



ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

February 2013

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



What's Going On At RHA

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It's Scholastic Book Fair time! From February 25th until March 1st Rocking Horse Academy will be hosting our annual Book Fair. All profits made from the sale of books during this time are not taken in money, but actual books for the classrooms and library. Help support your classrooms and teachers while adding fabulous books to your home library and quality reading time for your kiddos.

Happy reading!

Tuition Due Dates

February 4th & 18th

March 4th & 18th

April 1st & 15th, 29th

Dates To Remember

February 14th– Valentine's Day

February 18th H.C.I.S.D. Closed

February 25th-March 1st
Scholastic Book Fair

March 10th– Daylight Savings Begins

March 11th -15th– Spring Break

March 17th –St. Patrick's Day

March 20th– First Day of Spring

March 29th-H.C.I.S.D. Closed

April 3rd CPR/First Aid 6:30

April 9th H.C.I.S.D.
Student Holiday

Parent Date Nights

February 16, 2013
March 16 2013
April 20, 2013

6:30 pm til Midnight

Academy Child \$30/\$15 second child
Non Academy Child \$35/\$20 second child
Employee Child \$15/\$5 second child



MIXED BAGS
COMING
MARCH 25th
to
APRIL 8th!



TEDDY BEAR PORTRAITS
by NATIONWIDE STUDIOS, INC.

Will be here on
APRIL 10th, 11th, 12th

Week Of The Young Child

April 15-19



Director's Corner

Are your kids bored and bickering?
Are you having a hard time getting back into the swing of things after the winter holidays and school vacation?
If your routine's out of whack and your family's out of sorts, welcome to the winter blues! Don't despair!
Whether you like it cold or hot, you'll love our winter wonderland of cures for cabin fever. Find indoor and outdoor winter break fun activities to keep your kids happy and busy all winter long.

On the menu:

Family Dinner Night
Make a Home Video
Watching episodes of your family's history provides a wonderful bonding experience, not to mention some great laughs. And kids love to see themselves when they were "little"! If you've been lax about capturing your family's precious moments on film, heed these three words: Lights, camera, action! AND THERE'S AN APP FOR iPhone users, "Video Star," that is user friendly and my kids love it!

Grab a Book and a Blanket

Reading together is one of the best ways a family can relax and shut out the rest of the world. Share your favorite reading rituals with us.

Pick a Game, Any Game

Remember: The family that plays together stays together.

Top 10 board games?

Scrabble	Sorry
Chutes & Ladders	Life
Chinese Checkers	Monopoly
Candy Land	Twister
Clue	Chess

Cool Crafts

Have some fun projects to do together when you're cooped up.

Dim the lights:

Pop the popcorn, unplug the phone, and press 'play'!
Don't let the weather get the best of you. Enjoy this opportunity to spend some quality time with each other.

Over the last few weeks, students from our infant program through our Pre-K were given a series of short assessments designed to check your child's progress. We use these findings along with our observations from the start of the academic school year to help plan

and adjust our curriculum for the remaining portion of the school year to accommodate your child's needs.
At Rocking Horse Academy we always want our parents well-informed; therefore, each year we hold parent-teacher conferences following our assessment, allowing us the opportunity to share this information with you as well as giving you the opportunity to have any questions answered.

Conferences were held Jan. 28th – Feb. 1st from 11 am-2 pm; a sign-up sheet was available at the front desk.
Rocking Horse Academy understands that these times or days may not have been convenient for some families, so we included a telephone conference opportunity during each time slot. (Parents were responsible for calling into the school at your designated time.)

Please feel free to stop by or contact me at anytime should you have any questions or concerns.

We know you have choices in child-care, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your family.

