May 2009 Linda Ashness Editor-In-Chief







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I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the following parents who took time from their busy lives to help us show our teachers how much we appreciate them going above and beyond just being a good caregiver to all of our children.

Homeroom parent for Teacher Appreciation Week were; Jessica B. and Michelle L. -Foals I, Dana T. and Jill S. and Ranell E. -Foals II, Kelle S. -Colts, Bridget A. and Breona W. -Ponies, Anastasia L. and Samantha S. -Charger I, Maria A and Claudia C. -Charger II, Stephanie W. and Candi W. –Ropers, Paula G. -Pintos, Amy C. -Mustangs, Tiffany C. and Michele S. -Trotters, Cheryl J. and Lety T. -Broncos, and Vanessa P. and Danielle P. and Estela G -Corral Kids

Thank you so much!

Teachers: I would also like to take a moment to tell you how honored I am to have you here. Your jobs are not easy, but I see every day how much each of you cares about your amazing children. RHA started with 40 children 7 years ago. You have helped us grow into an

accredited learning academy with a great reputation in this area. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. We are successful because of you.

Parents: I am so proud of your child/children. Our Trotter and Bronco classes are graduating May 22nd in our gym starting at 11 a.m. Many of you started with us as infants or toddlers. Several students can now read and write. They show such maturity for 4-5 years olds, and they are very excited (and sad) about going to the "big" school next year for kindergarten. (Don't Forget Kindergarten Round-Up is May 14-15).

Our infant rooms have really helped to develop our children's sense of security through nurturing and caring for them in such a loving manner. The toddler classrooms have helped to develop their sense of independence. And our preschool classes are succeeding by leaps and bounds. Thank you, parents, for

allowing us to help encourage our love of learning in your children.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my mother, Jane, for building me Rocking Horse. I love everyday of it. (Ok, almost everyday of it.) I also want to recognize our front office support staff. Maria, our Asst. Director, who has been with us since before the day we opened and has helped us make it through all the ups and downs to follow. Thank you for always supporting me. Thanks to Laura, our Accounts Manager, who has worked hard for the past 6 years to help keep our school fiscally sound. Yeah Laura! Ms. Bernie thank you for helping our school function on a daily basis. And thanks for the chocolates and coffee too! Ms. Linda, thank you for treating me like on of your own. It's not like my mom isn't enough as it is. (I wouldn't have it any other way.) Ms. Estela you have been an inspiration to me through the years. You have shown me how to be

Continued on page 2

a strong independent and giving person.

Ms. Lynette, thank you for always making my day a better one. Whether it's a funny story or a serious conversation, I am always left smiling. That is a gift. Thanks to Mr. Freddy for spoiling us with yummy lunches, and Mr. Roland who gives 110% every day. You are all more to me than just coworkers. You are family. Thank you for helping me through all these years!

It's hard to believe that sum-

mer is just a few hot weeks away. Like (High School Musical 2), you can almost hear the students chanting "Summer, summer, summer". Though it may be cliché to say, "it just feels like yesterday" when we started the new school year. Our year has flown by with Back to School Night, Thanksgiving Family Feast, our 7th annual Children Around the World Festival, Read Across America week, and now our 7th graduation ceremony.

With Trotters and Broncos moving up to our summer camp program, our Mustangs and Pintos classes will now become our new Pre-K class of '10. Parents, please be on the lookout for the end of the school year transition letters in your classroom. This will give your children a head start on the Pre-K curriculum and our goal to be able to read and write by graduation next year.

It has been another wonderful year and I'm very much looking forward to another fun/education-filled summer.

Library News

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who purchased books at this year's Scholastic Book Fair. And thank you to all the parents who donated books to their child's classroom! We also were able to acquire almost \$1600 in new books, flashcards, and games through sales profits. Thank you again for all your support!

Just a reminder – when Summer Camp officially begins June 1st, the library and computer lab will be closed during the day to pre-school classes to accommodate our summer campers. Everyone is still welcome to drop by and check out books at any time.

As always, please remember to turn in any books that have been checked out.

Happy Reading,

Maria Matts



Help Keep Our Earth Green

Green Guy Recycling is one of Central Texas' most comprehensive recycling centers. We accept and recycle paper, cardboard, scrap metal, plastic and glass bottles, and <u>many other items</u>. We also pay for aluminum cans, copper, brass and <u>more!</u>

Hours of Operation:

Drop-off center: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We buy aluminum, copper and other scrap metals Mon.-Fri., 9-5, Sat. 9-2.

Phone: (512) 353-3266

Location: 937 Highway 80, San Marcos, Texas 78666

We're right behind Hobby Lobby and Tractor Supply!

HAYS COUNTY PLACES TO RECYCLE

HAYS COUNTY RECYCLING

(Effective 8 - 07)

LOCATIONS:

WIMBERLEY, HAYS COUNTY TRANSFER STATION, 1691 CARNEY LANE, END OF CO. RD. 278, (512) 847-3504.

OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

DO NOT CLOSE FOR LUNCH.

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS.

DRIPPING SPRINGS, F.M.150 @ DARDEN HILL RD (CO.RD. 162) PCT 4 YARD, 20290 F.M. 150 WEST, DRIFTWOOD

(512) 858-9515

OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

DO NOT CLOSE FOR LUNCH

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS.

ITEMS RECYCLED

Newspapers, all colors of glass jars & bottles, cardboard, magazines, plastic bottles with necks (HDPE #2 –(milk &laundry detergent), PETE # 1/ colored & natural – (water & soda), tin cans, aluminum cans, automobile batteries, motor oil, used oil filters, used anti-freeze, batteries.

PLEASE, REMOVE LIDS AND PLACE INTO CORRECT BINS.

OUESTIONS??PLEASE ASK ATTENDANT.

