



Rocking Horse Academy



2018

The end of a year and beginning of a new one brings us together to reflect and celebrate. 2017 has seen so many changes this year. We have made changes to our facility and to our staff. It's sad when one of the staff "family" moves on, but it's an opportunity to meet someone new.

We know that staff changes over time. We are very fortunate to have many staff who have been with us very long term. Ms. Erica Davis had been with us since we opened, and new love stole her away. She moved to the Bastrop area to start a new life. We are happy for her. Ms. Laura Oborski has also been with us almost since we opened; she came 4 months later. She has been crunching numbers and managing our books for 15 years, but a new opportunity was offered to her. She is shifting her career away from accounting and beginning a new position in human resources with another company. Of course, we wish her the best as she makes a career change. Ms. Linda has been waiting for December 15, 2017 for several years. It was her retirement plan since she started work here 12 years ago. Ms. Estela Gouge was also with us over a decade. She made the decision to spend more time with her family, which is so important. All these women were very important to Rebecca and to me in helping us develop this school. They've given their loyalty and support, guidance and hard work to make Rocking Horse Academy an amazing school. I'm forever grateful to have known them and to have worked with them for so long. I wish each one of them the very best as they pursue their career goals or enjoy their family time.

I am very grateful for all my staff for their hard work and dedication. We have been very fortunate to have some new administrative staff join our team and we hope to build new relationships

with them over the years to come. Ms. Candace has taken over the afternoon Front Office Manager's position. She has assumed so many roles and made herself indispensable already. She is so upbeat and positive, everyone enjoys working with her. And Ms. Jennifer has been exceptional in taking over the Front Office Administrative Assistant's position. They are a great new team. Mr. Cody has been a Corral Kid counselor for 4 years while he completed his college degree. We are very fortunate he was interested and available to take over the accounting position for Ms. Laura. It's a big job, but he's looking forward to jumping right in. Please be patient with us as he learns our EZ Care software that we use to invoice parents. If there's any question or concern, please contact us immediately. Mr. Travis used to be one of our parents and now he's helping with the Maintenance team. You might see him around with his toolbelt. We are trying to stay on top of all repairs and maintenance to keep our school in tiptop shape.

Our playground got a much-needed facelift with replacing slides and tunnels, adding mulch, and getting new tricycles and scooters. Mr. George and Mr. Frank have slowly been replacing pillars along all our porches. And we bought a new 15 passenger van to help transport our students and teachers.

In 2018, we are introducing Tadpoles.

It's an electronic way to manage classrooms and attendance. Our teachers will be able to

- Share photos, videos, notes to parents throughout the day
- Record meals, activities, naps, and more to daily reports
- Prepare lesson plans up to 4 weeks in advance
- Take attendance
- Record classroom visitations
- Mark children sick or on vacation

- View medical and birthday reminders
- View child allergy and emergency information
- View guardian and medical information

Parents

- Receive photos, videos, notes, and by email
- Download or share photos and videos of your children
- Receive emergency alerts by text message
- View your children's portfolio using our mobile application
- Mark your child out sick or on vacation using our mobile application



The iTunes
Download



This will be a learning process for us. We are currently setting up the iPads for the classrooms and will train our staff at our January 15th training day. We hope to introduce this in all classrooms through PreK. We will not use this in Corral Kids; they just aren't here all day to be able to use this system effectively; they will still be signed-out on our clipboards.

Parents, please make sure we have current emails for you so that Tadpoles will work correctly, and you receive your daily sheets and classroom messages.

Thank you for another wonderful, successful year. I value your confidence in us and the honor of allowing us to care for your children. Happy New Year.

Jane and Rebecca





EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Editor-In-Chief: Candace Burnstein

2018

Events

February 26– March 2

Scholastic Book Fair

March 2

Dr. Seuss' Birthday



March 11

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14-18

Spring Break

April 16-20

Week Of The Young Child

May 11

Snacks With Mom

May 14-18

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 25

Pre-School Graduation



June 7

Last Day of School– Summer Fun!

June 11

Corral Kids Summer Camp Begins

June 15

Snacks with Dad

School's Closed

January 1

RHA & HCISD

January 2 & 3

HCISD

January 15

RHA (In-Service) & HCISD

March 12-16

HCISD Spring Break

March 30

RHA & HCISD

May 28

RHA & HCISD

January
February
March
April
May
June

REMINDER:
Supply Fees Are
Charged In January
& September



Date Night

January 20

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

Tuition Due

January 2, 16, 29

February 12, 26

March 12, 26

April 11, 25

May 7, 21

June 4, 18



FOALS I

We have ended the remainder of 2017 with many great memories. We are looking forward to the New Year and all the adventures in Foals 1. We will be busy making new friends, doing fun art projects, focusing on the domains which are: cognitive, language, social and emotional development, and fine and gross motor skills, having fun with music and movement, and discovering the world of five senses with sensory development.