Thank you!
Stay warm,
Rebecca Eichen
Director

Time Off

I urgently needed a few days off work, but I knew the Boss would not allow me to take a leave. I thought that maybe if I acted 'CRAZY' then he would tell me to take a few days off. So I hung upside down on the ceiling and made funny noises. My co-worker asked me what I was doing? I told her that I was pretending to be a light bulb so that the Boss would think I was 'CRAZY' and give me a few days off. A few minutes later the Boss came into the office and asked 'What are you doing ?' I told him I was a light bulb. He said 'You are clearly stressed out. Go home and recuperate for a couple of days'. I jumped down and walked out of the office. When my co-worker followed me, the Boss asked her '...And where do you think you're going?' (You're gonna love this.....) She said, 'I'm going home too, I can't work in the dark.'

FOALS I

February themes are *Health, Dental, Black History, Heroes and Feelings*. Our Spanish words are *February- Febrero, teeth-diente, nose-nariz, hand-mano, mouth-boca, feelings-sentimientos, I love you-te amo*. Fun songs to sing are "*If you're Happy and you Know It*" and "*Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*". Books to read this month are *A Visit to the Doctor* and *You Are My Sunshine*. We will wash our hands to stay healthy. The heart bandana will be out to play peek-a-boo. Our homework is to touch eyes, ears, nose and mouth.

Gardens, Farm, Spring, Insects, Spiders and Plants are the themes for March. Spanish words are *March-*

Marzo, garden-jardin, farm-rancho, plants-plantas, insects-insectos, spring-primavera. For music, we will sing "*Itsy, Bitsy Spider*" and "*Old MacDonald*". We will touch and smell stuffed farm animals for sensory. The books for *March* are *Moo I'm a Cow, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and My First Farm Book*. The skill to practice at home is sitting up.

April themes are *Space, Earth, Birds and Recycle*. Spanish words are *April-Abril, space-espacio, earth-tierra, birds-pajaros, eggs-huevos, recycle-reciclable*. We will play with colored plastic eggs for manipulative and physical development. Our music is "*Five Little Ducks*" and "*Twinkle Twinkle Lit-*

tle Star". Books for the month are *Hatch, Below Us, Under the Earth and Sea and Happy Easter*. The homework is to practice tummy time.

When your baby goes to the doctor for a sick visit, please inform us of the diagnosis and bring a release note when your baby returns to school. Also, please remember to bring a copy of updated immunization records after shots are given

We strive to meet the developmental needs of your baby while caring for their physical needs. Thank you for your confidence in us. Enjoy spring.
Foals I Staff

FOALS II

Our February themes are *Feelings, Hero's, Health and Body, Black History and Our Bodies*. To incorporate these themes in our lessons, we plan on looking in mirror and talking about our feelings, making happy faces, sad faces, questioning faces. The children will learn a new song, "*Put Your Finger in the Air*" to learn about our body parts, our fingers, and to work on a fine motor skills of managing our fingers separately.

Every day we continue to exercise and work on our gross motor skills: pulling up, balancing reaching. To practice fine motor skills, we introduce new toys where the baby can put a certain shape into a hole or close/open a toy door.

Our Spanish words are: **love-amor, I love you-te amo**, like-gustar, I like-me gusta, please-por favor, and thank you-gracias. Our Sign Language words are: Love, Mother, Father. Ask your teachers for help learning these new Spanish and Sign Lan-

guage words.

Books for February are *The Foot Book-Dr. Seuss, The Tooth Book-Theo Lesieg, Ten Apples Up on Top-Theo Lesieg, The Shape of Me and Others-Dr. Seuss*.

With March winds comes Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration. Our themes include *Farm Life and Animals, Spring Plants & Growth, and Insects*. We will introduce a flannel board with farm animals and a barn story book. We will sing *Old MacDonald's had a Farm* and begin teaching the sounds animals make.

Our Spanish words are, *Dad-Papa, Mom-Mama*. Our new signs will be *Dad, Mom, Please and Water*. Our books for March are: *Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?-Dr. Seuss, Mr. Brown Cow Can Moo Can You?-Dr. Seuss, Green Eggs and Ham- Dr. Seuss*.

April showers bring May flowers. We like to begin our daily stroller rides in early spring to look at the trees budding new leaves and watch the birds flying

overhead. This month we focus on *Birds and Eggs, Space, Environment, Recycling and Week of the Young Child*. We will practice our gross motor skills by pushing and pulling string toys. In our Learning Skills center we explore *cause & effect*. Our *Watch the Bird* game will help our babies acquire some balancing skills, depth perception, social interaction and trust.