HOW ITEMS ARE TO BE RECYCLED:

- Corrugated Cardboard--flattened and no larger than three (3) foot square. (PLACED INTO BALER)
- Newspaper, magazines, computer printouts, white & colored printed paper, notebook paper, file folders, fax, junk mail, white page paperbacks, etc. *NO CARDBOARD or CHIPBOARD (i.e. Beer and cereal boxes) PLEASE* place into YELLOW & GREEN BOXES.
- Glass (Jars & Bottles ONLY) ALL COLORS INTO BLUE CONTAINERS ABSOLUTELY NO LIDS OR CAPS.
- Plastics are divided by type (1 & 2 ONLY) & placed into SEPARATE MARKED CONTAINERS
- Tin Cans Rinsed out, flattened and placed into large marked blue container
- Aluminum cans Rinsed out, flattened and placed into marked blue containers.
- Automobile Batteries

- Used motor oil-motor oil ONLY NO WATER, GASOLINE, SOLVENTS, ETC!
- Used oil filters--punch a hole in the top & drain for a min. of 24 Hrs. Take out of box, plastic, etc. and put into BLACK BARREL marked USED OIL FILTERS.
- Used anti-freeze--pour into BLACK barrel marked USED ANTI-FREEZE.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME:

Chipboard (soda, beer cartons & cereal boxes), butter & sour cream tubs, styrofoam, plastic bags, syrup, ketchup & jelly jars.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR RECYCLING.

PLASTICS & CANS THAT ARE RECYCLED ARE TO BE RINSED OUT, LIDS REMOVED AND FLATTENED.

PLEASE, HELP KEEP THESE SITES CLEAN AND LEAVE ONLY REQUESTED ITEMS FOR RECYCLING. PLEASE, DO NOT LEAVE ANY TRASH WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS. IF CONTAINERS ARE FULL, PLEASE, RETURN THE MATERIAL LATER TO RECYCLE! THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING.

RECYCLING, YOU MAKE IT OR YOU BREAK IT!!

HAYS COUNTY SOLID WASTE RECYCLING

HAYS COUNTY TRANSFER STATION & CITIZENS COLLECTION STATION PRICES & FEES

(Effective 8-07)

LOCATIONS

HAYS COUNTY TRANSFER STATION LOCATION

1691 CARNEY LANE, END OF COUNTY RD. 278, IN WIMBERLEY.

PHONE - (512) 847 - 3504

HAYS COUNTY CITIZENS COLLECTION STATION LOCATION

20290 F. M. 150 WEST @ COUNTY ROAD 162 (DARDEN HILL ROAD)

DRIFTWOOD - PCT 4 YARD

PHONE: (512) 858-9515

THE HAYS COUNTY TRANSFER STATION & HAYS COUNTY CITIZENS COLLECTION STATION

ARE OPEN 5 DAYS A WEEK.

8:00 A.M. THRU 4:00 P.M. / MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY(DO NOT CLOSE FOR

LUNCH) CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS.

STATE LAW REQUIRES ALL LOADS TO BE COMPLETELY COVERED. THERE IS TO BE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR

ANY MATERIAL TO BLOW, SPILL, OR FALL OFF DURING TRANSPORT! VIOLATORS WILL BE ACCESSED A \$10.00 SURCHARGE.

THE TRANSFER STATION & THE CITIZENS COLLECTION STATION DO NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

BRUSH OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PAINT (NO LIQUIDS).

THE FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$ 5.00 PER CUBIC YARD FOR HOUSEHOLD TRASH WITH A \$ 5.00 MINIMUM.

\$ 15.00 PER CUBIC YARD FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

** \$ 7.00 CU. YD. - COMMERCIAL - ** \$ 12.00 CU. YD - COMPACTED (Wimberley ONLY!)

REFRIGERATORS, AIR CONDITIONERS. & OTHER ITEMS WHICH HAVE COMPRESSORS.

\$7.00 & UP - EACH

TWIN MATTRESS & BOXSPRING SETS, RECLINERS, LARGE TABLES, CONSOLE TV'S, ETC. / \$ 5.00 EACH QUEEN SETS \$ 7.00 EACH – KING SETS \$ 10.00 EACH

SOFAS - \$ 10.00 SLEEPER SOFAS - \$15.00

OTHER APPLIANCES; WASHERS, DRYERS, HOT WATER HEATERS, DISHWASHERS, ETC / \$7.00 EACH OTHER ITEMS PRICED INDIVIDUALLY

PASSENGER CAR TIRES - \$2.00 EACH (UP TO 17")

TRUCK TIRES - \$6.00 EACH

\$2.00 EXTRA IF ON RIM

* * THESE ITEMS ARE ONLY TAKEN @ WIMBERLEY TRANSFER STATION.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE SEPARATED, EACH HAVING ITS OWN LOCATION FOR DISPOSAL. KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN LOADING YOUR VEHICLE.

HOUSEHOLD TRASH CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IRON, METALS, & TIN APPLIANCES ALUMINUM SCRAP TIRES BATTERIES

Got E-Waste?

http://www.edcodisposal.com/public-disposal/san-marcos.html

Call EDCO at (760) 744-2700 for information about recycling unwanted electronic devices. Programs available for residential collection at a reasonable cost, or drop off qualified electronics, such as computer monitors and televisions, at no cost at our Certified Buyback Recycling Center. (Non-qualified electronics, including keyboards, computer drives, and printers, are accepted for a nominal fee.)











Parent Date Nights May 16th June 27th July 18th

Rocking Horse Academy Will Be Glosed On

May 25th for Memorial Day July 3rd for July 4th

Parent-Tot Swim Lessons

A child's first introduction to water. Designed for children 6 months to 4 years and their parents or guardians. This class will show you how to teach your child the fundamentals of swimming in a fun and safe atmosphere. You will learn how to hold your child in the water so that they are comfortable to experiment, and how to use basic cues that your child will understand. All children *must* wear swim diapers, if not potty trained. Each session consists of eight-30 minute classes and costs \$50.00/session.

