



ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

May-August 2016

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



Director's Corner

Rebecca Eichen

Recently we were voted "Best Childcare in Hays County" for 2015. I want to thank all of our families who voted for us. We are honored by your vote of confidence. I can never say "thank you" enough to my staff for helping us make RHA such a success over these past 14 years. Their years of services and commitment to our school and your children are invaluable. I also would like to thank our families for sharing your children with us and for all of the kind emails, letters and reviews. With your communication and the guidance of our amazing and dedicated staff, we have a school to be so proud of. I'd also like to give an extra "Thank you!" to Krystal C. for being voted Rocking Horse's 2015 Employee of the Year! Great job Krystal!

I also wanted to share some of our most recent completed projects Ms. Jane has made in order to offer your/our child(ren) a safe, fun, well-rounded school experience:

new playground equipment

new learning garden, compost bins, and tiller, new computers in computer lab
repaired and resurfaced our atrium play area
purchased new classroom chairs, toys and equipment
put on a new roof
added new kitchen and laundry appliances
replaced our front door security lock
hired professional conference trainers for our teacher training work days.

But rest assured that we are always working toward getting even better. And starting this fall, I will be working hard with our teachers to complete our 3rd round of accreditation through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

We had a busy spring wrapping up parent-teacher conferences, hosting our annual scholastic book fair for Read Across America Week, enjoying spring parties and egg hunts, taking individual spring portraits with 512 Portrait Company, and celebrating Week

of the Young Child with various activities and a carnival with the Chick-fil-A cow attending. And we have even survived a couple of floods... That being said, we follow HCISD's weather policy, so please check our Facebook page for any notices or updates on delayed school openings or closures.

And now that spring break has past we are looking, believe it or not, toward the end of our "school" year. We are just weeks away from summer. We do have a few more school events scheduled between now and then...

Muffins with Mom on May 6th
Donuts with Dad on Jun 17th
PreK Graduation and Reception May 27th
(Please check our calendar online for more upcoming events.)



Whew, it's been a busy and fun year!
Thank you again for your continued support



Sneek Peek At RHA



Inside this issue:

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Dates To Remember

May 02 through May 06, 2016
Teacher appreciation week

May 8 th– Mother's Day

May 9 th –CPR

May 27 th– Preschool Graduation
 Begins at 11 a.m. R.S.V.P for luncheon to follow

May 30th -RHA Closed Memorial Day

June 1st Last Day of School H.C.I.S.D

June 6th -Summer Camp for K-5th grades begins (Now registering)

June 19th –Father's Day

RHA Closed on July 4th

RHA Closed on August 12th

H.C.IS.D. Begins August 22

Have a Fun, Safe Summer!

512 Portraits

Check Your Email For Your Proofs

(Just in time for Mother's Day)

Hear ye! Hear ye!
2016 Preschool Graduation
May 27th at 11:00 a.m.
Luncheon to follow

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

FOALS I

Wow! I can't believe summer is right around the corner. We want to welcome all our new babies to Foals 1. We are so excited for you all to be part of the Rocking Horse Academy family.

The creative themes for the month of May are: Transportation/Maps, Tools/Building, and Inventions/Technology. Spanish words are: *May-Mayo*, *Airplane-el avion* and *Car-el carro*. For music we will be singing *Wheels on the Bus*. Reading is part of our daily routine, the books we will be reading are: *"Row Row Your Boat"*, and *"Pete the Cat"*. Your baby is making a whole range of sounds and showing interest in how our mouths work and how sounds come out. Conversation is very important with your baby. When your baby makes a sound, repeat it so they know what sound they have made. At this age and stages in your baby's life, they start cooing, gurgling, babbling, and they listen and turn their head towards sounds that they hear.

For the month of June, we will focus on: Summer Fun, Ocean, Beach, and Camping. For music, we will be singing *"Patty Cake"*, and *Itsy Bitsy Spider*". Here are some fun books we are going to read: *"Opposites"* and *"Ten Baby Bears"* and *"Five Little Monkeys."* Suggestions on encouraging your baby's development include: talk to your baby all the time, make faces, sing songs, place them in a safe place and do tummy time, place colorful toys near them so they can reach them.