Our Spanish words are *more-mas, thank you-gracias*. Our new signs will be *walk, shoes, ball*. Books for April are; *The Earth and I-Frank Asch, The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle-Alison Inches, The Ugly Duckling-Hans Christian Andersen, Egg Drop- Mini Grey*.

As always, our children are learning about themselves, their world and their abilities, and we are here to help and encourage them to reach their goals.

You can contact any of us at foals2rha@yahoo.com

COLTS

How time flies when having fun. Hard to believe it is springtime again. We want to welcome our new Colt friends. We are glad to have you a part of our family. The next three months will be exciting ones.

The first month is February. We will learn about *Health and My Body, My Feelings, Heroes and Black history*. The first week we will learn about our bodies and how to take care of them. We will also talk about what foods are good for our body. We will practice how to brush our teeth, so please bring in a toothbrush and toothpaste for your child. We will have fun dancing to the *Hokey Pokey and Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*. To help us learn our body parts, we will make handprints and footprints. We will talk about and name body parts in English and Spanish. The second week, we will learn about our feelings and how people express feelings. We will make a collage of smiles. We will sing *If You're Happy and You Know It* and read *I'm Feeling Sad*. We will work on using our gross motor skills by throwing and catching balls and playing *Ring Around the Rosie*. We will learn how to take our plates and cups

to the sink. The third week, we will talk about our heroes and create a wall of heroes. On February 14th, we will have a Valentine's Party. Please look for the sign-up sheet and the class list.

The month of March. We will discuss the Farm: *Who lives on the farm? How do plants grow?* The first week, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by making cats and the hats out of our footprints. We will also read some of his books that he wrote like, *Cat and the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham*. The second week, students will learn about the farm and the animals that live there. We will paint a horse with string and glue a tail on our horse; we will color spots on a cow. For our science center we will learn how to milk a cow using rubber gloves. We will have great fun with that experience. The third week, we will learn about gardening and how plants grow. We will also measure how much we have grown in the last year. As one of the art projects, we will make a spring tree with our handprints. The last week, we will study bugs. We will make inkblot butterflies, ladybugs out of paper plates, and other fun pro-

jects.

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

Just a few reminders:

- * Please label everything with first and last name.
- * Please bring in clean sheets and blankets every Monday.
- * Please bring in a sippy cup with a name on it.

Thank you for your help and understanding.

Ms. Erica
Ms. Lydia
Ms. Becca
Ms. Theresa



PONIES

We hope that all of our Ponies and their families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! 2012 has started with a bang and we are ready to breeze through to spring. We are very excited about each and every one of you and the fun we will have together. The next three months will be bursting with activities that will enable our Ponies to discover more about themselves and the world around them. As always, we will continue learning our sign language and our Spanish words.

We will begin February by learning about *health and the body*. The Ponies will learn to identify the basic parts of his/her bodies such as *nose (nariz)*, *eyes (ojos)*, *hands (manos)*, *knees (rodillas)*, etc. We will also focus on hygiene; cleanliness is very important to us and we will continue to learn how to wash our hands, clean up after ourselves following meal-times, and how to use tissues or our elbows to cover our coughs and sneezes. The second week of February we will talk about feelings such as *happy (feliz)* and *sad (triste)*. Our students will learn to identify feelings based on facial expressions and we will reinforce appropriate ways to express our feelings. The week of Valentine's Day, we will talk about *love*

(*amor*) and *friendship (amistad)*. The Ponies will host a Valentine's Day party; keep an eye out for our sign-up sheet. The last week of February, we will celebrate the culture and accomplishments of African Americans and end February by discussing heroes such as *firemen, the police, and the military*.

