

# Rocking Horse Review

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



## SUMMER FUN IN KYLE

May 2015

*Movies at the Lake /* Movies in the Park are now at Lake Kyle (700 Lehman Rd), except the "Dive Inn" movie which is at Kyle Pool. Movies begin 30 minutes after sunset and are shown at the amphitheater at Lake Kyle. All movies are rated G or PG, and are free to the public. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and snacks.

### Schedule

May 15 - Big Hero 6  
June 12 - The Boxtrolls  
July 10 - The Never Ending Story  
July 24 - The Pirates - Band of Misfits  
August 14 - ET

This July 4th the City of Kyle plans for a spectacular fireworks show. You can watch the fireworks show launched from Plum Creek Golf Course (PCGC).

*Organized Events:*  
Golf Tournament - Plum Creek Golf Course will host a July 4th golf tournament beginning after lunch.  
*Live Music - Plum Creek Golf Course\**  
From 6:00pm - 9:00pm, the pre-show celebration at the PCGC Clubhouse is free to the public and includes live music and fantastic viewing. Hot dogs and cold drinks will be sold under the large

tent, along with other snacks. No outside food or drink permitted on the golf course property.

Hays CISD PAC has ample parking and a great view of the fireworks.  
Hays CISD's PAC will entertain with free music from around 7p - 9:30p until the fireworks start. No alcohol is permitted on school grounds.  
The Fireworks start when it gets dark enough, around 9:30pm on July 4th. The fireworks show will launch from the golf course.

*Parking & Viewing -*  
Find a spot early enough to see the tall water tower that is next to the Hays CISD PAC on Kohler's Crossing. If you can see the water tower, you will have a great view of the fireworks.

Parking on paved parking lots around the intersection of Kohler's and Kyle Parkway are the safest locations. The spectacular display lasts approximately 15-20 minutes.

Have a fun July 4th and drive safe.

## What's Cooking

The season is changing and the menu is too! As we move into the warmer months expect some changes to our menu. Some of our winter soups will be replaced with cooler salads and wraps. I am excited for the summer months because it means more variety of fresh fruits! I look forward to seeing all those smiling faces in the

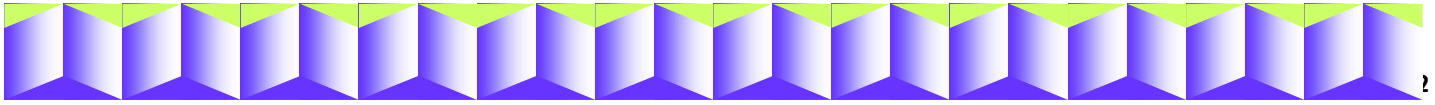
lunch room every day!! Here is a current favorite casserole:  
**Pizza Casserole**  
Italian sausage  
Small egg noodles  
Marinara sauce  
Mozzarella cheese  
Pepperoni slices  
Parmesan cheese  
Preheat oven to 350\* Remove sausage from casing and cook until brown. Boil water and

cook noodles until soft to taste. Drain noodles and sausage. Add sausage to noodles, add sauce to both, add half the mozzarella and mix. Put into 9x13 pan. Top with the rest of the mozzarella and add pepperoni slices. Sprinkle parmesan over the pepperoni slices and bake 30 minutes or until hot and cheese is melted. Enjoy!

For more summer events/schedules please visit -  
<http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation>

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# FOALS I

Spring is in the air and summer is coming so fast. Our babies are growing up right before our eyes. Besides diapering and feeding every day, we like to be sure we are stimulating these new babies with sounds, language and motor skills. We work into our day fun activities that include reading books, singing songs, and playing finger games. We offer up various toys that help stimulate the vision and gross motor skills.

The school wide themes for **May** are *Animals, Look How We've Grown, and End of Year Celebration*.

For our story time we will read "Who Is My Mommy," "Just Like My Mommy," and "Baby Animals at the Zoo." Our feature Spanish words are Mayo-Mayo, forest-bosque, jungle-selva, zoo-zoologeo, animals- animals. Music is a big part of infant development. We will sing "Down by the Bay" and "Daddy's Taking Us to the Zoo Tomorrow." Sounds not only help our babies learn our language, but they help them relate to their new world. For sensory we will listen to and make animal sounds-especially when we read our book about going to the zoo.