2009 Parent-Tot Session Dates:

June 2-25 & July 7-30

City of Kyle PARD office for more information at 512-262-3939 (All age lessons available)



Don't Forget

Mother's Day on May 10th and

Father's Day on June 21st





Independence Day Celebration Fireworks



July 4, 20099:30pm Gregg-Clarke Park



The City of Kyle Parks

Department set off about 20 minutes of spectacular fireworks at Gregg-Clarke Park.









Sunscreen Time!



Put It On Your Child Before School and The Teacher Will Apply Sunscreen After Nap





Foals I

During the month of May, we will focus on zoo, safari, forest and pond animals. The Spanish words are animals-animales, zoo-zologico, jungle-selva, forest-bosque, May-Mayo. Our songs for the month are "Five Little Speckled Frogs" and "We're going to the Zoo". We will move and make sounds like animals—snakes, frogs and ducks. Books for May are Who Is My Mom, The Big Hungry Bear, and Peek-a-Woo.

The themes for June are **tools and transportation.**Spanish words are June-Junio, cars-carro, trucks-troco, tools-herramientas. The music is "Wheels on the Bus" and "Sailing Sailing" and <u>Busy Machines and Baby in a Buggy</u> are some of the books. We will look out of the window at different colored cars and trucks. The skill to practice at home is the bicycle push.

American history, ocean life and summer fun are the themes for July. The Spanish words are summer funverano divertido, American history- historia Americano, flag-bandera, ocean-oceano, red- rojo. We will count stars and stripes on the flag bandana then play peek-a-boo with the bandana. Reading time will include <u>Pooh Goes Visiting</u>, and <u>Below Us Under the Earth and Sea.</u> Pretending to swim is the physical activity.

Please help us by labeling bottles with first name and last initial and lids with initials. Also, food brought in should be labeled. Thanks for your help.

If you take your baby to the doctor for an illness, please bring a note to school stating it is okay for your baby to return to school. Also, doctor's notes for Tylenol must state the dosage, the reason, and duration of time to administer it.

Thank you for your confidence in us. Foals I Staff

keepkidshealthy.com

a Pediatrician's guide to your children's health and safety.

Babies with cradle cap will have greasy yellow or salmon colored scaly areas with redness on their scalp. Your baby may also have redness behind his ears or on the creases of his neck (seborrheic dermatitis). Unlike eczema and other forms of red scaly skin, these conditions are not itchy and shouldn't cause your baby any discomfort. It will improve on its own, but cradle cap can be treated by frequent use of an anti-seborrhea shampoo, such as Selsun Blue, and then using a soft brush to remove the scales. Gentle scrubbing may be required to help remove the scale. Persistent cases may require treatment with a low potency topical steroid cream. You can also try massaging baby oil into the scalp and then gently scrubbing with a soft brush to remove the scales.

NEWBORN FEVER

A rectal temperature above 100.4 in a newborn infant less than two to three months old is considered a fever and a medical emergency and you should call your doctor immediately.



Foals II

Foals 2 babies have the summer fun bug!

Our curriculum this time around includes:

May- Animals we'd find in the Zoo, the Jungle, the Forest. We'll also talk about and look at pictures of how our Foals 2 babies have changed in our "growing up" lessons.

June- Planes, Trains, and Automobiles is what we will play- the many ways of "Transportation", and we'll work with "Tools". In our class, just about anything qualifies as a hammer.

July-"Summer fun" will be our theme. We will take our early morning walks and have fun.

We are always working on our senses by touching and experiencing different textures and smells, and on small and large muscles by grasping and transferring and pounding objects.

We'll explore creativity and language by watching and listening in our "Conversation" part of our curriculum. Lessons include "Higher and Lower Sounds", which will have us talking in high and low pitches, and "Questions

and Answers" which involves listening to words while looking at things you pat or touch. Our "Self help" area, or "Dramatic play", has Foals 2 babies playing peek a boo, watching moving things, following simple directions, and remembering where things are. All of our daily activities include English and Spanish.

A few words we will introduce to our class are Sun-Sol, Flower- Flor, Ball-Bola, Balloon-Globo.

A few of the books we will read this spring are Spring Peepers, Peter Rabbit's Big Adventure, and Goodnight Moon.

We'd like to remind our parents to bring at least 2 changes of outfits for your child. Also, sunscreen and a sun hat/cap are necessary for our a.m. walks to keep our babies safe from the sun. We will send our Sunscreen Permission form with the daily sheets.

As always, our babies are learning about themselves, their world and their abilities, and we are here to help and encourage them to reach their goals. If you have questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us.

Spring Sun Safety

Avoid that first sunburn of the season by not forgetting to use sunscreen on those mild spring days when your kids spend a lot of time outside.

- Aveeno Baby Continuous Protection Sunblock Lotion SPF 45 a good sunscreen, plus has both zinc oxide and titanium dioxide.
- Banana Boat Baby Tear Free UVA & UVB Sunblock Lotion SPF 50 a sunscreen with the sunblock titanium dioxide
- Banana Boat Kids Quick Blok SPF 35 a sunscreen with avobenzone
- Blue Lizard Australian Suncream SPF 30 Baby a pure sunblock with both zinc oxide and titanium dioxide.
- Coppertone Kids Spectra 3 SPF 50 Sunblock Lotion a sunscreen with zinc oxide
- Coppertone Kids Sunscreen Continuous Spray SPF 50 a sunscreen with avobenzone
- Coppertone Water Babies SPECTRA3 Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 a sunscreen with zinc oxide
- Hawaiian Tropic Kids Sunblock 60+ SPF a sunscreen with avobenzone





Summer is here! These next three months will be fun ones. We will want to welcome all our new friends to the Colt room. We are so happy to have you with us. Your teachers have planned fun project that teach your child about the world.