March brings the fun of learning about farm animals! Our students love to make animal sounds while pretending to be *chickens (pollos)*, *cows (vacas)*, *ducks (patos)*, etc. You can do this at home as well. Your child will love to show you what they are learning! Spring is here and we will talk about the beautiful flowers (*flores*), new baby animals, all kinds of bugs, and the weather. Staying active is very important to our growing children and as the weather warms up, we will enjoy some more outside time. While outside we will look at the new leaves on trees, run relay races, and play games such as '*Ring Around the Rosie*'. Our Circle Time books will include *Piglet and Mama*, *Wow, it's a Cow*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and *10 Busy Buzzy Bugs*.

In the month of April your Pony will learn about beautiful and colorful

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

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

Thank you so much for all of your help and we hope you enjoy a wonderful spring!

The Pony Teachers



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

A: A walkie-talkie!

CHARGERS 1

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

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

Our themes for *February* will be *Health and My Body*. We will learn how to keep our bodies healthy with healthful food, and exercise. Why is it important to wash our hands? What

are our bones, and what do they look like? We will also learn about *Our Feelings*. How do you feel? We will learn about our different emotions, and expressing our feelings verbally and non-verbally.

We will focus on the
Colors: Red and Pink
Shapes: Heart and Square
Books we will read: "Kiss Kiss", "Say Please", "Head to Toe"

Our themes for *March* will be *Farm, Spring, Plants, Gardening, and Insects/Spiders*. We will discuss different farm animals and their importance. What's the weather like in spring? How do plants grow? Bugs, where do they live? What do they eat?

We will focus on the
Colors: Green and Yellow
Shapes: Rectangle and Circle
Books we will read: "On the Farm", "Wow, it's a Cow", "You Can Fly Bumblebee", "Beetle Bop"

Our themes for *April* will be *Space, Birds and Eggs, and Our Environment*. We will learn about the sun, the moon, and the stars. What are the planets in our solar system? What animals lay eggs? Why do birds have feathers? We will discuss how to keep our Earth safe. What is recycling?

What can we recycle? Why are trees important to our Earth?

We will focus on the
Colors: Orange and Purple
Shapes: Circle and Triangle
Books we will read: "Chickens Aren't the Only Ones", "That's Not Fair, Hare", "What is the Sun?"

Our **Parent Board** is located outside of our door. It will have our lesson plans, monthly newsletter, lunch menu and any other important information parents should know.

Please don't forget to check your child's cubby for any dirty clothes or make sure that they have an extra change of clothes in case of an accident. Don't forget to pick up art work as well.

Parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss any issues with us. We want to have good communication with our parents! Is there something we need to know? Is there something we need to tell you? Our doors are always open so please come and talk to us if you need to.

Ms. Laurie
Ms. Casey



CHARGERS II

We hope that everyone had a happy holiday season. The Chargers 2 class has many fun and great activities planned for 2012! We are so proud of all of our potty trainees. It seems like everyone is catching on and quickly saying goodbye to pull-ups and diapers. This is a big accomplishment for our classroom, and we are extremely motivated and determined to work your child on this huge developmental milestone. We would also like to thank all of our parents for working with your child at home as well. It definitely helps speed up the process and keeps the potty routine consistent.

For the month of February, we will dive right in and learn about our *Health and Body*. Our class will have the opportunity to learn about healthful and non-healthful foods and have some fun introducing and trying some new vegetables and fruits. *Exercising* as well as eating healthfully helps us stay healthy and happy, so we will also be learning different exercises to keep our hearts pumping. The Chargers 2 teachers will also be teaching and demonstrating the proper hand washing technique to help keep our bodies safe from germs and sickness. February is also *Dental Health and Black History Month*. The Chargers will learn about going to the dentist and how a dentist helps keep our pearly whites healthy. The proper teeth brushing technique will be demonstrated and the class will then have the opportunity to practice brushing

their own teeth as well. Throughout February, we will also be highlighting different *African Americans* from past and present, who have made a difference in our history and culture.