The school-wide themes for the month of July are: *American History*, *Space* and *Jungle Animals*. This month we are going to be working on our sign language skills. We are going to help the babies to learn the signs for *"hi"* and *"please."* For music we will be singing: *"You are my Sunshine"* and *"I'm a Little Teapot"*. Books that we will be reading to our babies are: *"Ten Playful Penguins"*,

Are you my Daddy?" and *"Animal Sounds"*.

For the month of August, we will be learning about: Manners, Safari Animals, and Pets. Our Spanish words for August are: *August-Agosto*, *Manners-Modales*, *Safari-Safari*, and *Animals-Animales*. Singing is very fun to do. We will be singing and doing the hand motions to *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* and *Five Little Birds*. For Storytime we will read: *"See-Saw"* and *"Playful Pets Woof"*.

Just a few reminders as we enter summertime: Please helps us by checking your child's drawer to make sure he/she has extra clothes, and they are weather appropriate. Also, please make sure everything is labeled with his/her full first name and first letter of his/her last name. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ask.

Hazard: Epoxy coating on the clip can weaken in certain environmental conditions and detach posing a choking hazard to small children. There have been no reported injuries, but the product is being voluntarily recalled in an abundance of caution. The Latch™ Pacifier & Clip meet all regulatory requirements. **Recalled Product:** Latch™ Lightweight Pacifier & Clip set sold from April 2014 – February 2016

For more information: 877-242-3134



FOALS II

Welcome to Summer time! How time flies when you're having fun! Happy Birthday to all our summer babies. We are going to have a great time these next 4 months.

In the month of May, we will learn about *Transportation, Tools, Maps and Inventions*. We will be making a special gift for our fabulous mothers. We will learn about transportation by singing *Down by the Station* and *Wheels on the Bus*. We will make a green tractor and a red fire-truck using our feet, for our art projects. We will also play with our cars with our friends, by rolling them to our friends.

Our next theme will be Tools. We will read *Daddy and Me*. We will point to the tools in this book. We will also learn sign language for tools.

The third theme will be *Maps and* we will learn about Texas. We will finger paint the state of Texas. With our finger prints we will also make bluebonnets.

The last theme we will learn about is *Inventions*. We will make bottles, pacifiers and blankets. We will also play a hide-and-seek game with baby items. Our Spanish words for the month of May will be: *mother: la madre, flower: la flor, bus: el autobus and train: el tren*.

June is going to be a fun month. We will learn about the following themes: *Summer Fun, Ocean, Beach and Camping*. The first theme we will learn about is *Camping*. We will mix colors to make a campfire flame and make a tent. The second theme will be *Ocean*. We will read books on the Ocean. One of the books we will read is

Bubble Fun. We will make fish and octopus with our hands; we will also paint a starfish with sugar paint. We will work on our gross motor skills by popping bubbles. The third theme is *Beach*. We will play catch and roll with a beach ball. We will also play with a pail and shovel by scooping up toys and putting them in the pail. For art we will paint a beach ball and umbrella, and making crabs with our hands. We will work on our fine motor skills by looking at books about Beaches.

The last theme will be about *Summer Fun*. We will make a watermelon, make ice cream cones and hot air balloon. We will be learning the signs for *ball, shovel, crab and fire*.

The month of July, we learn about *American History, Space and Jungle Animals*. The first theme we will talk about is American History. We will show the infants pictures of our current President. We will also paint our flag red, white and blue. We will also sing *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. We will also make fireworks art in a bag using a ball.

Our second theme is Space. We will read a book about Space and Stars. We will sing *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. We will paint a star and a sun yellow; we will make a moon with bubble wrap for texture and a space shuttle. Our Spanish words for the month July are *star: la estrella, sun- el sol and moon-la luna*.

The last theme for the month July will be *Jungle Animals*. The books we will read this month are *5 Tumbling Tigers* and *Jungle Fun*.

The finger plays we will doing are *5 Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree*. Our art projects for this theme is making an alligator with our hands and parrot with our feet. We will learn how to make a lion and an elephant sound.

