our friendships on Valentine’s Day, but we will also learn appropriate ways to express our feelings and learn some new vocabulary words at the same time. Keeping our bodies healthy is very important. We do this several different ways: eating healthfully, exercising, and getting check-ups. We will study which foods are healthful foods and which foods just taste good but don’t help our bodies grow. We will also learn about the journey our food takes in our bodies when we eat it. We will practice different kinds of exercises, showing the children how fun this can be. To help the children understand how important check-ups are, we will talk about and pretend play doctoring and dentistry.

March

What a perfect time of year to learn

about how plants grow and what they need to grow. The best way to learn about plants, of course, is to grow some of our own. We will experiment by planting seeds in different ways and places to see how well they do in each environment. For example, planting seeds in water versus soil, planting seeds in shade versus the sunlight and finding out which combination works best to grow our seeds. Learning about plants is a great way to start learning about why farmers are so important to us and where our food really comes from. Along with plants and farms, we will study fun facts about insects!

April

In April we are going to talk about where our earth is in space and learn about the stars that we see at night. While studying about earth, it is very important to understand the importance of taking care of our earth. We will be picking up trash outside, learning how to recycle, and how to reuse different materials. Around Easter time the children see and even decorate eggs at home, so I will take this opportunity to teach the children about birds and eggs and their life cycle. Natural science is always fun to learn about. Free RHA water bottle .Also in April we will celebrate how important the education of our young children is by having a full week of just plain fun! Week Of The Young Child is celebrated at early childhood programs across the US. The purpose of this week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Social Play

Now that the children have gotten to know each other, they naturally pair up and play in small groups. At this stage in

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

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

ABC’s and 1,2,3’s

All of the children can recognize the first letter in their name when they see it in the environment. Most of the children can recognize their entire name in print. So I will continue to work on these skills with all the children at group time as well as in small groups at the table. Most of the children can count at least two objects successfully and many can count up to five objects, pointing to each one as they count. We have been working a lot on this with simple finger plays and fun sorting toys. As the children start to master these skills we will do some simple addition and subtraction.





Wrangler

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2015 is here!!!

Wow, where did the time go? There are only 5 more months before our Wranglers graduate to Pre-K.

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

We start January with Time and Calendar. We will focus on concepts such as how many hours are in a day. We will create personal clocks and a favorite time of the day chart. Days of the Week and Months of the Year will finish off this lesson topic. Our next topic for January will be Winter Weather. The plan is to turn our room into a winter wonderland filled with snow flakes and icicles. We will ask you to provide internet pictures of real life snow scenes. If your holiday vacation plans were in one of these areas, please send a picture to share with our class.

We will learn about Arctic animals. We will explore what it is like to live in Arctic areas and what animals need to survive there. Our final topic of the month will be Tell me a Tale. We have lots of fun activities planned during this lesson topic such as a baking gingerbread man and recreating the three little pigs' houses. Children will be asked to bring in their favorite book for show and share.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to be combined with our Mustang friends. You all made this adjustment progress smoothly and I am truly grateful. The children have adapted really well to the change; they have been good example-setters. I am proud of them. Our Wrangler room is unique and different because I absolutely strive to stimulate the natural curiosity of each child. The goal of our lessons is to get him/her involved with open-ended questions and actual hands-

on experiences. Our environment is neat and organized, which promotes respect and responsibility from the teachers and the children. Our learning centers are clearly defined and inviting. Our shelves are labeled with pictures to enhance pre-reading skills.

We take care in making sure each shelf is fully stocked with a variety of activities, which helps eliminate negative behavior. As teachers, we consistently model the behaviors we expect from each child. We teach them to be good example-setters at school and at home.

February is Dental Health Month. We will discuss the importance of regular dental check-ups, as well as not eating too much junk foods. During this month, we will celebrate Black History. We will learn about the contributions made to our country by African Americans. I will introduce fact sheets and handouts for us to explore. We will do a matching game linking inventions to the inventor. We will also talk about respecting each other's differences. Another theme during the month of February we discuss is feelings. We want each child to know that his/her feelings are important. We will talk about ways to better express disappointments and anger. Next we will get into Health and Body. We will discuss nutritious meals and snacks. During this lesson, we will also review proper hand washing techniques.