In March, we will bloom into *spring* by learning about *Plants and Gardening*. The Chargers 2 will observe the different parts of a plant with microscopes and learn exactly what a plant needs in order for it to grow. Our class will then get a chance to get their hands dirty by planting their own seeds and watching the cycle of *Growth*. We will introduce *photosynthesis* and discuss why the sun is important to plants. Along with the discussion of photosynthesis, we will also discover how different *Insects and Spiders* help some flowers grow and thrive. The Chargers 2 will then take a trip down to *Old MacDonald's Farm* and identify different types of farm animals and what they contribute to the farm. Our class will discuss different animal jobs, and learn about a farm animal's diet.

In April we will blast off into *Space* and explore our solar system and planets. We will be discussing the moon, stars, constellations and sun as well as the planets in our galaxy. Our little astronauts will have an opportunity to make their own rocket ships and telescopes to explore outer space. We will soar to new heights when we learn about our fine feathered friends the *Birds and their Eggs*. We will identify different types of

flying and non-flying species and learn if they lay eggs or not. There will also be some egg-citing egg-periments involving eggs and gravity! In keeping with our egg theme, our class will keep their hands busy dyeing and stuffing their own cascarones with confetti! We will then wrap our hands around *Earth and our Environment* and learn about *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*. The Chargers 2 will do different activities that use recycled materials and environmentally safe materials. During the *Week of the Young Child*, we will celebrate being young and those who are young at heart! We invite all parents to come have lunch with their child, volunteer to do story time or circle time with our class, or just come to play during recess. We want parents to focus on spending quality time with their child and remembering what it was like to be young again. We will send home an activity that all members of the family can work on together and also a list of activities, games and songs that the entire family can take part in at home.

Don't forget to have an extra change of weather appropriate clothes in your child's cubby (especially if they are potty training) Label all personal items that are brought from home and check daily sheets for any important information or reminders. Thank you for your continued support.

Chargers 2 Teachers



PINTO

The next few months will be packed full of fun and learning. I have been having so much fun with all the children. They learn so quickly that it is sometimes hard to keep up. At the age of three those cooperative little guys start turning into independent and sometimes hardheaded bigger guys. They start to learn that they can control some situations, like toileting and eating, so they practice that power in those areas by refusing to cooperate. This is very natural and important for them to learn the natural consequences of not going potty or refusing to eat. Our job as caregivers is to let them experience those consequences in a safe way.

Themes and Activities

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

What a perfect time of year to learn about how plants grow and what they

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

In April we are going to talk about where our earth is in space and learn about the stars that we see at night. While studying about earth, it is very important to understand the importance of taking care of our earth. We will be picking up trash outside, learning how to recycle, and how to reuse different materials. Around Easter time the children see and even decorate eggs at home, so I will take this opportunity to teach the children about birds and eggs and their life cycle. Natural science is always fun to learn about. Also in April we will celebrate how important the education of our young children is by having a full week of just plain fun!

Social Play

I will concentrate on teaching the children how to enter a group that is already engaged in play. I will do this by giving them some short phrases to use as well as modeling by being a part of their play. Some of those

phrases are: "Which blocks may I use?" "I can be the mommy." Another important social skill to learn is how to invite someone else to play with you. I will use the same strategies for this as well. Some common phrases that I use are: "Do you want to build blocks?" "I need help fixing dinner." "Do you want to play chase?"

ABC'S and 123's

During this time of the year, I have already done an assessment on each of the children. This will give each family a set of strengths and a set of goals to continue working on. Each child develops at his/her own rate, so I will take where each child is and build on those skills. Some of the skills that the children work on are letter recognition, starting to draw familiar shapes like faces, circles and the letters in their name. I will also focus on sorting objects by different aspects (size, shape, color) as well as counting objects.

Up Coming Events

February

Dental Health Month
Valentine's Day

March

Dr. Suess' Birthday
Scholastic Book Fair
Spring Break
St. Patrick's Day

April

Week of the Young Child
Spring Hunt
Earth Day

Pinto's Teachers



Q:What did the hamburger name its baby?