The month of August, we learn about *Manners, Safari animals and Pets*. The first theme is Manners. We will teach the infants to sign *please, thank you and more*. We will also encourage them to use the signs when playing or wanting something. We will learn gentle touches with our friends and teachers. We will read a book called *Manners*.

The second theme is Safari animals. We will make a giraffe with our hands, peacock with our hands and feet and a monkey. We will sing *5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Itsy Bitsy Spider* and *In the Safari*.

Just a reminder:

Please label all your infants items with first name and last letter of last name. We now have 2 new strollers that hold 4 babies each. On pretty days we want to go for walks outside when we can have all babies awake. If you have a little hat or bonnet, please add it to our drawer. We are excited about getting to go for a stroll occasionally.

Foals II

COLTS

We want to thank the Colt parents for providing photos for the "I Am Special" books. The children were very proud to show their friends pictures of their family and pets. The project also gave teachers a chance to get to know the children a little better too.

Here are a few reminders and suggestions for the upcoming months:

WARM WEATHER SAFETY: Since we will be playing outside in the atrium/toddler playground twice a day, please apply sunscreen on your child before leaving home in the morning and make sure there is an extra tube in the classroom for use in the afternoons. Keeping your child hydrated during these warmer months is very important so we're asking every parent to bring in a gallon of bottled water on a monthly basis. Thank you.

CLOTHING:

Having your child wear play clothes to school is the best thing. We would hate for your child to soil a special outfit during craft/play time or while eating. Also, RHA policy states children should not come to school in open-toed shoes such as sandals or flip flops. Our Colts are much safer wearing tennis shoes especially when playing outside.

LUNCH:

By lunch our Colts are tired, hungry and impatient. If your child brings his/her lunch you can help us serve them faster by providing foods already cut up and out of the package. For instance, since whole grapes and cherry tomatoes are choking hazards for children under five years of age, they need to be cut lengthwise. Having string cheese/Babybel cheese out of the package and cut into bite size portions would be helpful as well. Hot dogs are another common food that

should be cut into small pieces to avoid choking. Anything you can do to prevent lunchtime delays would be appreciated by the teachers and children. There are only two of us serving ten VERY hungry children.

LABELING:

Please label clothing, bed linens, food containers, cups and any supplies such as diapers and wipes. Morning drop off is a busy time and we want to make sure these items get to the right child.

MONTHLY THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

Moms will be the focus as we begin May. We'll be making a special Mother's Day gift and reading the books "I'llama, I'llama Red Pajama", "Just Like My Mommy" and "A Big Hug for Little Cub". Transportation will be a fun subject to explore. The Colts will be creating a one of a kind painting using the wheels of a car instead of a paintbrush. In Circle we'll sing songs such as "Wheels on the Bus" and "Down by the Station" as well as read "Planes" by Byron Barton, "Chugga-Chugga Choo Choo" and "Tugger Tugger Tug Boat" by Kevin Lewis. Themes for the last two weeks of May will be Inventions/Technology and Tools/Building. Our Colts will be building with Legos and blocks and reading "Machines at Work", "Tonka Mudslide:" and "Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site."

In June the Colts will surprise dad with a Father's Day gift and we'll read "Me and My Dad", "Just Like My Daddy" and "Daddy and Me". We will have some summer fun as we learn about the ocean and seashore by reading books such as "Bubble, Bubble" by Jack Tickle, "On the Seashore" and "Sea Creatures" by Pamela Clark. The

Colts will create some sea creatures of their own so look for them on display in the hallway. At the end of the month, all of the Colts will be invited to a Beach Dance Party!

The themes for July are American History, Space, and Jungle Animals. Some of the books we will be reading are "Yankee Doodle", "My Book of Planets", "On the Moon", "Imagine at the Zoo", "Animal Babies" and "The Animal Bop Won't Stop!". To celebrate the 4th of July, we will decorate our wagons and have our very own Patriotic Parade wearing red, white and blue hats we've made ourselves. Some of our crafts will be painted jungle animals, stars and planet earth.