Our themes to start the New Year for **January** are Winter, and Artic Animals, and Review basics: letters, numbers, etc. Reading is so important as it helps children build their vocabulary words. The books we will read are "Goodnight Moon," "Biscuits Snowy Day," and "Snowflake the Snowman." Our Spanish words are: January-Enero, time-tiempo, white-blanco, and cold-frio. For music we sing "Twinkle Little Star," "Five Little Ducks," and "Old McDonald." Manipulation skills refer to the ability to move and position objects with in one hand without the help of the other hand.

In the month of **February**, we will learn about: Diversity, Black History, Feelings,

and Health and Body Teeth Food and Exercise. Spending quality time together is nice books we will read are "You are my Sunshine," "Time for Bed," and "Goodnight Moon." This month Spanish words are: February-Febrero, feelings-sentimientos, and teeth-diente. Songs we will sing together "Rock a Bye Baby," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," and "I'm a Little Tea Pot."

Physical development: babies get constant exercise by going through their regular daily routine. Every day each baby spends tummy time on the mat to strengthen back and leg muscles. During feeding time as our babies grow, we practice putting their hands on the bottle to eventually learn to self-feed. And once your child is 4 months old, he or she will get exercise time in the exersaucers. You will see that hard work pays off as your baby builds muscles and gets mobile first by pushing up and rolling and later by crawling, scooting, and walking.

March is going to be a fun month. We will learn about the following themes: Dr. Seuss Birthday, Spring Insects, and Pond Life. Words we will learn in Spanish are:

March-Marzo, farm-rancho, plants-plantas, and Spring-Primavera. Books for reading are Spring Surprise," "Little Quack," and "My First Farm Book." Songs we will sing "Baa Baa Black Sheep," "The Cat and the Fiddle," and "Round and Round the Garden."

In the month of **April**, the themes are: Recycling, Environmental Awareness, Week of the Young Child, and I Am Special. Our favorite books we will read together are "Honey Bunny," "Cool Chicks," and "Who's Hiding." Its fun to hear our singing voices and we will sing "Bingo," "Hokey Pokey," and "ABC."

Babies are a blessing and we look forward to having yours in our classroom as we work with them encouraging new milestones.

Please help us by checking your child's drawer routinely to make sure he/she has extra clothes which are weather appropriate. Also, please make sure to label everything with his/her name. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ask.

SIDS SYMPTOMS:

Sensory Ideas for Play:

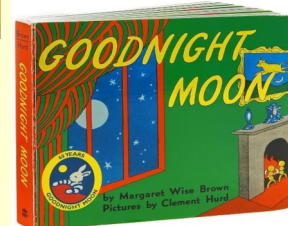
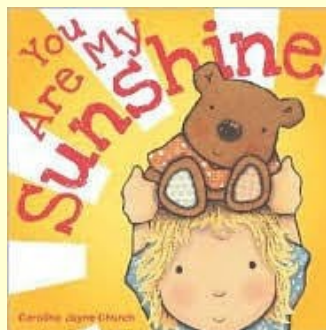
Sensory bottles

Baby oil and food coloring in a zip lock bag

Touch and feel color cards

Baby water play

Ribbon box baby play activity





FOALS II

A very merry new year from Foals 2. Welcome to all our new little friends; we are so excited to start the year 2018. We are looking forward to all the new adventures, wonderful growth, and learning experiences to come in this new year. Each day is different as every baby begins to develop his/her own skills at home and at school. Here's a look forward to what your child will be learning and experiencing this year in Foals 2.

Ring in the New Year: **January** will have us learning about Winter and Arctic Animals. The cool winter weather will have our babies making their own snowflakes and feeling "homemade" snow. Our Spanish words for this month will be frio – cold and nieve - snow. We will carry out the month with Arctic Animals by making polar bears and walruses. To warm us up and shake the chilly out, we will be dancing and singing to: "I'm a Little Penguin," "Polar Bear, Polar Bear," and "Counting Penguins." Reading is one of our favorite things in Foals 2, and we look forward to sharing the books "Little Polar Bear" and "Ten Playful Penguins" with our babies.

Fun in **February** will have us exploring Feelings, and Health & Body. Mirrors are

a great learning tool, and we plan on using them for this theme by looking in the mirror and talking about our feelings, making happy faces, sad faces and questioning faces. Babies are constantly exercising and working on their gross motor skills (moving those large muscles) pulling up, crawling, balancing, and reaching. Using our bodies will help us learn about the theme Health & Body. Eating healthy foods and using our fine motor skills to pick up peas, diced carrots and Cheerios will even have us incorporating learning at meal time. Our Spanish words for the month will be nariz – nose, boca – mouth and mano – hand.