The themes for **June** are *Transportation, Tools, and Dinosaurs*. It's also Father's Day in June so we want to ready "Just Like My Daddy." All children love dinosaurs, so we will be sure to read "Picture Me-Dinosaur." For our transportation and tool unit, everyone loves to read "Diggers-Rough and Tough." Spanish words are **June**-Junio, transportation-transportation, bus-autobus, tools- herramientas, train-tren, truck-troca. For music we will sing "Wheels on the Bus"

and "Down by the Station." For fun discovery we will look out the window at different colored cars and trucks.

During the month of **July** we will focus on *American History, Summer Fun and Ocean Life*. We like to play Peak-a-boo with our red, white and blue bandana and sing songs about our country. July is also the typical month for vacations, and our stories will help to relate to good family fun. Some of the books we will read for story time are: "Tumble Bumble," "Where Should We Go Today," "Below Us Under the Earth and Sea," and "Witzy Plays Hide and Seek," Spanish words are rojo, white-blanco, blue-azul, summer fun-verano divertido, flag- bandera, ocean-oceano, American History- Americano Historia. For physical activity we can practice bicycle push.

It is **August** and the school wide themes are *5 Senses, Back to School, School and Me, and School Rules*. Books we will read for story time are: "Little Alphabet," "Olivia Counts," "Toes, Ears, and Nose," "Helping Hands-Mickey Mouse," and "Angelina Ballerina's ABC" Spanish words are **August**-Agosto, ear-oir, see-mirar, back to school- regreso a la escuela, taste-pordar, touch-tocar. For music we will sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes". For social studies we will talk about where we live and go to school. You can help us at home by talking about your home when you are there and talking about going to school one your way here. Babies will begin to know the difference between what we do at home and what we do at school.

Here are some ideas to help your baby

work on developing better strength and control include:

Offer a variety of small infant toys to your child to explore. Using toys that have different shapes, colors, sounds, and textures will help them to adjust their grip and explore ways to make them move or produce noise. Small toys and teething rings are ideal items to use and are safe for small babies.

Try offering two different toys at the same time, holding them apart from each other. Baby can choose one of them at a time and begin to learn how the appearance of an object relates to the way it feels in his/her hand and how he/she has to hold it.

Help the baby bring his/her hands together, so he/she can feel and explore toys.

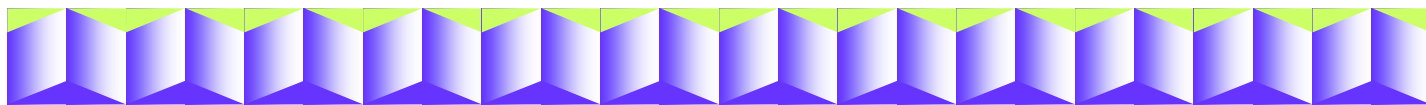
You can help with infant development milestones:

Encourage looking from one toy to another using floating toys during bath.

To promote early reaching, tap your baby's hand with a toy to encourage reaching. Swipe a dangling toy to show your baby how the toy will dance when using mobiles and crib gyms.

To promote reaching with both arms, nuzzle your baby's tummy with your face to encourage touching your head with both arms.

Please help us by checking your child's drawer to be sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask.



# FOALS II

Foals 2 babies have the summer fun bug!

Our curriculum this time around includes:

May - Animals we'd find in the Zoo, in the Jungle, and in the Forest. Books that we will rotate with this theme is *"Dear Zoo"* by Rod Campbell, *"If I Ran the Zoo"* by Dr. Seuss, *"Color Zoo"* by Lois Ehler, and Baby Einstein: *"Jane's Animal Expedition"*. We'll make time to watch Baby Einstein *"World Animals"*, *"A day on the Farm - Baby McDonald"*. 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, mas - more, si- yes, te amo - I love you.