In August our themes will be Manners, Safari Animals and Pets. Colts will love reading "Someday We'll Have Very Good Manners" by Harriet Ziefert, "Excuse Me" by Karen Katz, "Dot and Dash Learn to Share", "Five Tumbling Tigers", "How Do Dinosaurs Love Their Dogs?" by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague, "Playful Pets-Woof!", and "Every Pet is Special". In Circle we will practice using good manners and talk about how we should use soft touches with pets. There will be plenty of opportunities to make some great looking crafts too such as elephants, dogs and cats out of paper plates. Finally, reading is a very important part of our day. If your child has a favorite book that he/she would like to share, we would love to read it to the class. If the book relates to one of our weekly themes, that's even better.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs. Jackie

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 he/she has cool attire and that clothing fits properly. Keeping your little Pony hydrated is very important to us, so please be sure to bring a labeled water cup for your child each day. Also, as the children begin wearing their new summer clothes, please remember that for their safety, it is recommended to always bring them to school in closed-toe shoes (preferably tennis shoes). Finally, with hot sunny days, it's very important to apply it in the morning before arriving, and we will reapply some after nap in the afternoon. We will check for a sunscreen consent form in your file, and we'll also let you know if your Pony is running low on sunscreen. Please make sure it is the lotion type.

We have worked 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*, *The Watermelon Seed* and *Please Mr. Panda*.

In May, 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 May will be spent learning about dinosaurs! The children already love roaring like dinosaurs and enjoy playing with our large toy dinos while we read *How Does a Dinosaur Say I Love You*.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th. 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, we will learn about Ocean/Beach Life, Summer Fun, and Camping. The Ponies will dive into learning all about ocean life. 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, or go camping, or why other families travel to visit friends and family in far off places. We will play in the sand box, build sand castles, and play in a real tent. Father's Day is Sunday, June 19th 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, the Ponies will turn our classroom into a Jungle 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 also focus on and encourage using "soft hands" with our furry friends. We will even try to walk on four legs, just like our favorite animals!

We will "blast off" during the month as we learn about Space. We will explore the moon and even create our own planets.

For the 4th of July, we'll celebrate our country's independence and learn about American history as well. We'll practice saying our colors in Spanish, *red-rojo*, *white – blanco*, and *blue-azul* as we create an American flag.

We will begin the month of August by talking about Good Manners. We always promote using good manners in the Pony Room and encourage children to share with friends. During this month, we will focus on saying, "Excuse me" when asking a friend to move over and will continue to practice saying and signing, "Please" and "Thank you" during our mealtimes. During Circle Time, we will read a poem about manners and sing 'Share Your Toys' and 'The Thank You Tune'. The Ponies plan on going on a Safari around Rocking Horse looking for safari animals. We will talk about different types of animals and even get to bring a stuffed safari animal from home. While still talking about animals, we will touch on Pets. We will discuss in Circle Time who has pets at home, what kind, and how to care for them.

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.

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 be learning about Transportation: by Air, Land, & Water and with this theme we can take a trips on boats, trains, jets, and airplanes. And in the block center we will repair our transportation with our tools. In the home center we will drive to the store to pick -up items. This month ends by flashing back in time to visit the beach.

Our theme for the month of *June* will be Summer Fun we will be learning about the ocean, camping and different Texas beaches that we can visit while on our summer vacation time. We will also be talking about things that we can found on the beach, such as sand, shells, and small animals.

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 be learning about jungle animals such as, monkeys, tigers, lions, elephants, and so much more.

Wrapping up July, we will plan our games, enjoy mini-vacations, and make homemade lemonade. Gentle reminders: bring sun screen (lotion or cream-no sprays), and always remember to label all personal 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: will be Manners such as Please, Thank you, and Your welcome. We will be closing out August with Safari animals and what kind of Pets each one have at home.

Our Back to School unit will start in September 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

Mini Frittatas with Ham and Cheese

Bake these bite-sized frittatas in a miniature muffin pan. They taste great hot or at room temperature, so you can make them in advance. **Yield:** 8 servings (serving size: 3 frittatas)

.Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350°.

