



ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

May 2012

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



Sneek Peek At RHA

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Thanks so much to all the wonderful parents (and grandparents!) who purchased books from the Scholastic Book Fair this year. We were able to purchase over \$1350 in books for all of the classrooms.

Just a reminder- summer camp is just around the corner. The library and computer lab will be closed to our pre-school program in order to accommodate our school age summer campers. Everyone is still welcome to drop by and check out books though!

Happy Reading



Tuition Due Dates

May 14th & 28th

June 11th & 12th

July 9th & 23rd

Dates To Remember

May 07 through May 11, 2012
Teacher appreciation week

May 13th– Mother's Day

May 25th– Preschool Graduation
Begins at 11 a.m. R.S.V.P for luncheon to follow

May 28th -RHA Closed Memorial Day

May 31st Last Day of School H.C.I.S.D

June 4th -Summer Camp for K-5th grades begins (Now registering)

June 17th –Father's Day

RHA Closed on July 4th

Have a Fun, Safe Summer!

Parent Date Nights

May 19, 2012
June 16, 2012
July 14, 2012

6:30 pm til Midnight
Academy Child \$30/\$15 second child
Non Academy Child \$35/\$20 second child
Employee Child \$15/\$5 second child



Teddy Bear Portraits

View/Purchase
May 9th, 10th
(Just in time for Mother's Day)

Hear ye! Hear ye!
2012 Preschool Graduation
May 25th at 11:00 a.m.
Luncheon to follow

**No matter how calmly you try to referee,
parenting will eventually produce bizarre behavior,
and I'm not talking about the kids. ~ Bill Cosby**

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 "Sally the Camel". We will move and make sounds like animals-snakes, frogs and ducks. Books for May are *Who Is My Mom* and *Baby Animals at the Zoo*.

The themes for June are *tools, transportation and dinosaurs*. Spanish words are June-Junio, cars-carro, trucks-troco, tools-herramientas. The music is "*Wheels on the Bus*" and "*Down by the Station*" and *Toby in Trouble* and *How Do Dinosaurs Love Their Pets* 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 *fun-verano 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 *Witzy Plays Hide and Seek, Below Us Under the Earth and Sea, and Ladybug Girl Dresses Up*. Practice rolling over 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 ok for your baby to return to school. Also, doctor's notes for **Tylenol** must state the reason and duration of time to administer it. If your baby is at least 6 months old, you may bring infant **Motrin** without a doctor's note, and it must be signed in at the front. **Motrin** could be used for post-immunization and/or teething discomfort. Please bring a current copy of the immunization records.

Thank you for your confidence in us. Questions and comments are always welcomed.

Foals I Staff Mary Martha and Sonia--Michelle and Jazmine.

FOALS II

Foals 2 babies have the summer fun bug!

May - Animals we'd find in the Zoo, in the Jungle, and in the Forest. Books that we will rotate with this theme are "*Dear Zoo*" by Rod Campbell, "*If I Ran the Zoo*" by Dr. Seuss, "*Color Zoo*" by Lois Ehlert, and Baby Einstein: *Jane's Animal Expedition*". We'll also be exploring our senses by finger painting with warm and cold finger paint. Keep your eyes open for our Safari paintings in our hallway!

Spanish words for May: *agua- water, more-mas, si-yes, te amo - I love you*.

Sign Language words for May: *eat, more, please*. Signs will be posted and sent home.

June - Transportation, Tools, Dinosaurs are what we will learn about and play! We will enjoy reading the many books we have on transportation. Some of the books we will explore are "*Cars, Trains, Planes, and Trucks*" by Nancy Rindone, "Baby Einstein: *What Floats*", "Baby Einstein: *Things that Go*". Much of our Art and Sensory will include the many different sizes of wheels. Look out for painted wheels rolling on our

art paper.

Spanish words for June: *caro-car, amigo/amiga-friend, vaso-glas, liche-milk*.

Sign Language words for June: *up, walk, good*.

July - 4th of July, Ocean Life and Summer Fun are the themes. We will take our early morning walks or have our outside time in the atrium. Books we have set aside for the month of July are, "*Baby Einstein: Water, Water Everywhere*", "*Baby Einstein: See and Spy Color*" & "*Discover the Day: Baby Einstein: Lift a Flap*". Ice Paint and Jello Paint will be part of Art, Sensory & Cooking curriculum all rolled into one fun activity.