During March we will learn about different kinds of farm animals. We will learn how to care for them and how they provide nutritious foods for us. We will do a fun science/math activity called name that animal; the children will hear the animal sound from the CD player and be asked to name the animal matching that sound. In addition March is the month that we spring forward. We will talk about spring plants, growth and gardening. Our discussions will include the changes in the weather, the days becoming longer, the nights shorter and the grass turning back to green. We will plant seeds in personal flower pots and then chart their size, shape and color. The month will close with Spiders and Insects. We will learn that spiders are not

insects and why. We will create a spaghetti spider web and learn lots of spider songs and finger plays. Our insect portion will be just as exciting. Get ready parents, we will ask for live show and share examples in a secure container, of course.

During our final month of the quarter, which is April, we will learn about Space, Birds, Our Earth, Our Environment and Recycling. The children will learn the value of reusing our earth's resources. During this month, we will again ask for parent participation; a recycling bin will be set up in our classroom for yourself and your child to place items that we can reuse to create art projects and center activities. Free RHA water bottle.

Also during this month, we will celebrate The Week of the Young Child. This is a very special week in our Wrangler room. I'm really excited because this year our Mustang friends will be joining in on the fun. Jailynn and I are already working on new activities to do with the children and parents. The week will end with a Chick-fil-a party, with our special guest being the Chick-fil-a Cow!

Parents, please let us know if there are additional topics that you would like for us to explore with the children. You are more than welcome to come in and share things with our class. We're Partners!

Reminders....

+Please sign your child in and out an initial daily. (Only authorized adults may do so. No children under the age of 16 years)

+Please provide a fresh water bottle daily.

LABELED

+Please check your child's folder and cubby daily.

+Please exchange your child's change of clothes for the season/temperatures.

+Please take your child's linen home weekly.

Sincerely,

Tammy Hornsby

Wrangler Lead Teacher





Mustang

In **January** we will start off looking at the season of winter. We will have lots of fun art projects that will help the children with their fine motor skills as well as their imagination. We will discover all about Arctic and Antarctica animals and their habitats. We will study animals from the polar bear to the penguin. We will create a fun penguin craft using a toilet paper roll. We will continue to learn our letters and sounds, and we will begin to blend some of these sounds together to bring us one step closer to reading!

We will decorate the lobby in the month of January!!

February: The month of February is designated for *Health, Feelings, Heroes and Black History*. With *Health*, we will learn how to keep our bodies healthy, like washing our hands and eating nutritious foods. We also learn how to brush our teeth correctly. During our *Feelings* week, we will explore our feelings and have opportunities to discuss them during our circle time. Children are filled with all kinds of feelings: happiness, sadness, anger or frustration, excitement, joy and wonder. By listening, responding, modeling and providing the appropriate language needed, children learn to understand and express their feelings appropriately. We will be doing various activities to help encourage children to learn how to express, accept and understand how to express themselves in healthy ways. Later in the month we will move on to *Heroes/African American History*. Chil-

dren hear the word “hero” used more than ever, yet what does it mean to be a hero? We will remember those who influenced great changes in America from Martin Luther King Jr. to Barack Obama. At the end of the week we will explore this concept in depth and host a special “Super Hero Day” where your child will be able to come to school dressed as his/her favorite super hero.

March: March brings the first day of spring and the Mustang classroom will learn about plants and animals. Our first theme will be *Farm Life*. We will learn all about different farm animals and their babies’ names. We will also talk about life on a farm for a farmer and his/her family. The next theme will explore *BUGS!* We will take a close look at all types of insects, their variety of habitats, including forests, fields, gardens, and even in people’s houses. We will also focus on the life cycles of a butterfly and ladybug. Our last theme of the month will be *Plants*. We will grow our own plants and name the parts.