1/2 cup finely chopped onion
2/3 cup chopped reduced-fat ham (about 2 ounces)
1/3 cup (about 1 1/2 ounces) shredded reduced-fat extra-sharp cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
4 large egg whites
1 large egg

Heat a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Add onion; sauté 2 minutes or until crisp-tender. Add ham; sauté 3 minutes. Remove from heat; cool 5 minutes. Combine remaining ingredients in a large bowl; stir with a whisk. Add ham mixture, stirring with a whisk. Spoon mixture into 24 miniature muffin cups coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until set.

CHARGERS II

We will chug along **to May** and discuss different forms of *Transportation*. Chargers 2 will have the opportunity to see and learn about airplanes, trains, subways, cars and buses! During recess we will keep a lookout for all kinds of transportation and see them in motion. We will do a paper airplane activity to see whose plane can fly the furthest, and we will also get to have small car races. The Chargers 2 will then get to become little handy men and women and work with different types of *Tools*. We will identify several household tools and their purposes. Hands will be kept busy hammering and twisting away with our “kid friendly tools”. We will also continue to work on our “Learning Garden”, which is located next to our playground and plan on having a mini “Farmers market”, more details to come soon.

Summer time will be smooth sailing when we learn about *Ocean Life in June*. 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? 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 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.

During the summer fun activities, we will march into *July* and celebrate Independence Day! Chargers 2 will have fun with red white and blue and learning about the American flag. We will also learn about *Space* and make an *Astronaut’s mask* and go on an imaginary “trip to space”. We will also take a trip in to the “*Jungle*” and make animal mask and go on an imagination safari.

In August we will work on our *manners* and practice them in class with our friends, along with a “tea party” to celebrate and practice what we learned. We will also learn *Safari animal* sounds and what their habitats are and what they eat. Then we will have fun with *Pets* and learn about how to care for them. We will also have the opportunity to bring in pictures if our pets from

home.

Summer’s heat is still here 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! *Don’t forget to apply sunscreen in the mornings before coming to school.* If you supply us with a tube/bottle and complete the permission form, we will reapply the lotion after nap before going outside. **(No sprays, please).**

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.

Silence is golden - unless you have a toddler. In that case, silence is very, very suspicious!

PINTO

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

In *May* 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 is an important math skill. The last two weeks in May will be spent on tools and building. It will be good practice to learn how to use the tools safely. We will learn the names of each tool as well as what it is commonly used for.

During *June* 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. We will 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 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. What is Summer without taking trips to the beach or going camping?

In July Independence Day gives us some great opportunities to explore some American history so that they have a basic understanding of why we are celebrating. I will introduce our national anthem and the pledge to the flag. Looking to the stars to watch fireworks is a good segway into learning about stars and space. Exploring outer space allows me to incorporate several different science concepts, math concepts and of course tons of new vocabulary.

In August we will move onto "manners"; we will encourage the children to use their manners during meal times, when. We will learn how important it is to be respectful so that others will also be respectful to you. Some fun books will help along the way in learning that using our manners is very beneficiary to all, like *Be Polite and Kind*, *Share and Take Turns* and one of our favorite character books *How Dinosaurs Eat Their Dinner*. 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. Another topic will be about safari 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.

Three year-olds start to test each other's boundaries, by pushing or sitting too closely by each other or by using silly names and arguing. I have already started seeing this take place in the classroom. This is an 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 year olds want 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 do a lot of gross motor games that require cooperation and large muscle movements. Outside we will do a lot of running, jumping and climbing.

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

As the weather gets warmer water will become even more important for the children. Please remember 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, Rocking Horse'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 Croc type shoes.

Don't forget to apply sunscreen in the mornings before arriving at school. We will apply it again in the afternoons after nap if you have completed the permission slip and provided us with a tube/bottle of sunscreen lotion. (No sprays please.)

WRANGLER

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*, different forms of transportation. 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. We will have Muffins for Moms in the lunchroom on Friday, May 6. 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, we have several friends that will be transitioning to the Trotters/

Broncos. A second group will join their friends in August. Let's also give a warm welcome to the Pintos that will be joining our class. We are so excited you are joining us!!!! We have truly enjoyed teaching and making memories with 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 begin with celebrating *Summer fun* followed by *ocean, beach and camping*. Activities will include an ocean mural, make some s'mores, transform our home center into a camping site. We will also learn about the *fish and animals that call the ocean their home*.