June - Planes, Trains, and Automobiles is what we will learn about and play! The many ways of Transportation, We will enjoy reading the many books we have on transportation, a few books that we will be enjoying 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 - glass, leche - milk.

July - "Summer Fun" is our theme. 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"*, *"and Baby Einstein: See and Spy Color"* & *"Discover the Day: Baby Einstein Lift a Flap"*. Ice Paint and Jell-O 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.

August- 5 Senses, Back to School, School and Me, and School Rules. We will discover our senses with fun ingredients, and paint with Jell-O and pudding to name a couple. We will also explore the many types of textures with sand paper, corduroy and shaving cream. Babies will paint with apples, oranges and blocks. A few of our story time books include *"You Can't Smell a Pickle with your Ear"* by Harriet Ziefert, *"David Smells"* by David Shannon and *"Bubble Trouble"* by Mary Packard. Our Spanish words are red- rojo, apple-manzana, and school-escuela

Other part 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 involves listening to words while looking at things you pat or touch. Our "Self Help" area, or "Dramatic Play", has Foals 2 babies playing Peek-a-Boo, watching moving things, following simple directions, and remembering where things are. All of our daily activities include English and Spanish.

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

*The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.*  
-Benjamin Franklin



# 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 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

August is a very busy month. The themes for this month are 5 senses, Back to School, School and Me, and School Rules. The first week, we will paint with our fingers for touch. We will listen to music by using our ears to hear. We will smell different scents by using our noses. We will have a taste test that will include the following: sweet, sour, salty and plain foods. We will read books on our senses. The second week, we will enjoy our unit on Back to School. We will sing songs about school and read *Dora the Explorer Goes to School*. We will make a backpack. We will also go over what items we use in the classroom. We are going to start learning colors, numbers, and shapes. We will make a school bus out of an egg carton. The third week will reinforce our class rules. We will practice our soft touches with our friends. We will also work on listening with our ears. Our final week, we will talk about School and Me. We will take a tour around our school and we will look at our school bus. We will also meet all the teachers around the school, the principals, and the chef. During this month we will learn the letter A and B, number 1 and 2, and the shapes triangle and oval.

- \* Please label all items. Please bring:
- sippy cups
  - summer clothes
  - sunscreen and permission slip for it
  - cameras

If you have any questions, please feel free to call at nap or you can email me at [colts@rockinghorseacademy.com](mailto:colts@rockinghorseacademy.com).





# PONIES

The Ponies are very excited to see that spring has arrived and we are anxiously awaiting summer! As the weather warms up, please check your Pony's cubby to make sure they have 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 reapply 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 been working on so many things during circle time in the Pony room. We have been exploring colors, shapes, numbers, as well as singing songs such as, Twinkle Twinkle, Bumble Bee, ABC's, Itsy Bitsy Spider, and more. The children also enjoy singing Jump Up and Down while learning to jump and dance. We read many books while in circle time and the children have many favorites like Bubble Bubble and The Watermelon Seed.

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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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. We will be busy working on a special surprise to give to our Moms at the end of the week.

In **June**, our 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 yellow school buses at Negley, which is something they look for every morning. 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 and use 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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! We will work on a special surprise to give to Dad.

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 will make an ocean in a bottle that the kiddos can take home. We'll also talk about family vacations and discover why some families travel to the beach while other families 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 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we'll celebrate our country's independence and learn about American history as well.

We will begin the month of **August** by exploring our *five senses*: taste, touch, smell, sound, and sight. Along with that we will add the names of our body parts such as tongue, fingers, nose, ears, and eyes. We will talk about which sounds are louder and which are softer. We will touch warm and cold items, rough surfaces and velvety smooth surfaces, as well as hard items and soft items. We'll use our eyes by looking at books and searching for hidden items around the room. We will use our sense of smell to sniff oranges, vanilla, and maybe even some vinegar. Finally, we'll taste various foods to experience sweet, salty, and sour. By the end of the month we'll talk about school and how we should behave and go over our school rules. We plan to sing 'The Wheels on the Bus' and 'Look Who Came to School Today', read *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn, and make our own school buses during this month.