Marching into **March** we have so much to learn! Our focus for this month will be Spring – Insects, Plants & Gardening, Pond Life, and Farm/Rodeo. There will be a lot of nature exploring, and weather permitting we will be having fun in the atrium to discover the world around us. It will be fun to have our babies make butterflies and flowers with our feet. Pond life will have us playing in water and making our own lily pads. To introduce the Farm/Rodeo theme we will be singing Old McDonald Had a Farm and reading the book, Farm Talk and My Little

Farm. This month our Spanish words will be vaca – cow and jardin - garden. This month will also allow us many opportunities to explore our sense of touch, by feeling furry animal fabrics and flower petals.

April showers bring May flowers introduces our babies to the themes of Environmental Awareness, Recycling and I am Special. Our babies will learn about our earth and recycling by reading the book: Peas on Earth and Don't Throw That Away. We will also make our own earth using blue and green finger paints. To learn how special each of our babies are we will be making books and singing songs. Our Spanish words this month will be mi – me and tierra – earth.

Babies are a blessing and we look forward to having yours in our classroom, encouraging new milestones, and preparing Foals 2 babies for their transition into Colts. We spend a lot of time learning through play and encourage you to do the same at home. Parenting can be hard work but together we can meet the developmental needs of your baby while also caring for their physical needs.

-Ms. Bianca

Question:

I am small as an ant and big as a whale,
I can soar through the air like a bird with a tail.
I can be seen by day and not by night,
I can be seen with a big flash of light.

A shadow

Answer:





COLTS

Welcome to a brand new year! We look forward to brand new learning opportunities.

Brrr! There is a chill in the air. If you haven't done so already, please check your child's cubby for size and weather appropriate clothing. Also, please remember to label all clothing (especially jackets, hats, and mittens), linens, bags, etc.... with your child's name. Food from home should be labeled with your child's first name and initial of your last, the date brought in, and when it is to be served. Using masking tape and a permanent marker ensures readability and makes removal much easier for the following day's use. Also, be sure to take home your child's water bottle and any food containers daily so that they may be cleaned and sanitized. Thank-you!

Our Colts are curious about EVERYTHING so the next four months will be fun.

In **January**, our focus will be on the winter season and Artic animals. In art, we will make snowflakes, polar bears, and penguins. A few books we will be reading are "Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?" By Eric Carle and "Penguin Says Please" by Michael Dahl. We will be learning the signs and Spanish words for snow and penguin. The colors of the month are blue and white. The shape for the month is the oval.

The **February** themes are our feelings and keeping our bodies healthy. The Colts will make valentines, a heart collage, and a tooth craft. Many of our young friends will be going to visit the dentist for the first time so we will talk about the dentist and read "Brush, Brush, Brush" by Alicia Padron. This month we will also talk about our feelings and read numerous books about our feelings. Red and pink are the colors of the month. The shape is the heart. We will learn some new signs and Spanish words this month as well.

March will be loaded with fun activities. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday by reading some of his books. If you have a favorite Dr. Seuss book, please read it to your child. We will learn about farm animals and sing Old McDonald Had a Farm. Warmer weather is fast approaching, so we will be journeying outside to the playground more often. "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle is a class favorite so we'll read it often and make a caterpillar craft as well as a butterfly craft. Purple is the color of the month and the hexagon is the shape of the month.

The **April** themes are recycling, environmental awareness, and I am special. Most people think that children this age are too young to learn about recycling, but they are smarter than people think.

Learning begins at birth, so we will be working on recycling paper scraps. One week in April is the Week of the Young Child, so be on the lookout for some fun things that we do that week. We will be working on an All about Me poster, so be prepared for homework. The shape of the month is the pentagon and the colors are pastels.

Every day we work on language development, social development, physical development, and cognitive development. So while most people think we are "just playing" we are actually learning. Language skills are developed through reading and singing. Social skills are developed by greeting others with a wave or a hello. Physical skills are taking off at are very active this point. Our Colts are learning how to climb, how to run, how hold a spoon or fork, etc.... Cognitive development is also starting to take off. Our Colts are starting to mimic everything.

Please remember to read the daily communication forms. We attach important information and mark supplies that are needed.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know. We are here for your child and you.

Thank-you!

Ms. Barbara and the Colts teachers

Woman: I'm 2 months pregnant now. When will my baby move?
Doctor: With any luck, right after it finishes college.





PONIES

We hope that all of our Ponies and their families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! 2018 has started with a bang and we are ready to breeze through to spring. We are very excited about each and every one of you and the fun we will have together. The next four months will be bursting with activities that will enable our Ponies to discover more about themselves and the world around them. As always, we will continue learning our sign language and our Spanish words.