In July we will be learning about *American History, space and jungle animals*. Wranglers will be working together to make the solar system as a group project and a space ship for pretend play in our home center. They will learn about the jungle, and what kind of animals live there. Also, we will talk about their dif-

ferences, such as zoo animals are cared for by people, while jungle animals care for each other. We will end this lesson with a joint animal collage.

As we move into August, we will work on *manners, pets and safari animals*. I am asking for friends to bring a picture of their family pet to share with the class. I will let you know what day to bring that in. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let your Wrangler teachers know!

Reminders:

Please remember to sign your child in & out with an initial. Please provide a fresh water bottle daily and apply sunscreen in the mornings. We will apply it in the afternoon if you have filled out a permission form and provided us with a tube/bottle of sunscreen.

Please check your child's change of clothes, especially as the weather is getting warmer. Please check your child's folder for important information or art work.

Wrangler Teacher's
Mrs. Angie and Ms. Kristina

Anyone who thinks the
art of conversation is dead
ought to tell a child to go to bed.

Robert Gallagher

MUSTANGS

I'd first like to thank all who participated in our *Week of the Young Child* activities. The Mustangs had a lot of fun getting messy and greatly enjoyed the different snacks and crafts that were donated by parents.

The spring months are flying by! The warm weather seems here to stay. We have had a great winter and spring learning about diversity, health, recycling and various animals, from farm to pond life and a class favorite, insects!

The month of May will be off to a busy start as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week as well as Muffins for Mom for Mother's Day. I am humbled by the overwhelming generosity of our parents as you often demonstrate your appreciation throughout the year. It is an honor to be entrusted with your children, they are a joy to teach! For many in our class it will be their last full month as Mustangs. Several will move up in June as the current Broncos and Trotters graduate and prepare to enter Kindergarten! Our current mighty Mustangs will soon become the new leaders of RHA. As we prepare to send them on their next journey we will first tackle the topics of *transportation, building, invention and technology*.

We will discuss the various methods of everyday transportation and practice sorting by finding ways they are the same (ex: grouping together all land vehicles) and different (two wheels vs four wheels, etc.). We will use

creative thinking to build with different materials such as dry spaghetti and marshmallows, recycled tubes and boxes and, of course, traditional Legos and blocks. The kids will also have a chance to draw and describe personal inventions from their imagination.

In June the summer fun kicks off first by teaching our Mustangs how to stay safe in the Texas heat. We will learn about hydration, sun protection and water safety. We will practice both math and science skills by recording and discussing daily temperatures. We will expand our vocabulary with words such as evaporation and perspiration and practice writing them in our journals.

Please don't forget as the weather changes to provide sunscreen and a seasonally appropriate change of clothes for your child. Potty accidents do still sometimes happen, as well as just messy clothes from our classroom fun. We have some clothing available but kids are always most comfortable in their own clothes.

After sun safety we will move on to even more summer fun with weekly themes on camping, the beach and ocean life. We can't wait to pitch our classroom tent, make sidewalk s'mores and tell stories around our makeshift campfire! We'll use our sensory table to explore items, such as shells and small toys, hidden in sand and we will transform our room into an underwater habitat with various ocean animal and plant crafts.

In July, as we celebrate our country's independence we will learn about American history and the firsts of our nation such as the first flag, first states and first president. We will practice counting both the stars and stripes of the flag and learn the Pledge of Allegiance. Next we'll blast off and explore Space. We will work together to construct a model solar system. Soon the dog days of summer and

August will be upon us and the last of our original Mustangs will move to Broncos and Trotters. Good luck in your new classrooms! The new Mustangs will continue learning about manners, safari animals and pets. We will explore different behaviors, learning the difference between what is appropriate and inappropriate and practice manners through role playing scenarios during group time. With the last two animal themes back to back we will also discuss the difference between domesticated and wild animals and will sort and graph which animals belong in which category.

As always we will practice our letter and number recognition with letter and number of the week. Gentle reminder: Show and share on Fridays is an opportunity to reinforce themes learned that week with visual props. Please try to only bring in small toys or books that either relate to our weekly theme or start with our weekly letter. Thanks!