My how the Ponies have grown! 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.



# CHARGERS I

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

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

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

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

Our theme for the month of **June** will be Transportation: by Air, Land, & Water and with this theme we can take trips on boats, trains, jets, and air- planes. And in block center we will repair our transportation with our tools. In the home center we will drive to the store to get Mrs. Laurie some chicken. This month ends by flashing back in time to visit the dinosaurs where we will introduce the Brontosaurus- (long neck) Stegosaurus- (spike tail), Triceratops- (three horn) Tyrannosaurus- (shark tooth or T-Rex). We plan to explore our senses with water and shaving cream.

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

Wrapping up July, we will plan our games, enjoy mini-vacations, and make homemade lemonade. Gentle reminders: bring sun screen, and always remember to label all person-

al belongings. And change those extra clothes to fit the season. Last, but not least, bring a camera and we'll take some fun pictures with classmates.

**August** themes: 5 Senses, Back to School, School and Me, School rules. We will read stories like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See!*, *Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear!* To explore our taste and touch, we'll cook up a special treat.

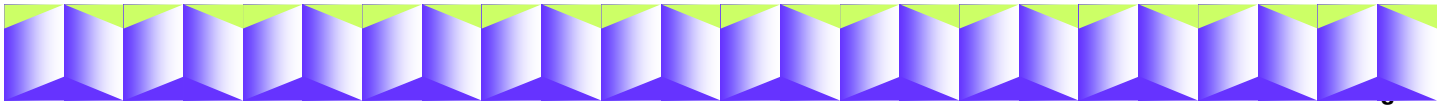
Our Back to School unit will start with getting to know or renewing friendships, and we can't forget some discussions about our class rules to ensure safety for all students. Of course, we want all children to love coming to school, so during our week on School and Me, we can talk about going to school while parents go to work, and we will read stories like *Don't Forget to Come Back*. In a special art project, supplies will be passed out for our parents-child project to make a family tree to show anybody and everybody in our beautiful family. Don't forget pets, grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins, godparents, or best friends.

Mrs. Laurie, Ms. Theresa

## Foods That Help Oral Health

### Oranges, kiwis, strawberries, limes, and peppers

There are several different types of bacteria in your child's mouth, and some of them can cause gingivitis, which is the first stage of gum disease, says Melvin Pierson, DDS, a spokesperson for the Academy of General Dentistry. Vitamin C in fruits such as oranges, limes, kiwis, cantaloupe, papaya, and strawberries helps kill these bacteria, and it also promotes a healthy supply of collagen in the gums. Other good vegetable sources: red, yellow, and orange peppers; tomatoes; and sweet potatoes. However, dentists say that kids should wait at least 30 minutes before brushing their teeth after having citrus foods or drinks. That's because citric acid in the fruit can temporarily weaken tooth enamel and leave teeth vulnerable to erosion caused by brushing.



# 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. The books we will look at 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 paint on BIG paper with little 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 hammering and twisting away on Styrofoam pie-

es in small groups. 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 & **July** 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. 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!

**In August** we will settle down and talk about going “*Back to School*”. We will practice recognizing our names and doing simple patterns and sorting as well as getting to know new friends and say goodbye to old friends. We will also practice cutting with scissors and attempting to trace lines.

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.



# PINTOS

The Pinto's room has 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 of the Pinto's class are getting very good at using his/her words and asking for help. They also 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, Domino. This will allow the children to practice taking care of something other than just themselves, finding out the similarities in the basic needs of animals and people. It will also be fun to learn about the way animals communicate without using words. Another topic will be about different zoo animals. I will use **Teeth, Tails, and Tentacles** (a counting book by Christopher Wormell) to help introduce different animals. This will also help with counting up to 20. The last two weeks in May we will concentrate on our growing bodies. We will make self-portraits, fact sheets about likes, and get to know ourselves 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!

**June-** We will learn about different forms of transportation. One week we will concentrate on air transportation, one week on land transportation and the last week will be on water transportation. We will make our own vehicles and have lots of creative fun with this unit. During this theme the children will practice their sorting skills with the different types of vehicles which an important math skill. 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.