During May, we will learn about places where animals live. The first week, we will study zoo animals. We will paint a zebra with a comb to makes his stripes, make an elephant face out of paper plates, and create a monkey. We will sing Old MacDonald had a Zoo and other songs about the zoo. We will read Peek-a-Boo Zoo. The second week, the students will learn about pets. We will talk about how to use soft touches with our pets and friends. We will paint a dog bone, design a goldfish, glue feathers on a parrot and its cage. Those are just a few art projects we have planned for that week. We will sing How Much Is That Doggy in the Window. We will read Our Furry Friends. We will play a matching game about pets. The third week, we will talk about jungle animals. We will read **Mommy in the Jungle**. We will color a hippo, put dots on a leopard, and paint a snake. At the end of this unit we will watch HI-5 dvd about animals. The final week will be on Growing up. We will be making an "All About Me" book. This book will include handprints, footprints, height and weight. We are asking parents to bring in an infant picture. We will use these pictures to show the children how much they have grown over the year. We will read When I Was Little. We will also make a graduation poster for the Bronco and Trotter graduates. We would like to say Congratulations to you!

In June. The first two weeks focuses on transportation. We will sing songs like **Wheels on the Bus** and **Old Mac-Donald had a Tractor.** We will paint a boat with sugar, finger-paint a submarine, create a road to put the cars

and trucks on. We will work on our gross motor skills by taking turns pushing our friends in the toy car. We will play in some water with boats for sensory development. At the end of this unit we will watch *Baby Einstein: Things that Go.* We will be making a special gift for our daddies. During the last two weeks, we will talk about tools. We will design a tool box, machines that help build things and also a construction worker and other art projects. We will read *Daddy and Me*. We will build with Legos and blocks. We will work on our fine motor skills by coloring with crayons and using paint-brushes.

In the month of July we will have fun learning about summer fun and ocean life. To celebrate summer fun, we will glue sand in the sand pails, color beach balls and paint sand castles. We will throw a beach dance party. July 2nd we plan to have a 4th of July picnic outside. We will make fireworks and streamers. During the final two weeks, ocean life is our theme. We will make crabs, dolphins, sharks ,and we will design a beach mural. We will sing songs like **Baby Shark** and **I'm a Little Fishy.** We will read books on ocean life. We will make an edible fish bowl.

Just a few reminders:* Please label all items. Please bring in:

- sippy cups
- summer clothes
- sunscreen and permission slip for it
- cameras

If you have any questions about activities, please feel free to come by and ask or you can email me at <u>colt-sareawesome@yahoo.com</u>

Ms. Erica Ms. Lydia Ms. Dominique Ms. Esthela

IS BABY SICK OR TEETHING? HOW TO TELL

Teething mucus is clear saliva and **doesn't run out the nose.** Cold mucus is thick and yellow. A nasal discharge usually means an allergy or an infection, especially if accompanied by eye drainage.

Dr. Sears

www.askdrsears.com





We are so excited to see that spring has arrived! Please remember to pack cool clothing and a labeled water cup for your child. Keeping your little Pony hydrated is very important! With hot summer days, it's time to bring sunscreen lotion. We will send home a sunscreen permission form to fill out.

We have a theme board in the classroom so that you will know what lessons your child is currently learning at all times. You are encouraged to pick up a copy of our lesson plans each week, as well, so you can talk about things at home we've learned that week at school.

May: We will make our classroom into a zoo as we talk about the different types of animals that live there like the tall giraffe and the mighty tiger. We will invite your children to bring their favorite animal from home to help us learn each animal's name. We will continue the study of the animal kingdom by also exploring the jungle and the forest. We will discover that our animal friends live in trees, underground, and even in caves. What do our friends eat and what kind of sounds do they make? Maybe we will even try and walk on four legs like our favorite animals! We will learn Spanish as well as sign language. In honor of Mother's Day we will read *Are You My Mother?* We will discuss all of the wonderful ways our mothers love us. Reminder: We are closed on Monday 25th, Memorial Day.

June: Our adorable Ponies will enjoy transportation for one of the month's activities. The children will learn how to say bus- autobus, car- carro, and airplane- avion in Spanish and in English. We will need tools to make fun projects! We will continue to work with our shapes: the circle, the square, the triangle, and the rectangle. We will use our shapes to build cars and trains. For example we will make circles into tires, triangles for air-

plane wings, and rectangles for a bus or car body.

Finally in June we are excited to explore the Dinosaur! We know our little Ponies will love it!

July: For the 4th of July we will celebrate our country's independence with a picnic on the toddler playground. Remember that we will be closed on Friday, July 3rd. We will discuss summer activities and family vacations. We will discover why some families travel to the beach while others will travel to see their family members. We are going to play in the sand box and build sand castles. The Ponies will dive into learning about ocean life. We will transform our room into an ocean. The children will learn and work on words in English and Spanish that pertain to ocean life, like fish-pez, sand-arena, wateragua, hot-calor. We will practice counting from 1-10 in English and Spanish. We can't forget about our colors red-rojo, blue-azul, and white- blanco as we create our own American flag. In honor of 4th of July we will learn a lot of American history as well.

Potty training is a big step for your Pony in the next few months. We will continue to practice using the potty and washing our hands.

Wow! How we have grown. Every day your child practices gross and fine motor skills in the classroom, as well as learning age-appropriate lessons through arts, books, and hands-on activities. We try and encourage the children to use all of their senses. We will also continue learning sign language and Spanish!

As always, please feel free to give us a call during our nap hours (1:00-2:00) if you have any questions. We are looking forward to helping your Pony learn in the summer months! If you want, bring a disposable camera so we can take pictures of your child during the summer. Have a great summer and remember to keep cool!

Recalled: Children's "Cars" shoes sold at Wal-Mart

Fri, Apr 10, 2009 (BabyCenter News) — Buster Brown & Co. has announced a recall of "Cars"-themed children's plastic clog shoes, sold at Wal-Mart, in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). About 73,000 shoes were sold in the United States and 18,000 in Canada.



Chargers I

Spring is here and summer is around the corner. Here at Rocking Horse Academy daily routines meet individual needs. We offer children the opportunity to make choices to help develop their decision-making skills.