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.

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 27th 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 2016 that 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 May 30th- June 3rd.

On Thursday June 2th 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 6th. 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 the front desk or Ms. Brooke for those forms.

On Monday, June 6th I will be welcoming in our new Trotters, the graduating class of 2017. 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 summer fun theme for the remainder of the month. We will discuss and transform our centers into ***beach fun, ocean life, and the great outdoors.***

Our home center will incorporate common tools used at the beach such as a shovel, rake, and or a bucket, along with other beach necessities. Our class won't only discuss life on the beach but life in the ocean as well. 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 .

In July our class will try and answer the common question of how or what makes the waves in the ocean. In simplest terms it is the Moon's gravitational pull that effects the waves. This study will help jump us into our outer space theme, beginning with the Moon. While your Trotter is captivated into looking at the night sky, it will lead into a discussion on whether they think the animals in the ocean or the beach see the same Moon as the animals in the jungle. At the end of July, we will venture off into the jungle's habitat.

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 their start during the summer. It is truly an honor to watch these amazing children grow in just one year into such inquisitive children and to be able to work in their preparation for Kindergarten. I would like to thank all the parents for all of the work they have put into making sure this has been their best year yet.

We will be working on End of the Year Assessments at the start of May. I am eager to see how much they have grown. If parents are interested in seeing how their children have progressed since our assessments in January, please contact Ms. Carmen to schedule a time to speak either by phone or in conference.

Our current unit, Awesome Animals will finish with learning how animals grow and change. The final unit, which seems fitting for the end of May, will be "Moving On." This unit will be focusing on new places around us, trying new things, and how much the children have grown. This is a chance for the children to take in all that 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 27th at 11 am. 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 2nd. Both classes will be sporting their custom designed self-portrait t-shirts on this special day. Friday will be our final day for good-byes as we celebrate with a PJ day. However, for those who have decided to join our school's summer camp program starting on June 6th, 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. Don't forget that you must enroll them for that. RHA doesn't automatically move them into that program.

June: It is with great sadness as our 2016 Broncos leave us for Kindergarten, I will also be leaving to begin a new adventure in Kerrville with my husband. I have been so blessed to be a part Rocking Horse Academy and all of our Broncos lives. This class is definitely a class I will hold dearly in my heart for years to come. However, all of our Bronco teachers will be looking forward to welcoming a new group of Broncos, the class of 2017. They are excited to meet and get to know these new students and their families on the first week of school. Once they are settled in and know each other and as well as their teachers, we will begin working towards understanding classroom rules and routines.

Summer will start off in the depths of the ocean to discover all that is under the sea. 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.

July will be a mix of both outer space and Jungle animals. We will be learning that there is more than just what is on our planet. Children will learn about our solar system, stars, the moon, and just how big the universe actually is. Through the next half of July, we will explore the rare and beautiful animals in the jungle. Get ready to go on a safari as we read and make our own jungle animals!

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 applying sunscreen before leaving home. We do play outside twice a day, so please bring a bottle of sunscreen to keep in the classroom (No sprays allowed). 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. Best wishes,
Ms. Carmen
Bronco Lead Teacher

Why do bees have sticky hair?

(Because they have honeycombs!)

CORRAL KIDS

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 days, field trips, special guest performers, science, art and soooo much more!!! To help both our Parents and Campers be prepared for a SUMMER of fun we have highlighted several things below to help things run smoothly! Of course please don't ever hesitate to ask any of the Corral Kids staff questions...we are here to help!