April: Let’s look for birds! In April, our first theme will be *Birds and Eggs*. We will study different kinds of birds, their eggs and their nests. The next theme for April will be taking a journey through Space. We will explore a variety of resources and exploring our solar system. As a class, we will chart the planets from biggest to smallest, use role play to demonstrate the universe and its connection to the sun. We will then move on to our

theme *Our Earth and Recycling*. We will be “going green” discussing how important our earth is and how recycling helps. We will be reusing everyday items to create learning activities and artistic crafts! The children will be encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Reminders: Please remember to bring a change of weather-appropriate clothes. Label all personal items and check your child’s folder daily for any important information or reminders. Free RHA water bottle.

If we are on the playground when you arrive, walk out and sign your child in or out. It is very important for us to know when your child has arrived and when they have left. Also, please check your child’s folder every day; this folder contains lesson plans for the week, comments about your child’s day, and all notes concerning accidents, boo-boos, illness, or behavior. Please talk to your child about how his or her day was and remind them to continue making good choices. For example, remind them to use their “big boy or big girl” words rather than hurting their friends or screaming or crying.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this learning experience with your child. I enjoy watching their faces light up as they continue to learn and grow. Of course, feel free to email or call me if you have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns.



Q:What did the hamburger name its baby?

A: Patty





Trotter

This fall semester has come and gone so quickly. Needless to say, it has been a great school year so far. I'd like to take this time to thank all the parents, students, and staff that all contributed to this successful semester thus far. It was a pleasure getting to know the parents and their aspirations for their children at back to school night. I can't even begin to explain how much fun our classroom had in the months of October and November. Our Halloween parade was a blast followed by our Thanksgiving Family Feast a few weeks later where we took the time to learn about Native Americans, Pilgrims, and the significance of Thanksgiving. Free RHA water bottle. The month of December was our culture awareness month. We took the time to talk about Children Around the World. Our class in particular took the time to discover the culture and traditions of France along with any other different cultures and traditions we had amongst our classroom. In the span of those 3 months our classroom has eagerly participated in the curriculum: Ready for School, Families, and the Community. Activities, projects, guest speakers, and guided discussions have all been incorporated in our classroom to help ensure and scaffold children's learning. Memories are continuing to build and lessons are continuing to be learned personally and intellectually. It has truly been amazing to see in these short

amounts of months how much these children have grown socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. That was just a recap of the fall semester; now on to the spring semester.

In the New Year, January, February, and March our Trotter Classroom will continue to grow as the year progresses. After a nice long break, our class will jump back in the curriculum by finishing up learning about animals, then moving on into our "Imagine it" theme, and "Growing up, and our great state Texas (personal addition). In our classroom, the first two weeks of January we will finish up the curriculum about animals, insects, their environment, habitat, and differences. To help students recall information they learned before the break, I will restock our Pretend and Learn Center as a Veterinarian's office, science center will incorporate animals and insects the children may observe and investigate such as pictures, x-rays, and microscope slides of actual insects, our math center will involve counting bears, insect and animal patterns, and memory games that include animals and insects, ABC center will allow the children to work on puzzles or animals of insects antonym and spelling, also to help with spellings of words such as bugs, spider, ant, snake, etc. is our letter wall and writing center. Also, in January I will begin to conduct parent-teacher conferences to discuss

goals met, progress, and new goals for the New Year. To finish up the month of January we will begin "Imagine it" theme. "Imagine it" will take us to mid-February, which is where we will take a break from our curriculum for 2 weeks to learn about our great state, Texas, since Texas Independence Day falls on Monday, March 2; lessons will continue until March 6. During these two weeks the students will learn the history, geography, the state flower, tree, flag, etc. through guided discussions, books, song, projects, and activities. Once our studies of Texas have come to an end we will pick back up with the curriculum with the "Growing up" theme. In this theme I would like to ask for guest speakers such as nurses, doctors, dentists, nutritionists, and trainers to find the time to visit our class to help discuss with our class the importance of growing up and taking care of our bodies; which shall take us to the end of March.

In closing, I like to remind all parents to please check their child's folder daily for updated information and daily information.

Also, please keep in mind of the weather changes and update child's extra clothing as necessary, along with labeling everything that is brought into the classroom to help ensure it gets returned to its rightful owner every time.

You throw away the outside and cook the inside. You eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

Corn on the cob.