**July-** During this month 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.

**August-** Summer is almost over and with that the new school year arrives. We will kick off the month of August off with the theme "five senses" tasting different type of foods like sweet, salty and sour. We will have sent jars with different smells in each set of jars. Using our sense of smell to figure out the smells and matching up the jars that smell the same. We will also have a "can u find it" bottle in our room for the children to find hidden items in. Playing a game of "I Spy" to see who can find things in the room the quickest using our sense of sight is always fun. When you can't see the object can you still recognize what it is by just touching it? The pintos are going to find out using our feel and touch box. Later in the month we will read books on going to school such as **My First Day of School, I Love School, and If You Take a Mouse to School**. We will discuss what we like to do most at Rocking Horse Academy. We will finish off this month by reviewing our classroom rules. **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 by each other or verbally, by using silly names and arguing

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

**ABC'S and 123'S-** 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. Like with everyone, if you make the activity fun then learning the information will be fun!

**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 their personal water bottle. We will take these bottles to the playground each day. Also please label all personal items and clothes. A quick reminder about shoes, RHA's policy states the children should not come to school in open-toed shoes such as sandals and flip flops. Please send your child to school in tennis shoes or closed toe sandals.





# WRANGLERS

First we want to give our Wrangler parents a shout out - Thank you so much for making our "Week of the Young Child" celebration a great success. You are part of why our class is so awesome.

The month of May will also be filled with celebrations and fun. During the first week, we will have a lot of colorful art projects, such as tissue paper flowers, to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. This same week will be Teacher Appreciation Week, as well as Mother's Day. We will celebrate teachers all over the school. Teachers are special because parents allow us to partner with them in the growth and development of their precious little ones. We will then celebrate mothers, who are special in more ways than we can list. The following two weeks will be all about animals. Animals in the wild, animals in our homes, and animals on farms will all be part of our discussions. We will learn the differences of animals cared for by people, and animals who care for each other. This will end with a collaborative animal collage. The final week in May we will learn about opposites and rhyming words. Games like Simon Says and Rhyme That Rhyme will help us have fun and learn at the same time.

The first week in June, most of our friends will be transitioning to the Pre-K rooms. The rest will follow in August. We have truly enjoyed teaching and learning from our Wranglers. We are confident in their success in their new classrooms. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and

every parent for your encouraging words, your open communication, and your tremendous support of classroom projects and events. Wrangler parents ROCK!

As the Wrangler class continues in June, we will learn about different forms of transportation. Part of this lesson will be to take a survey of what form of transportation is used by our parents, as well as chart the distance between home to school, and school to work. This will show the children that math can be fun. Next up is patterning. The children will seek out and find patterns all around them. The final two weeks in June brings an all-time favorite: Dinosaurs! We have countless activities planned incorporating everything about dinosaurs – their diets, their names, their skeletons and their home environment. The children will also be able to bring in stuffed dinosaurs from home to join our class.

"Commotion in the Ocean" will be July's starting theme. Fun activities will include an ocean mural, salt water investigations, and taste testing (sardines and sea weed, YUM!). We will also learn about the fish and animals that call the ocean their home. Our next theme will be math centered – learning about solid shapes. These include cylinders, cubes, and spheres. During this time parents, we will be requesting solid shaped items from home (think coffee cans etc.). We will finish out the month of July celebrating Summer Fun! We will be taking the inside out as much as possible. Sometimes we will get messy, so stay tuned and we will

let you know if special clothing is needed.

As we move into August, we will be exploring Our 5 Senses. We will learn simple concepts about how our senses work and help us to enjoy life and the environment around us. We will also learn some simple sign language during this time. As the end of the summer nears, we will move into Back to School topics. Our initial focus will be on class rules and responsibilities, as well as showing responsible actions and choices. We hope to include the parents during this time, including helping the children complete some homework, such as completing a form called My Duties and Me. We will teach the children their responsibility is for home as well as school. We will work on building self-esteem and helping the children feel part of the family and Wrangler classroom. Also during this time, we will touch briefly on fairness and dealing with disappointments.