We encourage our children with positive guidance. We also introduce potty training by providing a potty chair in the bathroom with a sturdy stepstool to encourage self-help for pottying and independent hand washing. We work with your child's physical and emotional development, and we have an exciting curriculum this spring to enhance their academic progress.

For the month of May we will explore "Animals" such as Zoo Animals, Jungle Animals, Forrest Animals and let's not forget the Safari. We will make and discover Lions, and Tigers & Bears *Oh*, *my*!! We will also display a lot of animals throughout the class to put names to the new animals we learn.

We will read stories like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* And action stories with sound effects like *Animal Bop*.

Our theme for the month of June will be Transportation: by Air, Land, & Water and with this theme we can take trips on boats, trains, jets, and air- planes. And in block center we will repair our transportation with our tools. In the home center we will drive to the store to get Ms. Mary some chicken. This month ends by flash-

ing back in time to visit the dinosaurs where we will introduce the Brontosaurus- (long neck) Stegosaurus-(spike tail), Triceratops-(three horn) Tyrannosaurus-(shark tooth or T-Rex). We plan to explore our senses with water and shaving cream.

During the month of July, we will celebrate our country's independence and learn the colors in our flag and find out that every star represents a state in our union. In the second half of July we will travel to the beach for some ocean fun. Under the sea lives sharks, whales, dolphins, octopi, tuna, and more. We will paint sand, create a collage, and make a Jello aquarium.

Wrapping up July, we will plan our games, enjoy minivacations, and make homemade lemonade. Gentle reminders: bring sun screen, and always remember to label all personal belongings and <u>water bottles every day</u>. And change those extra clothes to fit the season. Last, but not least, bring a camera and we'll take some fun pictures with classmates.

Ms Mary

Ms Laurie

Ms Courtney

Ms Brenda

Pneumonia vaccine reduces childhood hospitalizations, says CDC

Thu, Jan 15, 2009 (HealthDay News) -- A pediatric pneumonia vaccine introduced in 2000 has led to a significant drop in hospitalizations for young children with the respiratory disease, U.S. health officials reported Thursday.

In 2006, the rate of hospitalizations for pneumonia among children 2 years old or younger was 8.1 per 1,000 children -- 35 percent lower than the rate before the vaccine was introduced. This reduction means there were an estimated 36,300 fewer pneumonia hospitalizations in 2006, compared to pre-vaccine levels, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The bacteria streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus) is a leading bacterial cause of childhood pneumonia, which accounts for an estimated 8 percent of all childhood hospital admissions, the CDC said.

Routine childhood immunization with the PCV7 vaccine began in 2000 and substantial declines in hospital admissions for pneumonia in young children were previously reported through 2004, the CDC said in its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

The updated results confirm that pneumococcus is a leading cause of pneumonia in children, and they show the need for continued monitoring of the immunization program's effects on pneumonia hospitalizations among children, the CDC said.



Chargers II

We are having a wonderful spring in Chargers II. We have been very busy studying about plants, insects, and birds. Our walls are covered in butterflies, lady bugs, flowers, and eggs.

In May we will move on to our study of animals. What fun! For at least three weeks we will learn about a new animal every day. We plan to stomp with the elephants, swing with the chimps, gallop with the zebras, and hop with the kangaroos!

We will learn about the different environments our animal friends live in, the zoo, the jungle, the forest, and the pond. We will read books like, "Monkey Face" and "Brown, Brown Bear." We will sing songs like "I Went to the Animal Fair" and "Little Turtle in a Box."

After we have finished having fun with animals, we will look at how much we've grown. We will measure our height, make our handprints, footprints, and sing, "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes." Chargers II will review all that we have learned. It is so amazing how well we know our shapes, letters, numbers, and colors! We will end the school year with a celebration of our progress this year!

As we drift into summer, we may see changes in our friends and in our schedules. Parents, please keep us informed about your vacation plans as we keep you informed about our fun summer activities!

We begin June with a study of transportation-trucks! Big trucks, little trucks, all kinds of trucks! It also means buses, trains, and airplanes! We will have much fun reading stories such as, "Wheels of the Race Car" and "Diggers and Dumpers." We will sing, "The Wheels on the Bus." We will also take a look at the Rocking Horse Academy school bus; we will see what it's like to sit in the seats, hear the horn, and see the lights!

Tools will then be our next unit of study; our students

will get to wear tool belts and play with pretend tools! We will sing, "Johnny Works with One Hammer." We will learn about the different tools and how important they are to us.

After our study of tools, we will study dinosaurs. Oh! No! T-Rex is a little scary, but we hope to have fun learning about him and the other dinosaurs. We will ride our playground dinosaurs and make dinosaur footprints! We have fun dinosaur books to read such as, "All About Dinosaurs" and "Giant Dinosaurs." We will also get to watch "The Land Before Time."

We begin July with a BANG! It's the 4th of July, time to celebrate the United States' Independence Day! Chargers II will learn about our country and why we celebrate the 4th of July. We will paint pictures of exciting fireworks. We also will take a walk and look at the Texas flag and the United States flag. We will sing songs like, "This Land is Your Land."

Splash! Splash! We leave our American History study for a study of ocean life and summer fun! We will study sharks, whales, eels, and many other unique sea creatures! Chargers II will pretend to go fishing. Get your bait and tackle ready! We will also play with sand and shells. We will make sharks with large teeth and octopi with eight arms! Also in celebration of summer, we will have a luau! We will wear lei's and hula skirts. We will get to dance to Hawaiian music. We will enjoy eating pineapple and other summer goodies!

Chargers II is looking forward to a yummy, fun-filled summer! Don't forget sunscreen and water bottles for this sunny summer!

If you have any questions feel free to call Mrs. Brenda or Mrs. Cheryl at anytime! Best Wishes for a Happy Summer!

Toddler Funnies

In general my children refuse to eat anything that hasn't danced on television.......**Erma Bombeck** Carrots do something for children's vision. Kids can spot carrots no matter how you disguise them.