Answer:

Patty

WRANGLER

The Wranglers had a great time in 2012 and a wonderful start to 2013! We had to say goodbye to Ms Valerie because of her school schedule; she will truly be missed. Please continue to make Ms. Amanda feel welcome. We are truly excited that she's a part of our Wrangler family. We have been working on our letters, numbers, counting to 30, and writing our names. Everyone has been doing a fantastic job! Over the next three months, we will continue learning these skills and add some more skills with fun themes. Our Wrangler room is unique because Ms Diana and I strive to stimulate the natural curiosity of each individual child. The goal of our lessons is to get them involved with open-ended questions and actual hands-on experiences. Our environment is neat and organized, which promotes respect and responsibility from the teachers and the children. Our learning centers are clearly defined and inviting. Our shelves are labeled with pictures to enhance pre-reading skills. Also, we take care in making sure each shelf is fully stocked with a variety of activities, which help eliminate negative behavior. As teachers, we also consistently model the behaviors we expect from each child. We teach them to be good example-setters at school and at home.

Okay, what's up for the next three months? February is Dental Health month. We will talk about ways to keep our teeth clean and strong; we will also discuss the importance of regular dental check-ups as well as not eating too much junk food, which is not good for our teeth and our bodies. We will also have a visit from the tooth fairy. During this month, we will celebrate Black History. We will learn about the contributions made to our country by African Americans. I will introduce simple fact sheets and handouts for us to explore. We will play a fun matching game linking in-

ventions to the inventor. Another theme during the month of February is feelings. We want each child to know that his/her feelings are important, and we will talk about ways to better express disappointments and anger. Next, we will get into health and body. We will discuss nutritious meals and snacks. Healthful foods provide energy and help us grow. We want to encourage healthful eating habits and exercise routines. During this lesson, we will review proper hand-washing techniques.

Next, the month of March brings in a new season, spring. Be sure to check-out the front lobby; Wranglers will be displaying some of our art projects. During this month, we will explore different kinds of farm animals. We will learn how to care for them as well as how they provide nutritious foods to help us grow. We will do a fun science project called name that animal; the children will hear the sound from the tape player and be asked to name the animal that matches that sound. March is also the month we talk about spring plants, growth and gardening. Our discussion will include the changes in the weather, the days becoming longer, the nights shorter and the grass turning green. We will plant personal flower pots, and then chart their size, shape and color. The month will close with spiders and insects. We will learn that spiders are not insects and why. We will also create a spaghetti spider web and learn lots of spider songs and finger plays. Our insect portion will be just as exciting. Get ready, parents. We will be asking for live show and share examples, in secure containers, of course. Last year we made ladybug Wranglers. What will the children choose to be this year? We will see.

During the final month of the quarter, which is April, we will learn about space, birds, our earth, our environment and recycling. The children will

learn the value of using earth's resources. During this week we will again ask for parent participation; a recycling bin will be set up in our classroom for you and your child to place items that we can reuse to create art projects and center activities. We will celebrate "The Week of the Young Child" with reading books and learning about ways we are alike and how we are all different. We will also put together special books to take home.

With only a few months before graduation, along with our weekly topics, we will be adding more hand-writing practice, letter and number recognition, and pre-reading activities. I will communicate with the Trotter and Bronco teachers to assure that each child is familiar with what will be expected of them in Pre-K. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk with me or Mrs. Diana.

Parents, as I often offer, please let us know if there are specific areas that you would like for us to explore with the children. The project we did on siblings was introduced by one of our parents; it was a wonderful time of sharing and learning about each other's families. Our parent show and share lesson was also a hit; everyone loved our display board. These were examples of ideas that came from our parents, so again please feel free to enhance our lesson topics.

Please sign your child in and out. Please check your child's cubby and folder every day. Please initial the behavior space in the folders every day. It's the season for weather changes: cold in the morning and warm in the afternoon. It's helpful to have a variety of change of clothes in the cubby to help your child stay comfortable.

Wrangler Teachers

TROTTERS

The Trotters are well on their way to kindergarten readiness!

February is dental health month and the Trotters will have a special visit from the tooth fairy on Friday the 8th. The rest of the month is packed full of Awesome Animals. We will start the month off discovering different kinds of animals, where they live, how they move, and their body coverings. As we take a closer look at their habitat, we will compare it with our own. We then transition into creepy, crawly, insects. We will study the characteristics of insects by catching and observ-

ing bugs from our very own playground.