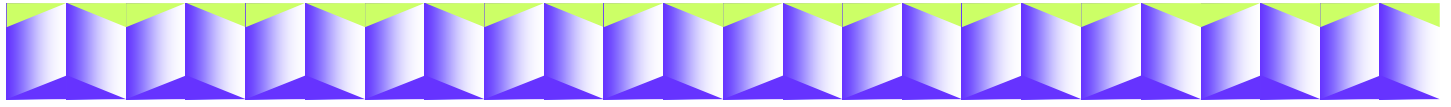
## Reminders:

Please remember to sign your child in & out with an initial

Please provide a fresh water bottle daily

Please check your child's change of clothes, especially as the weather is getting warmer

As parents, each of you has an opportunity to add to our lesson topics. We will be happy to incorporate your ideas. And as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let your Wrangler teachers know!



# MUSTANGS

Parents, thank you for all of your help during Week of The Young Child. The Mustang friends really enjoyed the snacks and company.

May is the month of many celebrations. We will start off the month celebrating **Cinco de Mayo**. We will learn the history of Mexico and even sample the cultural cuisine. For Cinco de Mayo, we will read "Too Many Tamales" by Gary Soto. 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 it is time to learn about different kind 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 an 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.

During August, our first theme is Back to School. We will continue working on Mustang created classroom rules, our routines and procedures, and the alphabet, numbers, colors, and

shapes. Within our Back to School unit, we'll get to know each other. We will introduce ourselves to each other, we will practice using our friends' names, and our names will be displayed in print, too. In learning about each other and our families, we will teach the children how to interact with one another. They will share each family's cultures and traditions throughout the year. Using language skills, we will learn about the children's likes and differences. The focus of activities on awareness of others allows the children to learn acceptance of the diversity that makes up our world. It's important that children be taught respect, considerate behaviors, thoughtfulness, and tolerance. We will use books and songs to learn how special each and every child is. Manners will be emphasized. The children will learn what manners are, how and when we use manners. We will say "please" and "thank you." We will practice saying, "no thank you" and "excuse me." As they put their manners to use in daily situations, they will develop understanding and kindness towards others

*Parents as the sun is vastly showing itself and temperatures are rising making sure your child has his/her water bottle daily and sunscreen is a must. We are asking for you to not bring is spray sunscreen, but sunscreen we can apply on the children. The spray sunscreen is getting in the children's eyes and lungs and is a hazard. Thank you for your attention on this matter.*

Thank you for being so awesome and willing to help make your child's pre-school experience one to remember!

The Mustang teachers



# TROTTERS

This school year continues to just fly right on by. I cannot begin to express my happiness over the success of our students; they have truly come a long way from the beginning of the year. It has been my pleasure to be able to take part in their preparation for Kindergarten. I also want to take this time to thank all the parents who are not only actively participating with their child in the classroom but outside the classroom as well. It has all made a significant difference. I enjoyed speaking with each parent one-on-one at parent- teacher conferences. Our end of the year assessments will begin April 20<sup>th</sup>- May 1<sup>st</sup>. I look forward to seeing how much our Trotters have learned since the middle of the year assessments.

In May our unit theme is "Moving On." As our school year comes to an end, this theme allows our Trotters to take in every last bit of Pre-K before they move on into kindergarten. This is the last unit in our curriculum since our Pre-K graduation will commence on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m. This is a beautiful moment for all of us here at Rocking Horse Academy. Some of the students that will graduate as part of the Class of 2015 have been here since they were infants. Regardless if they were here since infancy or joined our class this past year, it has been an incredible experience to witness how much these children have grown. It is also a rewarding experience to watch each individual get recognized as he/she walks across the stage in his/her cap and gown and receive his/her diploma for all

his/her accomplishments, hard work, and participation.