Spanish words for July: *dia-day, noche-night, sol-sun, luna-moon*.

Sign Language words for July: *hat, socks, diaper*.

Other parts of our curriculum throughout the summer months include:

"Conversation", which will include "Higher and Lower Sounds", which will have us talking in high and low pitches, and "Questions and Answers" which in-

volves 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.

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 or outside play time. We will send our Sunscreen Permission form with the daily sheets.

As always, our Foals 2 babies are learning about themselves their world, 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.

Thanks, Foals 2 Staff

COLTS

Summer is here! These next three months will be fun ones. We welcome all of our new friends to the Colt room. We are so happy to have you with us. Your teachers have planned several fun projects that teach your child about his or her 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 make his stripes, make an elephant's 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 in 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.

The final week of May will be on Growing up. We will make 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 focus on transportation. We will sing songs like *Wheels on the Bus* and *Old MacDonald 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. 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 "meet" Bob the Builder, a construction worker, and enjoy 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 paintbrushes.

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 coltsarea-wesome@yahoo.com



Nothing says Spring like baby chicks!



PONIES

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

We have a "theme board" located on the closet door in the classroom that displays the topics your child is currently learning about. We encourage you to pick up a copy of our lesson plan each week, our monthly class newsletter, and to talk about the weekly lessons with your Pony while at home. Please let one of the Pony Room teachers know if you would like a copy of the lyrics to our daily songs and theme songs that we sing in class.

We are very excited about the upcoming season. The following is a preview of what to expect in the next few months...

In **May**, the Ponies will turn 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 learn to identify the animals in Spanish as well. During this month, we'll encourage you to bring your child's favorite animal from home to help us learn each animal's name.

We'll continue the study of the animal kingdom by exploring the jungle and the forest and 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? We'll also focus on pets and encourage using "soft hands" with our furry friends. We will even try to walk on four legs, just like our favorite animals!

Mother's day is Sunday, May 13th. In honor of Mother's Day we will read *Are You My Mother?*, *Piglet and Mama*, and *My Mama is a Llama*, and we'll discuss all of the wonderful ways our mothers love us.

Reminder: We are closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day.

In **June**, our adorable Ponies will learn about Transportation, Tools, and Dinosaurs. Your Pony will learn how to say *bus-autobus*, *car-carro*, and *airplane-avion* in English and Spanish. We will sing, "*Wheels on the Bus*" and look for buses at Negley while we play on the toddler playground. We will also practice symbolic play by using different types of objects as cars, trains, and airplanes. We will combine the transportation and tool themes during dramatic play so that kiddos can practice using tools to fix their toys and riding cars. We'll continue to work with our shapes: the circle, the square, the triangle, and the rectangle and use these shapes to build cars and trains. For example we will make circles into tires, triangles for airplane wings, and rectangles for a bus or car body. The final week in June will be spent learning about dinosaurs! The kiddos already love roaring like dinosaurs and enjoy playing with our large toy dinos while we read *How Does a Dinosaur Say I Love You*.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17th and we plan to discuss all of the great things our dad's do for us and how much they

love us. We know our little Ponies will love it!

During **July**, we will learn about Ocean Life, Summer Fun, and American History. The Ponies will dive into learning all about ocean life and discuss all kinds of fun summer activities. We plan to transform our room into an ocean and the children will learn words that pertain to ocean life in both English and Spanish, like *fish-peiz*, *sand-arena*, *water-agua*, and *hot-calor*. We'll also talk about family vacations and discover why some families travel to the beach while other folks travel to visit friends and family in far off places. We will play in the sand box, build sand castles, and practice saying our colors in Spanish, *red-rojo*, *white – blanco*, and *blue-azul* as we create an American flag. For the 4th of July, we'll celebrate our country's independence with a picnic on the toddler playground and learn about American history as well.

Please remember that we will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th.

My how the Ponies 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 encourage the children to be active and healthy, use all of their senses, and to discover new things daily. As always, please feel free to give us a call during our nap hours (1:00 - 2:00) if you have any concerns or questions. We are looking forward to helping your Pony learn in the summer months! If you would like, please bring a disposable camera so we can take pictures of your child during the summer. Have a great summer and remember to keep cool!