Ropers

This has been a great couple of months in the Roper room. I got to know everyone's new face and earn the new children's trust. We have a lot of fun together each day. I have also enjoyed getting to know each of the parents. Thank you for being part of the Roper family.

May holds lots of new and fun ideas. We will learn about pets and how to take care of them. We will focus on our class pet Chocolate. This will allow the children to practice taking care of something other than themselves and learn about the way animals communicate without speaking. Another topic will be about different zoo animals. I will use Teeth, Tails, and Tentacles (a counting book) by Christopher Wormell to help introduce different animals. This will also help with counting up to 20. The last two weeks in May we will concentrate on our growing bodies. We will make selfportraits, fact sheets about ourselves, and get to know ourselves better. We will also talk about what babies do and what we can do. We will compare and measure and share ideas with each other. What a great math skill! I will bring in my youngest son to give them ideas about what babies can and can't do.

We will learn about different forms of transportation. One week we will concentrate on air transportation, one week on land transportation and the last week will be on water transportation. We will take pictures of our cars and make a class book with them. We will make our own vehicles and have lots of creative fun with this unit. The last two weeks in June will be spent on tools. It will be good practice to learn how to use the tools safely. We will learn the names of each tool as well as what it is commonly used for.

During this month the Ropers will talk about swimming and how to stay safe in the water. Froggy Learns to Swim by Jonathan London will be read often during this time. Since the weather will be warm, we will also talk about water and its different forms. This will be a great opportunity for us to do some science experiments in and out of the classroom. We will also spend a couple of weeks playing board games together in small groups. We will work on turn-taking, counting, following consistent rules, and cooperative play.

As three year-olds, the children are learning that they

now have an effect on other people around them. As this happens, they start to test each other's boundaries both physically, by pushing or sitting too closely to each other or verbally, by using silly names and arguing about different topics that come up. I have already started seeing this take place in the classroom. This gives me the opportunity to help the children socialize with each other in a more positive manner. You will hear me use the phrases, "You can call her/him by his/ her name." "If you need to call names, do it in the mirror." Giving children an outlet for certain unwanted behavior makes the behavior not as desirable to the child. The bigger the reaction we or other children give them, the more fun it is to do. So if they start to invade each other's personal space, I just explain that they can move somewhere that has more room. Three is also the time when children need to move their bodies and become more physical with each other. Again, I will give them positive and safe ways to meet that need. We will do a lot of gross motor games that require cooperation and large muscle movements. Outside we will do a lot of running, jumping and climbing. As for the children that need to push or wrestle, I will give them a safe place to push and wrestle with a pillow.

With all of our themes and activities we will work on pre-math and pre-reading skills with the children on a daily basis. By incorporating these desired skills in the everyday routines and fun activities, the children retain the information faster and longer. Like with everyone, if you make the activity fun then learning the information will be fun!

As the weather gets warmer, water will become even more important for the children. Please remember to send fresh cold water for your child to drink in your RHA water bottle. We will take these bottles to the playground each day. Also please label all personal items and cloths. A quick reminder about shoes, Rocking Horse Academy rules state that the children not come to school in open toe shoes such as sandals and flip flops.

Thank you,

Amber Mason



Pintos

Spring has sprung and summer is just right around the corner with school ending next month already! Most of our Pintos have proven that the months have gone by fast due to their increasing ability in growing physically, mentally, and intellectually. They really have improved tremendously in pretty much everything from as simple as coloring and cutting to spelling and writing. Their comprehensive skills have definitely matured and that only shows us how big they are getting.

With the weather definitely getting warmer in the afternoon please keep in mind that sun block lotion might benefit your child, so feel free to bring some to school with your child's name on it if you have not done so already. (Remember, we must have a signed permission form to apply sun block.) Please always check your child's cubby and behavior folder. Don't forget to help your child with his/her homework and bring it back to school. The homework will vary depending on what I think your child needs more help in. We have started a sticker chart and when it is full your child will get a special reward. Also, we want you to know that while we review the letters, your child is more than welcome to continue to bring something to school on Fridays as part of their show and tell as long as it fits in their cubby and it's weekly theme-based. The children love to show what they have brought from home so we want to continue that for them every Friday after circle time.

May: We will start off the week celebrating Cinco de Mayo by listening to "musica folklorica" and learn a bit about the Spanish tradition. You never know, maybe Ms. Doris will even cook up a Mexican surprise for everyone to taste! Now would be a perfect time to plan a visit to the zoo and maybe you can plan it with other families in our class since our theme for May is the animal kingdom. We will explore different animals and their habitats, and we will create different animals on paper and see if maybe they come to life with all the details that will be added. We will ask the children to bring their favorite stuffed animal so we can transform our dramatic play center into a fun fuzzy zoo or for-

est. We will plan a special flowery activity for Mother's Day (hint, hint). In addition we will study the square and for our colors of the month we will review black and white and even mix it to introduce the color gray.

In **June** our theme will be transportation and tools. A note to all parents will be sent out to bring in any big boxes where the children can fit individually or as a small group. The children will then expand their imagination by pretending they are in a boat, a bus, or even a plane. We will put their thinking skills to the test to see which method of transportation is the fastest, the slowest, the smallest and biggest and make sure we know which is used on water, on the road, etc. Also the children will work hard at making a special card for Father's Day. Later this month we will have fun learning that tools are not just for example a screwdriver, a hammer and so forth but also that a pen can be used as a teacher's tool just like a paintbrush is a painter's tool. Last but not least we will explore the amazing past history of dinosaurs. How big do you think they were? How about just one footprint of their's, how big was it? Our shape will be triangle and we will review all the colors.

In <u>July</u> our theme will be summer fun and American history. We will start off the month by showing off our patriotism and go color crazy by using lots of red, white and blue. It might seem like we are dazed because we will see stars everywhere. The children will make their own flag and march down the hall raising it up high to show we are proud Americans. Our shape for this month will be a star. We will also explore the ocean life as part of our theme this month. Watch how our hall can transform into an aquarium full of fish. Our outside time won't feel so hot for the children by having fun in the water (details about it will be posted). Later we are going to kick back, relax and enjoy the summer time before school starts all over again.