Our Pre-K graduation does indeed help close out the school year, but I will have one last week with my Trotters before they transition into the summer camp program. This will be the week of Jun 1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> our Trotter and Bronco class will go on a field trip to the San Antonio Zoo as our last hoorah and Friday we will have that day for our last goodbyes. For those who signed up to join our summer camp program here at our school, they will begin on Monday June 8. Not only do I encourage enrolling into our summer camp program so that I am still able to visit with my students but it is a great program. This summer is packed with field trips, fun events, swimming, and other great summer activities. ***Enrollment is NOT automatic. You must fill out new paperwork if you want to continue bringing your child to RHA this summer.*** See Ms. Brooke for those details.

On the other hand, on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> I will be welcoming in our new Trotters, the graduating class of 2016. I will take the first week to allow the students and parents to get know me, as I get to know them, and getting to know each other. The second week will be more geared towards familiarizing themselves with the rules, routines, and procedures. By the third week we will kick the summer off with a dinosaur theme for the remainder of the month. We will discuss and transform our center into the dawn of the dinosaurs. Our

class will excavate bones from our sand box to represent archeologists digging for bones and possibly making our fossils out of dry clay, make charts, compare and contrast herbivores and carnivores, and all the different types of dinosaurs and their characteristics.

Once we have discovered dinosaurs on land we will move take a dive into ocean life for the month July. This unit will entail aquatic animals, beaches, observations of sea shells, discovering the difference between plants under water and above, and the realization that oceans are just in hot, sunny beaches; there is also the Antarctic Ocean which includes animals that can't be found on the beach.

Before you know it, it will be August and the summer will be coming to an end. However, I'd like to remind parents to be mindful of the Texas heat and dress accordingly. Please allow a little extra time in your morning routine to apply sunscreen to child prior to dropping off and leaving a tube of sunscreen here in the classroom so that we are able to apply it on your child before going outside. It is also important that your child comes to school with a fresh water bottle every day. As a natural reminder, please check your child's folder daily and communication with me or any staff member in the classroom is always welcomed and encouraged.

Thank you,  
Ms. Marcey  
Trotter lead teacher



# BRNCOS

With the end of the school year approaching, I just want to begin by saying that this Bronco class has come long way since my start at the beginning of the new year. It is truly an honor to have spent my first year's teaching such incredible, lively children and to be able to work in their preparation for Kindergarten. I would like to thank all the parents who have welcomed me into their child's class and for all of the work they have put into making sure this has been their best year yet. End of the Year Assessments will be April 20-May 1 and I am eager to see how much they have learned since the Middle of the Year Assessments with Ms. Mary.

Our current unit, "Nature all Around Us" will finish up with the seasons. The final unit, which seems fitting for the end of May, will be "Moving On." This unit will focus on new places around us, trying new things, and how much the children have physically, emotionally and academically grown. This is a chance for the children to take in all that they have learned with us here at Rocking Horse Academy and take it with them as they enter into kindergarten. Pre-K graduation will be held on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. This is a momentous day for Rocking Horse Academy. I can only imagine how meaningful it has been to have some of these children here since their infancy and now it has come time to wish them luck in a new adventure. To all the children, no matter when they joined us, it has been a remarkable journey full of

accomplishments and challenges.

The week following Pre-K graduation will be the final week for this year's Broncos. In addition to being the last week of their school year, the Broncos and Trotters will be going on a field trip to the San Antonio Zoo on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>. Both classes will be sporting their custom designed self-portrait T-shirts on this special day. Friday will be our final days for goodbyes; however, for those who have decided to join our school's summer camp program starting on June 8th, it is the start of a new and fun summer adventure. I encourage children to join into this outstanding program to get them ready for the new school year as well as making new friends, fieldtrips, swimming, and other events.

***Please remember enrollment is NOT automatic. You MUST reenroll for our summer program and our after school program. See Rebecca or Brooke for forms.***

As I say goodbye to my Broncos, Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, I will also be welcoming a group of Broncos, the class of 2016. I am excited to meet and get to know these new students and their families on the first week of school. Once we are settled in and know each other and my students get to know me, we will begin working towards understanding classroom rules and routines. Summer will start off with my favorite topic, DINO-SAURS! Dinosaurs will be used multiple centers as our little archeologists

make and record observations of bones and fossils, discovering their own dinosaurs, special days will also be planned for Dino Digs in our sensory tub.