Thank you,

Pony Room Teachers

CHARGERS I

The themes for May are *Zoo Animals*, *Jungle Animals*, *Safari*, *Forest* and *Pond Animals*. We will focus on different types of animals and their habitats, reading *"Doing the animal bop,"* which talks about animal sound; also we will do animal foot prints with play-doh. For the month of May we will have a special project that will be dedicated to all of our wonderful mothers! The shapes we will be focusing on will be *Hexagon* and *Oval*. Our colors for this month will be *Orange* and *Black*.

Themes for June will be *Transportation*, *Tools*, and *Dinosaurs*. We will focus on different types of transportation such as *Cars*, *Trucks*, *Planes*, *Bikes*, etc. We will learn about different kinds of tools, and what they are used for. We will also learn about dinosaurs and the prehistoric era. We will have special projects for this month, such as making fossils with leaves and dinosaur tracks. Chargers 1 will be asking each child to bring a special item for Show-and-Share: a car, a tool, and/or a dinosaur. Please keep in mind that this "special item" has to be small enough to keep in your child's cubby so the other children don't try and take it. The shapes we will be learning are *Octagon*, and *Diamond*. The colors for this month will be *Grey* and *White*.

The themes for July will be *Ocean Life*, *Summer Fun*, and *American History*.

We will be focusing on different types of *Ocean Animals*, *Summer Activities*, and learn about how *Independence Day* came to be. For the 4th of July we will have special projects planned. We will be doing "sparklers," which will be made with shiny streamer and a straw. We will be making fun 4th of July flags and lots more projects. Chargers 1 will be welcoming summer by having lots of exciting activities outside. For our outside time we will have water tables, we will play in the sand box, and we will have lots of fun chasing bubbles! This month we will review all letters of the *Alphabet*, *Shapes* and *Colors*.

As most of you know, Texas can get very hot during summer. We ask that you apply sunscreen on your child before he/she gets dropped off in the morning. We will reapply sunscreen again before we head outside in the afternoon. Please provide your child with sunscreen (and permission slip), and we do prefer tear-free sunscreen because the children do have the tendency to rub their eyes. Water bottles should be taken home and refilled daily with fresh water. We want to stay safe and hydrated when temperatures start to rise!

In Chargers 1, we continue helping the children to go potty and keep them on a frequent potty schedule. We encourage the children to sit and try to go potty even if they do not

need to go. This process allows them to start potty training and get comfortable with the routine of having to sit and go; it is a parent's choice if they want to bring in pull-ups for their child. We prefer the style that can have re-attachable strips of Velcro. We do change the children standing up by the potty, so it's easier to take off and put back on without undressing the child completely. Please keep in mind that potty training takes time and will not happen overnight. We do not expect a child to be fully potty trained before they are transitioned to Chargers 2 but some might be. During the potty training process we do teach the children to know the difference between wet and "dirty", so they can communicate it to us. Potty training does take time and lots of extra changes of clothes, so be sure to change out our extra outfits in the cubbies for more summer attire. Please **LABEL** everything.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are always here to talk with you. We want to maintain a good relationship with the parents and communication is very important. We want to be on the same page when it comes to your child. We want everyone to have a safe and fun summer!

Thank you so much,

Ms. Laurie, Ms. Erika, Ms. Brittany.



- Recycle
- Reduce
- Reuse

Save our trees!

CHARGERS II

For the month of May, we will go on a *Safari* and explore the *Jungle, Forest* and *Zoo*. We will discuss different environments and wildlife habitats. We will learn about different animals and where they live. We will chart our favorite animals and sort several species according to their environment. The books we will read are, "Going to the Zoo", "We're Going on a Lion Hunt", and "Bear Snores On". Chargers 2 will get to act out and pretend to be different animals when we listen to the "Animal Bop"! After we come back from our safari, we will get to have our *End of Year Celebration* and look back at *How We've Grown*. The class will get to celebrate by having a bubble blowing contest and a pizza party with their friends! I will also ask parents to bring a photo of their child when they were an infant and a current photo to display on our bulletin board in the hallway.