Ms. Doris, Ms. Becky, and Ms. Yuri



Mustangs

Spring Has Sprung when you step inside the Mustang class; you'll immediately notice that our winter wonderland has been transformed with bright, beautiful springtime colors. The children are replacing the winter decorations with signs of spring – as always; their creativity is in full bloom! Spring is a spectacular season here in Texas full of exciting activities and special events. Our curriculum focuses on some of the children's favorite themes, including Weather, Birds & Butterflies and Insects & Tiny Creatures. As the month progresses, we'll continue the fun as we learn more about Pond Life & Great Gardens and celebrate the Week of the Young Child. Games activities, stories and lots of small group activities are planned to complement our studies. We can't wait to get started.

Rocking Horse Goes Green! Recycle, reduce, reuse—everyone at R.H.A. promises to do his/her part.

The Mustang teachers have many activities planned to help the children learn and understand the concept of taking care of our environment. We've created some art for you! Take a look at the children's recycled masterpieces displayed throughout the hallways.

Wednesday, April 22nd • Earth Day celebration-- In honor of Earth Day, the Mustang class will take a nature walk. We'll discuss practical ways we can conserve and learn about recycling. We hope to help the children begin to understand the importance of 'going green' every day! Be on the lookout for recycling container's placed throughout our school. Although our school year is coming to an end, the month of May is full of celebrations!

A variety of activities are planned for the months of May & June.

With many celebrations this month the Mustangs will take part in the joy of music along with the art of dance. The children will learn how to dance and sing. An introduction of different styles of music & dance will allow the children to apply what they learn. As they celebrate and honor their Mothers with songs and hand-made gifts. Shhhhh--it's a secret! Mother's Day is Sunday May 10th.

The third week in May we'll prepare for another celebration: the Pre-K graduation of Trotters and Broncos. The graduation will take place in the RHA gym at 11:00 a.m. Congratulate them and their families for many years of hard work here at Rocking Horse Academy. Our best wishes in Kindergarten next year. The Mustang class will be performing the Pledge of Allegiance and perform one of our class favorites for the graduation ceremony. We invite you and your family to come and join us in watching your child perform. Mustang parents are invited back to the classroom for a small celebration. We are very proud of all the Mustangs and all they have accomplished this year.

On Monday June 1st our class will begin our summer schedule. This means summer fun incorporated with fun learning, putting safety first. Up coming themes will include Animals: Zoo, Jungle, Forest, and Safari. Transportation, Tool and dear old Dad for Father's Day

It has been a very rewarding year for both myself as well as for the students! Thank you for sharing your children with me here at Rocking Horse Academy. At this time, we would like to give a special **Thank You** to all of our parents for everything you have done to make it a special year.

Why Hands-On?

I tried to teach my child with books,
He gave me only puzzled looks
I tired to teach my child with words,
They passed him by often unheard.
Despairingly, I turned aside.
"How shall I teach this child?" I cried.
Into my hand he put the key,
"Come, "he said, "Play with me."

author unknown





May brings than spring flowers. Our main theme this month will be animals of all sorts; each week we will explore their habitat, food, protection, and much more. The animals we will cover will fall into several categories; zoo, jungle, forest and safari animals are just a few. One of the most exciting events to look forward to during this month is a field trip to the Austin Zoo. In order for this to be successful, we will need as many parent volunteers as possible. More information will become available as May gets closer.

Hear ye, Hear ye.....It is with great pride we announce the graduation of the Trotter class. May 22^{nd} is our graduation ceremony. We are practicing a song to perform during the ceremony. The graduation ceremony will start at 11:00 a.m. in the gym. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony. The gym will fill up fast, so don't be late or you might be standing!

June welcomes summer and a new Trotter class. As we familiarize ourselves with our new students and get settled into our new routine, we will learn all about transportation, tools, and dinosaurs. As we drive into our transportation unit, we will learn of all the different ways to get from one place to the next. We will also discuss the importance of using transportation. As we move into our tool lessons, we will talk about the different types of tools and what they are used for. Ms. Jessica will bring in real tools for the Trotters to use in a safe setting. They will try hammering a nail, screwing in a screw, and use a level. Dinosaurs round out the month of June. We will become paleontologists and dig

for dinosaurs in the sandbox on our playground. We will also make a book about the dinosaurs we have learned.

By the time July rolls around, we hope our water restrictions will be lifted so we can have a splash day. Our lessons will have us diving into the life under the sea. We might even see Ariel and Nemo swimming by as we study our friends the whales, sharks, octopi, and jellyfish. Not only will we learn about what lives in the ocean, Ms. Jessica will bring in a piece of coral reef she found on the beach in Mexico. We will learn about the life on a reef and try our hand at building our own in our classroom. Celebrating the 4th of July, our Trotters pledge to learn about American history and our nation's heroes. We will celebrate the Fourth of July on Thursday, July 2nd with a picnic. (We will be closed for the holiday on Friday, July 3rd.) Everyone will be encouraged to wear red, white, and blue to show his/her patriotism.

Please remember to change out the extra clothes in the children's cubbies. It's important that you bring fresh, cold water every morning in the drinking bottles. Our children must stay hydrated throughout the day. And apply sunscreen in the morning. We will apply it in the afternoon after nap. Of course, we will need your permission slips and a bottle or tube of sunscreen for your child. Don't forget to label everything you bring to RHA.

If you have questions, please call anytime between 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.





Journey into Learning

Grab hold of a magic pencil Open your eyes and mind For now begins a journey Of the most exciting kind. A journey into learning A step...a start...a glow, And we will be there with you To help and watch you grow.





Wow, I cannot believe how quickly the last three months have flown by. It seems like just the other day I was starting and getting to know your little ones, and now they are like family to me. Watching them grow and change has been such a wonder and pleasure for me. Now we have to prepare for a bittersweet graduation, where our little ones are growing up and moving on to a new phase. It is exciting and at the same time a little sad.