Bronco

This fall semester has come and gone so quickly. Needless to say, it has been a great school year so far. I'd like to take this time to thank all the parents, students, and staff that all contributed to this successful semester thus far. It has been a pleasure getting to know the parents and their aspirations for their children. In the span of 3 months our classroom has eagerly participated in the curriculum: Ready for School, Families, and the Community. Activities, projects, guest speakers, and guided discussions have all been incorporated in our classroom to help ensure and scaffold children's learning. Memories are continuing to build and lessons are continuing to be learned personally and intellectually. It has truly been amazing to see in these short amounts of months how much these children have grown socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually.

In the New Year, January, February, and March our Bronco classroom will continue to grow as the year progresses. After a nice long break, our class will jump back in the curriculum by finishing up learning about animals, then moving on into our "Imagine it" theme, "Growing up", and our great state Texas. In our classroom, the first two weeks of January we will finish up the curriculum about animals, insects, their environment, habitat, and differences. To help students recall information they learned before the break, I

will restock our Pretend and Learn Center as a Veterinarian's office. The science center will incorporate animals and insects. The children may observe and investigate things such as pictures and microscope slides of actual insects. Our math center will involve counting bears, insect and animal patterns, and memory games that include animals and insects. The ABC center will allow the children to work on puzzles of animals, also to help with spellings of words such as bugs, spider, ant, snake, etc. is our letter wall and writing center. Also, in January I will begin to conduct parent-teacher conferences to discuss goals met, progress, and new goals for the New Year. To finish up the month of January we will begin "Imagine it" theme.

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to find the time to visit our class to help discuss with our class the importance of growing up and taking care of our bodies; which shall take us to the end of March.

I have enjoyed getting to know each of the Broncos and their families. I am delighted to have each of them in my class, and we are really coming together as a team. Free RHA water bottle. Once again if you have any concerns or questions, I am available to discuss them between 1:30 – 2:30. I do not mind having brief discussions in the morning as you drop off, but please remember that I am supervising children, so if you have a concern or question that will take more than a couple of minutes to discuss, please call between 1:30 – 2:30 or set an appointment. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at 405-3700.

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

Q: What do you get when you cross a parrot and a centipede?



A: A walkie-talkie!





Corral Kids

Fun Holiday Happenings
The Corral Kids are nothing but busy this holiday season! We filled our holiday **CHEER** banks by making ornaments, writing letters to Santa, singing carols and decorating cookies! We want to say a big Thank You to the New Haven Assisted Living and Memory Care Center for welcoming us into their home to wish all of their residents Happy Holidays and share some yummy cookies by the fire. Corral Kids also got a chance to bowl a strike into the New Year at the event center EVO in Kyle over the break...gutter balls were not an option with this group!!

New Year Shenanigans
A new year brings new fun for our Corral

Kiddos! Getting back into the swing of things after such a fun-filled break can be trying but we are so anxious to have homework again....said no child ever **hehe!** Homework might not be the most enticing thing but having fun makes the perfect agenda! Free RHA water bottle. We just want to remind our parents that the weather is definitely getting colder over the next few weeks and permitted that it's not too cold or raining, we will still be going outside. Please send your kiddos with plenty of scarves, hats, gloves and coats to bundle up with. **Happy New Year!**

We would love to hear from you!
You can reach Brooke anytime during

school hours at 512-405-3700 or by email at corralkidsrha@yahoo.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!

I once was lost but now am found.....
As we all know, it is more than easy for our elementary age children to, shall we say, misplace a few items now and again. Please take a moment and take a look; you just might find a few t-shirts, water bottles or lunch boxes. Any items not claimed by February 1st will be generously donated to the local Goodwill or Kyle Thrift Store.

Brain Teasers

You are in a cabin and it is pitch black. You have one match on you. Which do you light first, the newspaper, the lamp, the candle or the fire?

You light the match first!

I have streets but no pavement,
I have cities but no buildings,
I have forests but no trees,
I have rivers yet no water.

What am I?

A map

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

What am I?

A shadow

Two people are in a barn. Ten cats follow them in.
How many feet are in the barn now?

There are four feet in the barn, cats have paws, not feet.