We will chug along to June and discuss different forms of *Transportation*. Chargers 2 will have the opportunity to see and learn about airplanes, trains, subways, cars and buses! During recess we will keep a lookout for all kinds of transportation and see them in motion. We will do a paper airplane activity to see whose plane can fly the furthest, and we will also get to make a balloon racer with small toy cars. The Chargers 2 will then get to become little handy men and women and work with different types of *Tools*. We will be identifying several household tools and their purposes. Hands will be kept busy ham-

mering and twisting away with real tools and wood material. Our class will take a step back into prehistoric time and stomp along with *Dinosaurs*. Imaginations will be provoked with questions such as, What happened to the dinosaurs?. What do dinosaurs eat? Where did the dinosaurs live? We will go on an excavation trip to look for bones in the sand box outside! The class will all participate and make a volcano and watch it erupt.

Summer time will be smooth sailing when we learn about *Ocean Life*. The Chargers 2 will dive into the depths of the sea and explore different sea creatures and life under the ocean. Our class will become mini marine biologist and scuba divers when we learn how ocean animals are able to breathe underwater and what diets different species have. As well as identifying ocean animals we will be discussing the beach and sand, which brings us swimming to our next topic,

Summer Fun! What fun activities are tied with summer? Camping, swimming, BBQ'S and family vacation trips! The Chargers will kick off their shoes and enjoy some fun in the sun with their classmates. We will have a picnic outside, make a pretend tent to play in, make our own lemonade and chomp on some juicy watermelon. Summer is going to be hot but the Chargers 2 will stay cool with plenty of fun activities and projects. After all the summer fun activities, we will march into some *American History* and learn about our first president,

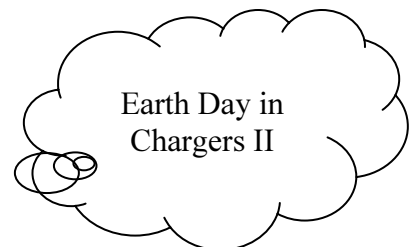
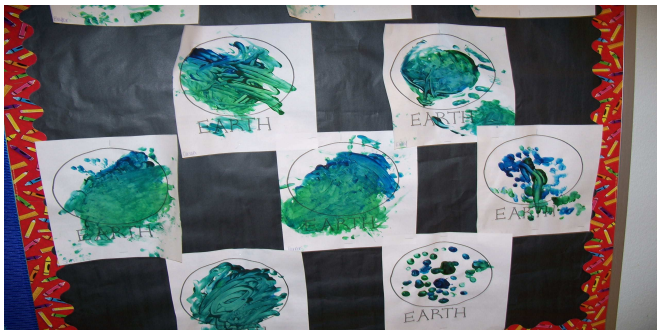
identify the Statue of Liberty, American Flag, and celebrate Independence Day! Chargers 2 will have fun with red white and blue. Our classroom will soar like an eagle above the rest and march to the beat of our own drums! We look forward to all these exciting activities and fun filled summer!

Summer's heat is sneaking around the corner so don't forget to bring a water bottle filled with fresh water for your child every day. Make sure that your child has a change of weather appropriate clothes in his/her cubby. Please read your child's daily sheets; we do mark on them if we need any supplies or attach important information for parents to read. Friday we do send home blankets and sheets to get laundered. Please make sure you are signing your child in and out every day!

I would like to say that all of our potty trainees are doing fantastic! It really helps when parents keep a consistent potty schedule at home as well. Chargers 2 are so eager to go potty like big kids that they are trying their best and setting the example for those kids who aren't quite ready to sit on the potty just yet. We are so proud of their successes and we will continue to work on this huge developmental milestone.

Sincerely,

Chargers 2 Teachers



PINTO

Pinto Press

Over the last couple of months in the Pinto room we have been very busy! Our main focus other than academics has been how to work our problems out with words. The room has more children, so everyone needs to work together more often to accomplish his/her goals. This has given the teachers a good opportunity to help teach basic problem solving, social manners and cooperation with peers and adults. All the children in the Pinto class are getting very good at using his/her words and asking for help. They have also started to help each other out as well!

Themes and Activities

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 Patches. This will allow the children to practice taking care of someone other than just themselves, finding out the similarities in the basic needs of animals and people. The children will get an opportunity to tell us about their pets. It is always fun to share things with your friends at school. 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. We will find out what the animals eat, who takes care of them and where they come from. The last two weeks in May we will concentrate on our growing bodies. We will make self-portraits, fact sheets about likes, and get to know each other better. We will 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! During the month of June we will learn about different forms of transportation. One week we will concen-

trate on air transportation, one week on land transportation and the last week will be on water transportation. 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 the month of July the Pintos 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.