Toward the beginning of March we should have our very own caterpillars that will transform into butterflies in front of our eyes. Keep on the look out for a sign up sheet for our Valentine's Day Party.

After wrapping up our Awesome Animals unit, the Trotters will transition into Nature All Around Us. Together with the Broncos, the Trotters will begin to prep the garden for our spring planting. We will plant seeds in

the classroom and observe them as they sprout. When they are strong enough, we will work together to plant the vegetables and herbs in our garden.

The later part of March and the month of April will be spent learning about the sky. We will discuss day and night, the sun and moon, stars, clouds and lightening. These discussions will lead us into the topic of weather and the seasons. The Trotters and Broncos will have their annual Spring Egg Hunt and Picnic on Wednesday, March 20th.



Where do library books like to sleep?

- Under their covers!

BRONCOS

I cannot believe how quickly the year is passing. We are more than halfway through our school year and I am amazed at the change and growth I have seen in your children. Individually, the Broncos are working on letter recognition as well as phonological awareness. This is accomplished mostly through small group work. I encourage parents to play games at home with initial sounds of words and rhymes. As a class we are working on being a team and treating each other with respect. The Broncos are a very independent group of youngsters and love doing things for themselves. I admire this characteristic but at the same time we are trying to teach them that it is okay to allow someone to help you. We try to model with the children respectful ways to let someone know when we do not like what they are doing.

We have an exciting 3 months approaching. We begin February by studying Dental Health. The Tooth Fairy will even be visiting our class on February 8th. We will also be posting a sign-up sheet for those who would like to bring snacks for our Valentine Party

on February 14th. After Dental Health we will begin our Unit on Awesome Animals. The unit begins with learning animal names, how they move and their types of body coverings. Week two we will learn about and create animal homes, including what they are made of and what the animals do in their homes. As we enter week three we get to explore our curiosity of creepy crawly insects. We will catch insects from our playground and observe how they move and eat. We will also be observing caterpillars grow into butterflies. This is an exciting event for our youngsters. During the first week of March we will finish our unit on Awesome Animals with studying how animals grow and change. As part of this we will learn baby animal names.

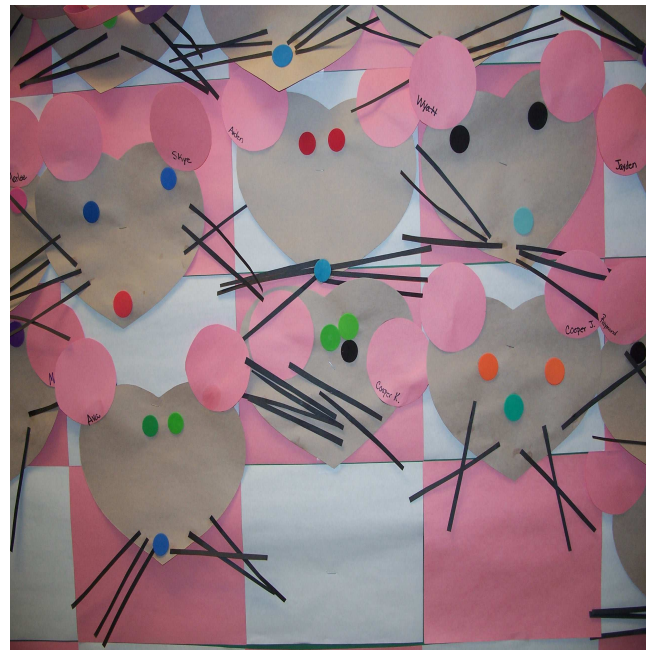
Our unit on Nature All Around Us begins the second week of March. We begin the unit studying how plants grow. At this time we will plant our learning garden out by the playground. The children love taking part in preparing, planting and caring for the garden as well as watching as the plants grow and begin to produce blooms and eventually vegetables.