Summer Camp in a Nutshell

- **Morning Drop Off** - Your child may be dropped off in the morning as early as 6:30a.m. At this time, all students will meet in the computer lab with our opening camp counselor. The children will visit the playground from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. weather permitting. Please take the necessary precautions and bring your child with a layer of sun block already applied each morning.
- **Lunch & Snacks** – Snacks will be provided to each student every morning and afternoon. A counselor will approach you each morning to ask whether your camper will be bringing a lunch or purchasing an RHA lunch for an additional \$2.40 (which will be billed daily).
- **WATER BOTTLES!!!!** - Water bottles must be taken home, washed, and refilled on a daily basis! Water bottles are refilled consistently throughout the day and will travel with your child to each activity.
- **Please be sure to label everything your child brings to RHA!!!!** Any items not labeled will be labeled by our camp counselors. Please be sure to check the Corral Kid's lost and found box located in the gym for any missing items.
- **Appropriate Attire** - Flip flops are not allowed at RHA. We ask for all of

the children to come to camp in tennis shoes for comfort and safety. The only time flip flops should be worn is while at the Kyle pool. Children not wearing closed toe shoes will not be allowed to play the playscape for their own safety. Campers will also wear their blue "Corral Kids" shirt for field trips and swim days.

- **Items Brought From Home** -

Toys, stuffed animals, electronics, cell phones, etc. are not allowed at RHA. If any of these items are found at Rocking Horse Academy, they will be kept in Ms. Brooke's office until the end of the day. We appreciate your help in reinforcing our policy and ask if you could please check your children's belongings before dropping them off.

Rest Time and Fun Friday - Every day the children will have rest time after lunch. This is not nap time. Children will read books or participate in an arts & craft activity period that has to do with our weekly themes. Rest time is provided in order to allow the campers a little down time to relax after lunch and reenergize for the afternoon activities. Every Friday we will have Fun Friday. Students will watch movies. All movies are rated G or PG. We will post any movies that are rated PG prior to viewing. These posts can be found on the doors to the gym. If you prefer that your child not view the movie being shown that Friday, please let a counselor know and we will be sure to provide them with another activity during that time.

Pool Days

Our Corral Kid Swim days are Thursday and Friday each week from 1:30pm-3:30pm at the City of Kyle pool. **Thursday** swim days are designated for 1st – 5th grades. **Friday** swim days will be designated for Kindergarten.

1st – 5th Grade Campers - On your

child's first visit to the pool the City of Kyle lifeguards will have each child participate in a swim test in order to determine his/her water proficiency. If your child passes, he/she will receive a wristband allowing him/her to participate in the deep-end activities. Each week your child will be required to check in with the lifeguard staff to obtain a new wristband.

Kindergarten Campers – Each child will be required to wear a life vest either brought from home or borrowed from the pool. If you and your child feel comfortable as a swimmer to attempt the required test, we will be sure to have the lifeguards administer the swim test.

Don't Forget Your Pool Essentials

- **Life Vest (Kindergarten campers or those who are unable to pass the swim test)**
- **TOWEL**
- **Swimsuit**
- **Blue Corral Kids T-shirt**
- **Flip flops (may be worn at pool ONLY)**
- **Sunscreen (Rocking Horse Academy is providing SPF 30 sunscreen for all of our students. If you have an alternative preference please bring your bottle labeled—no sprays please)**
- **Goggles, Noodles, ETC (optional)**

Hint: We suggest having your child already dressed in their swimsuit underneath their clothes and blue Corral Kids T-shirt when they attend camp on their swim days. This way they can simply bring a fresh change of clothing and underwear when they return from the swimming pool. A plastic bag is also handy for storing wet items.

Field Trips

All groups will be attending field trips
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this summer. 1st-5th grade will attend field trips on Tuesday's while Kindergarten campers will be attending on Wednesday's. Corral Kids morning staff will present each parent with a permission slip on Monday mornings. If there is an additional cost for a field trip, a sack lunch is needed, or specific clothing will be required, a counselor will inform you as well as reminders

will be posted on the gym doors.

****Additional field trip costs will be billed to your account****

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

Q: I am an odd number. Take away one letter and I become even. What number am I?

A: Seven (take away the 's' and it becomes 'even').

Q: What word looks the same backwards and upside down?

A: SWIMS

Q: What 5-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

A: Short

R
I
D
D
L
E
S

Tounge Twisters

- ♦ A big bug bit the little beetle but the little beetle bit the big bug back.
- ♦ Growing gray goats graze great green grassy groves.
- ♦ Fred fed Ted bread and Ted fed Fred bread
- ♦ Crisp crusts crackle and crunch.