Social 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 her/his 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 adults 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.

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 in a more concrete way.

Reminders

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 personal water bottle. We will take these bottles to the playground each day. If you would like for the teachers to apply sunscreen to your child please bring in a bottle of sunscreen. We will be applying sunscreen after nap before we go play outside in the afternoon. Also please label all personal items and clothes. A quick reminder about shoes, Rocking Horse Academy rules state that the children should not come to school in open-toed shoes such as sandals and flip flops.

Thank you,

Amber McCathern

WRANGLER

Parents, thanks so much for helping to make our pizza party a great success. Our week of the young child celebration was truly a lot of fun.

The month of May will also be filled with celebrations and fun. During the first week we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. We have lots of colorful art projects planned in keeping with Hispanic heritage, such as tissue paper flowers.

The second week will be Teacher Appreciation and Mother's Day. Teachers are special because parents allow us to partner with them in the growth and developmental process of their precious ones. Mothers are special in so many ways; our lesson on May 11 will be spent charting just how wonderful they are.

The following two weeks of May we will learn about various animals such as zoo, jungle and safari. We will have open discussions about the care of these animals to include their sleep habits and diets. Also we will talk about their differences, such as zoo animals are cared for by people, while jungle and safari animals care for each other. We will end this lesson with a joint animal collage.

The final week of May will be opposites and rhyming words. We will play games like Simon says do the opposite and Rhyme the Rhyme. It's sure to be lots of fun. Also during this week some of our friends will be transitioning to pre-k, the others will join them in August.

We have truly enjoyed teaching and learning from our Wranglers. We are confident that each of them will be good example-setters for their pre-K teachers. Also we would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your encouraging words, your open communication and your sup-

port of our classroom projects, special events and our fundraisers. Wrangler Parents Rock!

During the month of June we will learn about different forms of transportation. Along with this lesson we will take a survey to see what form of transportation is used by each of our parents. We will also chart their distance from home to school, and from school to work. This will be a really fun math experiment.

Next we will have a week of patterns. The children will learn that patterns can be formed from almost anything. Our focus will be on numbers, colors and shape patterns. We will also look at patterns in our songs and finger plays.

The final two weeks of June will be an all time favorite: Dinosaurs. The children will do a fun worksheet called Dinosaur Skeleton Match. I will cut out parts of the dinosaur skeleton, and they will have to put it back together again. We will also be using dinosaur stencils and stamps, and I will be sending home a fun maze. For one of our language activities, we will use a dinosaur pronunciation guide to help us pronounce some of the long names that dinosaurs have. We will also learn about the dinosaurs' diet and the difference between herbivore and carnivore eaters. During this lesson topic the children will be able to bring in dinosaur stuffed animals every day, in addition to their show and share.

Finally in the month of July we will learn about the "Commotion in the Ocean". We will create an ocean scene of some of the different animals that live together in the water. We will also discuss the fact that the ocean water is salty; therefore, most people and land animals cannot drink

ocean water. But we can enjoy yummy foods from the ocean like fish and lobster. We will conclude this lesson with a food-tasting project; the foods of choice will be seaweed and sardines, yum yum. Next, we will learn about solid shapes such as cylinders, cubes and spheres. This is a really fun lesson that will enhance the children's reading and math skills. During this lesson we will be requesting coffee cans from home and other solid shaped items. The month of July will conclude with "Summer Fun". On various days we will be taking the inside outside. One activity will be squirt bottle painting. The children will stand on the paper squirting paint. I will give you notice before we do this project so that they can wear appropriate footwear. Also we will have a wet day where the children use squirt bottles to cool each other off. Again I will give notice beforehand.

Parents, I always want to give each of you an opportunity to add to our lesson topics if there is anything that you would like your child to learn. Just let Mrs. Diana, Ms Valerie or me know.

Reminders:

1. Please remember to sign your child in & out with an initial.
2. Please provide a fresh water bottle daily.
3. Please check your child's change of clothes; the weather is getting warmer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let your Wranglers teachers know.