After learning about plants and how they grow we will observe the sky and how it changes from day to night and with the weather. This leads right into Week three where we explore weather. Finally, to end this unit we will learn about the four seasons and the changes we see as the year progresses and the seasons change.

For the next few months my academic goals for the Bronco classroom are to improve reading readiness in each child, build vocabulary, add and subtract single digits introduce coins and their monetary values and for those who are ready begin reading basic sentences. My social goals are to improve peer to peer interactions. Especially, working together and including every child.

Parents, I would like to thank you all for your support as we work to give your children the best possible preparation for kindergarten next year. I have truly enjoyed working with your children and look forward to spending more time with them as they grow.

Thank you,
Mrs. Casey



CORRAL KIDS

Corral Kids Update:

We hope everyone had a great holiday vacation and has settled into the New Year. Over this spring semester we will be incorporating more science into the program. Some science activities will be teacher directed, and some will be directed by the students. We will be experimenting with sinking and floating, explosions of sorts, things like sodium polyacrylate, and even dancing popcorn. Along with science, we will continue our creative arts and crafts projects like building a structure out of toothpicks, cheese puffs, tootsie rolls, and gummy bears. We have also separated the gym a little more during homework time for this new semester. We believe that this will help all of the children to use this time wisely.

Holidays and School Breaks

Hays CISD will be closed February 18th for Presidents' Day, March 11th-15th for Spring Break, and March 29th for Good Friday. During this time, Corral Kids will be offering full day care from 6:30am to 6:30pm. Sign-up sheets will be available as we get closer to each date.

We would love to hear from you!

Please feel free to email me at anytime corralkidsrha@yahoo.com. This is a wonderful way for you to let us know about your child's expected attendance, questions about the programs and services that we provide, or any other questions that you may have. Please feel free to drop us a note any time, and we will get back to you A.S.A.P.

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

As we all know, it is more than easy for our elementary age children to, shall we say, misplace a few items now and again: hence our Corral Kids' excellently stocked and overloaded Lost and Found table. Please take a moment and take a look; you may just find something you thought

you would never see again.

Good Communication Helps Children Succeed In School

(www.Parenting.org)

Children spend one-half of their waking hours in school or school-related activities. Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school than children whose parents are uninvolved. One of the best things you can do to become more active in your child's academic life is to communicate with your child's school. You can do that very easily by:

- Talking to teachers and staff when things are going well for your child. Offer compliments to teachers during conversations or through notes and phone calls.
- Addressing problems as they arise. Share your concerns immediately, while the issue is still small and manageable. Ask how things are going, and find out what you can do to improve the situation.
- Arming yourself with questions you want answered. Be prepared, especially if you will be attending a school activity that includes your child's teachers.
- Volunteering your time. Join the local PTA, or find other ways to be part of your child's world.

Pressure-Proofing Your Kids

(www.Parenting.org)

Your young child experiences social pressure every time he or she is with people! Social pressure can be exerted or manifested in a number of ways, including:

- Verbal pressure from adults who criticize or challenge.
- Physical pressure from bullies or siblings.

- Expectation pressure from teachers or parents.
- Social-judgment pressure from peer groups or adults.

Self-pressure.

Your child may be more susceptible to negative social pressure if he or she is consumed by:

- Personal insecurities.
- Fears of peer-group rejection.
- Personal status.
- The need for excitement.
- The need to be noticed.
- Personal independence.
- The need for an identity.
- The need for approval.

Success at any cost.

You can help insulate your child from the negative effects of social pressure by following these five steps:

1. Identify risk factors. Keep your eyes and ears open and discover the types of social pressures that easily influence your child.
2. Be protective. Find ways to lessen the amount of time your child is left unsupervised around sources of negative social pressure.
3. Be a teacher. Empower your child with the skills to help him or her deal with stressful and pressure-packed situations.
4. Monitor and plan. Make sure your child can have his or her needs (acceptance, excitement, etc.) met, including maximizing time spent with positive social influences.

Communicate. Talk with your child to keep your relationship strong.

(Parenting.org)

Q: How many books can you put into an empty backpack?

A: One! After that it's not empty.