The month of May is packed full for you and your little one. We will learn about different animals and in what region those animals live using maps and globes. We will study animals that live in the zoo and where they originated from, as well as what they eat and how they adapt to their surroundings. We are also planning one last field trip before graduation. We are planning to go to Wonder World and will once again need a few parent chaperones. Anyone interested please see Mrs. Casey. I would also like to take a moment to thank the parents that helped make our field trip to the Children's Museum such a success. Thank you to John Prilop, John Heaney, Bea Pyle, Cheryl Johnson, Luba Murray, Shannon Wimberley, Dana Castro and Doris Parra. Finally, to end the month of May we will have graduation on Friday, May 22nd. What a wonderful time.

Once June arrives the Broncos will move on to the summer camp program. If you are not enrolled in Summer Camp, enjoy your summer before Kindergarten begins. If your child is enrolling in Hays CISD, the Kindergarten Roundup (registration) will be held May 14-15 at the assigned elementary schools. Contact Hays CISD for a list of documents you must provide for that registration. If you need summer care at RHA, you must register for that ASAP. Also, if you plan on using RHA for your after-school care needs, you will need to reregister for that program. Contact Rebecca if you have any questions.

In June we will welcome our new Bronco class of 2010. It's the start of a new school year for us as we dive into summer themes and learning. We will begin by learning about different types of transportation and where those vehicles are used. The following week we will study tools: tools used for modes of transportation, houses, computers, carpentry, etc... To end June we will study one of my favorite topics, dinosaurs. The kids really love this one.

As July arrives, and Independence Day approaches, we will move into studying American History. We will also talk about how Texas became a part of the United States. Following American History is another one of my favorite topics, Ocean Life. What lives in the Ocean? What do they eat? How deep is the ocean? Finally, to end July we will have lots of fun as we study SUMMER FUN. We will plan activities: have a picnic, dash through splash day (if the drought has passed), and become beach bums.

We are so proud of all the work the Broncos have been doing and the accomplishments and progress they have made. And we are confident that they are well prepared for and will exceed expectations as they move into Kindergarten. We will miss them all dearly and hope you will remember to come visit us and share your Kindergarten experiences. Good luck to the Bronco class of 2009.

We would also like to welcome our Bronco class of 2010; we are so excited to start a fresh new year and watch the children learn and grow. We have so much fun ahead so get ready.

Warmest Wishes,

Mrs. Casey Ms. Priscilla Ms. Nichole

Mr. Bradley Ms. Christina

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

Corral Kids Summer Fun

Dear Corral Kid's Parents~

As I'm sure you all are aware, the end of the 2008-2009 school year is fast approaching. It's time again for class to end and for summer vacation to begin!!! Another school year has nearly come and gone with the blink of an eye here in the Corral Kid's Program. As temperatures continue to climb, our children grow eager with anticipation of the fun-filled summer days waiting just around the corner. By now both parents and children alike are probably looking forward to a break from the usual school routine and a little extra time to relax in the sunshine. With that being said, I want to remind parents that although your child is currently enrolled in the Corral Kids After-School Program, he/she will NOT automatically be enrolled in any of the Corral Kids' Summer Camps. I want to encourage parents to sign their children up for the dates they will be attending as soon as possible to ensure that your child's place will be reserved. Generally, our Summer Camp Programs fill up quickly, so the sooner you are able to register the better.

During the month of May, we will focus on Teacher Appreciation Week, which is May 4May 8. During this time, our homeroom parents will prepare special meals, gifts, and goodies to show our teachers how thankful we are to have them!!!! The children will spend each day this week creating unique hand-made treasures to present to their teacher's. If any parents want to contribute and have not already done so, please feel free to contact me via email at rhacorralkids@yahoo.com or over the phone at (512)405-3700 so that I may point you in the right direction. Items the homeroom parents are collecting include money, baked goods, Thank You cards, etc. and anything else you can come up with...Just get creative and have fun with it!

Towards the end of May, each child will construct his/her very own personal memory book and/or collages to capture all the special times these children and teachers have shared together in the Corral Kid's Program. Before school is over, the children will have the opportunity to combine their memorabilia pages and sentimental items into one large scrapbook! Each grade level will have a "group yearbook" that will be kept here at Rocking Horse Academy to be treasured for years to come!

THEN, ON JUNE 1ST, CORRAL KID'S SUMMER CAMPS BEGIN!!!! I wish I could express the excitement the counselors and I are feeling as summer approaches!!! We can

hardly wait to dive full speed ahead into the upcoming summer thrills!!! Summer campers can count on a variety of field trips, weekly swimming trips to the Kyle Pool, entertaining visits to RHA by talented professionals, as well as hours of endlessly amusing hands-on activities everyone is sure to enjoy!!! We would love for your child to come along and experience the loads of fun that we have in store!

On the following page is a brief description of each camp in order to help you and your child decide which ones he/she want to attend.

I speak for all of the Corral Kid's Teachers when I say the 2008-2009 school year was an absolute blast!! It was a pleasure getting to know each and every child who took part in the Corral Kid's Program. Throughout the year, we created fond memories that are certain to bring a smile to our faces in the years that lie ahead. The teachers and I have greatly enjoyed working with all of your precious children. We hope to see each of their smiling faces back for Summer Camp beginning June 1. Please keep in mind that YOUR CHILD WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY BE **ENROLLED IN SUMMER CAMP** OR NEXT FALL!!!! After school

is released on May 29, your child will no longer be enrolled in the Corral Kid's Program. Each student MUST register at the front desk for Summer Camp dates they wish to attend. Hope to see you all there!
Sincerely,
Ranell Ellermann
Corral Kid's Supervisor
Rocking Horse Academy

Reminder- Trotter & Bronco graduates will need to fill out enrollment for Summer Camp. The forms are available at the front desk and online at::

www.rockinghorseacademy.com

Summer Gamp 2009