Mrs. Tammy, Mrs. Diane, Ms. Valerie

MUSTANGS

Spring is finally here, and it's count-down time to summer! I love this time of year in Texas; the vibrant colors of all the wildflowers, the cuddly critters, and nature filled activities!

May is the month of many celebrations. We will start off the month celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Some activities will include: making paper mache pinatas, learning the history of Mexico and even sampling the cultural cuisine. For Cinco de Mayo, we will read "Too Many Tamales" by Gary Soto and "¡Fiesta!" by Ginger Fogle-song Guy. Your child will truly get the "flavor" of Mexican traditions with these activities.

Let's not forget Mother's Day! Moms do so much for us so, of course, we are planning a special surprise for mothers, but it's a secret!

Next, grab your binoculars, because its time to learn about different kinds animals and their habitats. We will start our animal journey with Jungle animals and read "Rumble in the Jungle" by Giles Andreae. While we learn about the types of animals that live in the jungle, we will also explore the environment and its layers. After looking at Jungle animals, we will also learn about Forest and Safari animals.

We will then make a comparison chart of the many animals, their habitat and diet.

Near the end of May, we will kick off our summer schedule. This is transition time, which means some students will be moving up to Broncos or Trotters and some Pintos will move into the Mustang class. During this time we will look at ourselves and how much we have grown in the Mustang room together.

In June, we will read many fun books. The themes will be Transportation, Tools, and Dinosaurs. During our discussion of transportation, we will look at everything that moves from the land to the sea and up in the air. Next, we are going to have fun with tools, just like Handy Manny! We will discover different ways to use tools with "Monkey with a Tool Belt" by Chris Monroe. The last few weeks of June are going to be Dino-mite! We will unearth exciting facts about many different dinosaur species. Then, discuss what such dinosaurs ate and how they moved. Using our imagination we will pretend to have the job of a paleontologist and learn various tools a paleontologist uses when attempting to find fossils. We will then dig using a toothpick (for a axe) for

"fossils" at our dig site: a chocolate chip cookie. "How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?" and other dinosaur stories by Jane Yolen will entertain us.

July will be filled with exciting and fun summer themes. When I think about summer fun, I think about the ocean and the beach which makes it a great time to talk about Ocean Life. There are many interesting types of living things in the ocean so we will spend a few weeks exploring them. During this time we will read "Commotion in the Ocean" by Giles Andreae and "The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor" by Joanna Cole. July is also a great time to talk about American History (4th of July). We will discover the origin of our flag and the Statue of Liberty. When we talk about former United States presidents, we will look at Mt. Rushmore as well. For this theme we will read "The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History" to help boost our understanding.

Thank you for sharing your children with us this year; we love being a part of their journey to pre-K and kindergarten!

Mustang Teachers



Future Picasso's

Mustang's are excited to do their part and keep our Earth green!

TROTTERS

Hear ye, Hear ye.....It is with great pride we announce the graduation of the Trotter class. May 25th 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!

May brings more 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 is a field trip to the San Antonio Zoo the week after graduation. In order for this to be successful, we will need as many parent volunteers as possible. More information will become available as the field trip gets closer.

June welcomes summer and a new Trotter class. As we familiarize our-

selves 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, 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 Tuesday, July 3rd with a picnic. (We will be closed for the holiday on Wednesday, July 4th.) 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 children's water bottles. Our children must stay hydrated throughout the day. Please 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 1:30–2:30 p.m..



BRNCOS

Wow, I cannot believe how quickly the year has passed. The children have grown so much since they first came to us last June. Watching them grow and change has been such a wonder and pleasure. 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. In class we will also be preparing for our graduation ceremony which will be held on Friday, May 25th at 11:00 am with a reception to follow. This is such a wonderful and emotional time. To end the month of May and as a farewell to our Broncos we will be taking a field trip to the San Antonio Zoo on Wednesday, May 30th. Don't forget to turn in your Permission slip. We are so excited about this opportunity to take the kids off campus and give them a little taste of what RHA Summer Camp has to offer.

As of June 4th the Bronco class of 2012 will move on to the summer camp program. If you are not enrolled in Summer Camp, enjoy your summer before Kindergarten begins. If you have not already done so, be sure to go to your child's Kindergarten campus and register him/her for the upcoming school year. You will need Immunization Records, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, a current utility bill showing proof of residency and your Photo ID. 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 as well. Contact Rebecca if you have any questions.