After the dinosaurs go extinct we will be moving into the depths of the ocean to discover all that is under the sea for July. Children will spend time learning about aquatic animals, plants under water and above ground, beaches around the world and discover that not all oceans are sunny and warm.

Once we roll into August, children will get into gear and begin our journey into the school year. Parents, please do not forget, we live in the great state of Texas. The sun will be shining well into the school year and there is no better place to learn and play than outdoors. Making sure that our children are comfortable in clothes for playing and learning is key. Allow extra time to make sure to pack a water bottle every day and apply sunscreen before leaving home. We do play outside twice a day so please bring a bottle of sunscreen to keep in the classroom. My main form of communication is located in your children's individual classroom folders. I enjoy speaking with parents and families. Please do not be shy if you have question, comments, or concerns.

I look forward to the upcoming months.

Ms. Carmen  
Bronco Lead Teacher





# CORRAL KIDS

## Corral Kids Summer Camp 2015

Summer Camp is right around the corner and we can't wait to spend it with you. This summer Corral Kids will enjoy weekly swim and field trips, special guest performers, science, art and soooo much more!!! Below is a list of the weekly themes and a brief description of the adventures that await us this SUMMER!

### Let's Cruise

June 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Aloha! An adventure awaits you as we cruise around the world enjoying life on deck. We'll find a different activity in each port of call and finish with a luau celebration...get ready to limbo!

### Fairy Tale Fun

June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Once upon a time, our campers climbed the magic beanstalk to Wonderland, encountered 7 dwarves, candy houses and a glass slipper. Help us create our own Happily Ever After.

### Wild West

June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

There's a Hoe Down at Rocking Horse, complete with cowboys, roping and pony races. Join the gold rush and sit around the campfire and learn how the west was won.

### Dog Daze of Summer

June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>

What will our Jr. Scientists cook up this year? Things may explode or erupt, or perhaps we'll cultivate a

new life form. Join us in invention and experimentation as we turn Rocking Horse Academy into a laboratory.

### Space is the Place

July 6<sup>th</sup>-July 10<sup>th</sup>

Is there life on another planet? If so, we'll invite them to play Cosmic Dodgeball and to make some Galaxy Slime. We'll create our own rockets as we shoot for the stars!

### Art is Everywhere

July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free"  
~Michelangelo~ Campers can be Andy Warhol or Pablo Picasso this week and set their imaginations free.

### Fun and Fitness

July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

"You're in pretty good shape for the shape you are in" ~Dr. Seuss~ Stay fit and have fun is our motto. Run. Don't walk to Rocking Horse Academy to join our fitness team.

### Wonder Emporium

July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

If it's stretchy or gooey, we'll make it, or wacky or weird we'll play with it. Our imaginations run wild with experiments galore.

### Hollywood

August 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

Movie Stars and Rock Stars welcome this week to take a stroll down the Red Carpet and shine like the super star you are!

## Giving Back

August 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

During this week of citizenship and character building, we'll learn how to do ordinary things that will improve the world around us. Doing good for others is the best way to be the change we wish to see.

## County Fair

August 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

Come one, come all to the County Fair! Step Right Up! To games of skill and challenge yourself on the rock wall. Test your talents on a Karaoke machine or let yourself be dazzled by magic.

WOW! What a summer to be had you won't want to miss anything! Spots are filling up fast so be sure to get in on the fun. Registration information is available at the front desk or with the Corral Kids Supervisor, Brooke Sandahl. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have about our upcoming SUMMER of FUN!

*Remember RHA currently enrolled Corral Kids, Trotter and Bronco students are not responsible for a registration fee for summer camp.*

### A few important dates to know:

May 25<sup>th</sup> - RHA will be closed for Memorial Day

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - School's out for SUMMER!!

June 8<sup>th</sup> - Summer Camp Begins

July 3<sup>rd</sup> - RHA will be closed for July 4<sup>th</sup>

August 7<sup>th</sup> - RHA will be closed for Training

August 24<sup>th</sup> - First day of SCHOOL