On June 4th we will welcome our new Bronco class of 2013. It's the start of a new year 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. A couple of activities for the summer include a picnic and a day at the beach. Of course, we do not actually go to the beach, but rather create our own outdoor fun.

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 2012.

We would also like to welcome our Bronco class of 2013, 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. Kate and Mrs. Pat

***Bronco's Promise's to
keep our Earth green***



CORRAL KIDS

CK Summer Camp 2012

Summer camp is right around the corner and we look forward to spending it with you. Our summer camp students will enjoy weekly swim trips, field trips, special guest performers and that's just the beginning of the fun we have in store. Take a look at our weekly themes for a sample of what is to come.

June 4th-8th

Top chef

Please pack your "spatulas" and come to RHA to experience the wonderful world of food! Campers will create menus and cook meals, while learning kitchen skills, nutrition, and etiquette. Remember, here it is okay to play with your food. Campers will gain hands on experience working with food and gain knowledge from real chefs as we watch demonstrations.

June 11th-15th

Quiz Kids

The price is right for a week of fun and games as we take a trivial pursuit through the wonderful world of TV game shows. We double dare you to beat the clock as we take a ride on the wheel of fortune all the way to the million dollar pyramid. Whether you win, lose or draw be sure not to press your luck. You bet your life it's going to be a great time.

June 18th-22nd &

June 25th- 29th

Wide World of Sports

Experience the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. Show your team spirit and inner athlete while competing in sports familiar and new. Shoot some hoops, score a goal, or twirl a baton at the RHA stadium. Our older campers will have a great time watching the Silver Stars take on an opposing team at a basketball game in San Antonio. Younger Campers will have a

great time playing with friends when we take a trip to play Putt-Putt in Austin.

July 2nd-6th

Holiday Reruns

Tic-Tac-Snow. Halloween treats.

Thanksgiving in July? That's right!

Let's take a break from the heat and enjoy a few holiday activities. Along with the Fourth of July we will have some fun reliving our favorite celebrations.

July 9th-13th &

July 16th-20th

Artful Antics

Van Gogh oregas will inspire our budding artist. We will make jewelry, paint pictures, create pottery, and learn about different types of art. The end of camp will feature an art fair. Come and enjoy our masterpieces. During the first week we will travel to Wimberley Glass Art to watch real life artists make a piece from start to finish. Our campers will then have the opportunity to look around the gallery.

July 23rd- 27th &

July 30th- Aug 3rd

Spy Kids

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, will be to learn all about fingerprinting, code breaking, gathering clues, and solving mysteries. As a newly trained agent, you will put your skills to the test as you complete secret missions. One week we will have a visitor from Homeland Security coming to teach us about real life methods and skills that are used in fighting "bad guys." During the second week campers will have the opportunity to show off their rock wall climbing skills.

Aug. 6th- 10th

Construction Zone

Caution! Work Zone. Put on your hard

hats and tool belts. Join Corral Kid builders as we learn all about architecture, blue prints, and woodworking. The sky(scraper) is the limit when it comes to what we will build! Employees from Home Depot will be coming to help our campers learn about construction. Everyone will have the opportunity to build his/her very own pencil box for school or a fun race car.

Aug 13th-17th &

Aug 20th-24th

Penny Carnival

Come one, come all to our penny carnival! Step right up for a chance to win a prize. Hoop toss, golf splash, and ping pong bounce are just some of the many games of skill that we have in store. Prizes abound and fun is guaranteed. During the carnival we will have a balloon artist who will be sure to bring a smile to your child's face and create a fun balloon animal for them to take home.

For currently enrolled Corral Kid, Trotter or Bronco students there is no registration fee for summer camp. Spots are filling up fast so be sure to get in on the fun. Registration information is available at the front desk. Please feel free to contact me, Laura-Sue Karl summer camp supervisor, if you have any questions. Thanks!
corralkidsrha@yahoo.com.
512-405-3700

Things to Remember...

Lunches

Snacks will be provided to each student every morning and afternoon. Rocking Horse Academy lunches are \$2.00 a day or you may bring your own lunch. We will provide the milk and juice for every meal, so do not pack any beverages with a lunch from home. Please let the counselors know

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each day if your child will be eating food from home or from RHA. Sometimes students will tell us he/she wants to eat the school's lunch even though you've packed something from home. Be sure your counselor knows what you want us to do in that situation. Your account will be billed for each lunch your child eats here.

T-Shirts

This summer we are going to go on many fun field trips and swimming every week. Please keep an eye out for posted signs that will give you information about the field trip and about permission slips. Your child will need to have a Corral Kid T-shirt. We wear these shirts on all field trips to ensure that everyone sticks with the group. If your child does not have his/her shirt on the day of the field/swimming trip, he/she will not be allowed to go with the group. Please inquire at the front desk if you are in need of a shirt.

Shoes

Please make sure that your child wears comfortable close-toed shoes to RHA. No sandals, crocs, or flip flops, please. We want all children to be able to play safely while in our care.

Swimming

This summer we will go swimming every week. One group will go on Thursday and the other on Friday from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Before we leave RHA to go swimming we will review the swimming pool rules. Please help us by going over the rules with your children before they come to RHA.

No running, fast walking, horseplay, or rough play in the pool complex. No pushing, throwing, dunking, splashing, riding on shoulders, chicken fighting or any games or actions that may endanger swimmers or sunbathers. The slides may be used only if the user meets the height and weight requirements as well as passes the swim test administered by the lifeguard. While on the slide children,

must lie flat on their back, feet first, and arms crossed over their chest.

All swimmers must shower before entering the pool.

Swimmers are not to hang or pull on lifelines, ropes, nets or rims.

No flips, somersaults, twists or belly flops allowed.

No toys from home or otherwise.

A 10 minute safety break will occur each hour. At 10 minutes before the hour, each hour, all swimmers must get out of the pool.

Swimmers will be given 3 warnings for any offense. First offense- rules explained and a warning issued. Second offense- Rules explained and a 1 hour time-out enforced. Third offense- the person must leave the pool for the day. Please help us to make the swimming experience fun and safe for everyone.

Water Bottles

Water consumption is essential during the hot summer months. Please make sure your child bring a full water bottle (labeled) every day. We will refill their water bottles as needed throughout the day. Please label your child's water bottle.

Sunscreen

Please make sure that sunscreen is a part of your child's morning routine before coming to RHA. Our staff will re-apply our sunscreen to each child before outside activities, field trips, and swimming. If you would prefer that your child use a particular brand of sunscreen we will be happy to apply only that brand to your child. Please provide RHA with the type of sunscreen you would like used on your child and let a summer camp counselor know your preferences.

Toys From Home

Children are not allowed to bring toys or games from home while at RHA. Items from home have a tendency to get lost, broken, or misplaced. We have many activities and games to fill the time spent at RHA. Videogames, iPods, DS, and other electronics are not allowed. Please make sure that all of these items stay at home.

Rest Time and Fun Friday

Every day the children will have rest time after lunch. This is not nap time. Children will watch educational videos and/or listen to books being read aloud that have to do with our weekly themes. We turn the lights down low and allow the campers to spread out on the gym floor. However, we do not provide cots because this is not nap time. Rest time is provided in order to allow the campers a little down time to relax after lunch and reenergize for the afternoon activities. Every Friday we will have Fun Friday. Students will watch movies that go along with the weekly theme. The groups will split up. Older students will watch an age-appropriate movie in the back classroom while younger students watch a movie in the gym. All movies are rated G or PG. We will post the movie titles every Monday. These posts can be found on the doors and Corral Kid's bulletin board. If you prefer that your child not view the movie being shown that Friday, please let a counselor know and we will be sure to provide them with another activity during that time.

I once was lost but now am found.....

Please remember to label everything that your child brings with him/her to RHA this summer. Our Lost and Found table is located at the front of the gym. If anything is missing please be sure to stop by the table and see if it found its way there. Many of the children have the same items, but if yours is labeled you will not have a problem identifying it among the other items.

Days to Note

-Monday May 28th, H.C.I.S.D. and RHA are closed for Memorial Day.

-Thursday May 31st, Last day of Hays C.I.S.D. School.

-Monday June 4th, First day of Summer Camp!

- Wednesday July 4th, Rocking Horse Academy Closed.

- Monday August 27th, First day of Hays C.I.S.D.