Brrr! **January** is here with a chill. Winter is wonderful as we explore the Arctic and discover which animals live there and how they survive the cold temperature. The Ponies love to growl like a polar bear and waddle like a penguin as we read books and sing songs about Arctic animals. This month brings in a New Year so we will focus on calendar: days of the week, months of the year, and do you have a birthday every year? We will make our own clocks and sing, "Hickory Dickory Dock" during circle time.

We will begin **February** by learning about health and the body. The Ponies will learn to identify the basic parts of his/her bodies such as nose (nariz), eyes (ojos), hands (manos), knees (rodillas), etc. The songs 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and 'The Hokey Pokey' are fun ways to move our bodies while learning the names of body parts. We will also focus

on hygiene; cleanliness is very important to us and we will continue to learn how to wash our hands, clean up after ourselves following mealtimes, and how to use tissues or our elbows to cover our coughs and sneezes. The second week of February we will talk about feelings such as happy (feliz) and sad (triste). Our students will learn to identify feelings based on facial expressions and we will reinforce appropriate ways to express our feelings. The week of Valentine's Day, we will talk about love (amor) and friendship (amistad). The Ponies will host a Valentine's Day party; keep an eye out for our sign-up sheet. The last week of February, we will celebrate the culture and accomplishments of African Americans/Black History.

March brings the fun of learning about farm animals! Our students love to make animal sounds while pretending to be chickens (pollos), cows (vacas), ducks (patos), etc. You can do this at home as well. Your child will love to show you what they are learning! Spring is here and we will talk about the beautiful flowers (flores), new baby animals, all kinds of bugs, and the weather. Staying active is very important to our growing children and as the weather warms up, we will enjoy some more outside time. While outside we will look at the new leaves on trees, run relay races, and play games such as 'Ring Around the Rosy'. Our Cir-

cle Time books will include "Piglet and Mama," "Wow, It's a Cow," "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," and "10 Busy Buzzy Bugs." We will also talk about and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and read many of his beloved books.

In the month of **April**, Ponies will learn about our environment and how we can take care of it with the Three R's- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Rocking Horse will also celebrate a special time, Week of the Young Child. Stay tuned for more information about this special celebration. We will also talk about how each Pony is special in their own way. We will learn about our families and even do a special project highlighting what makes up our families.

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

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

The Pony Teachers

Shower Schizophrenia

The constant belief that you hear a child crying while you're trying to take a shower.





CHARGERS I

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

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

Entering the New Year in **January**, we will begin our Arctic animals, and the New Year time and calendar! We will discuss the seasons, and colder temperatures. We will also study Arctic animals, talk about their habitats, what they eat, and how they survive in such cold climates. We will be counting polar bears from 1-10. Penguins, art, whales and more, as

well as reading Penguin Pete's New Friends and Polar Bears on Ice.

Our themes for **February** will be Health and My Body. We will learn how to keep our bodies healthy with healthful food and exercise. Why it's important to wash our hands? What are our bones?, and What do they look like? We will also learn about Our Feelings. How do you feel? We will learn about our different emotions, and expressing our feelings verbally and non-verbally. We will be counting our big bones as well as dancing to Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.

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

Our themes for **March** will be Farm, Spring, Plants, Gardening, and Insects/ Spiders. We will discuss different farm animals and their importance. What's the weather like in spring? How do plants grow? Bugs, where do they live? What do they eat? We will be learning how to plant seeds and watch them grow. We will also be counting different types of insects and making lady bug art. Mr. George is going to help us build a small flower garden just outside our classroom along the porch railing. Look for the new Charger garden for Chargers I and II. We will focus on colors: Green and Yellow. Along with rectangle and circle shapes. Books we will read are "On the Farm", "Wow, it's a Cow", "You Can Fly Bumblebee", "Beetle Bop"

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

We will focus on the Colors: Orange and Purple Shapes: Circle and Triangle

Books we will read: "Chickens Aren't the Only Ones", "That's Not Fair, Hare", "What is the Sun?"

- Our Parent Board is located outside of our door. It will have our lesson plans, monthly newsletter, lunch menu and any other important information parents should know.
- Please don't forget to check your child's cubby for any dirty clothes or make sure that they have an extra change of clothes in case of an accident. Label everything please. Don't forget to pick up art work as well.
- Parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to discuss any issues with us. We want to have good communication with our parents! Is there something we need to know? Is there something we need to tell you? Our doors are always open so please come and talk to us if you need to!

Mrs. Laurie, Ms. Theresa

The quickest way for a parent to get a child's attention is to sit down and look comfortable.

Lane Olinhouse





CHARGERS II

Cooler temperatures can only mean winter is here. We will be exploring many new things, such as playing with “fake” snow, building a “recycled” snowperson, working on simple patterns and numbers 1-10. We will work on “using our inside voices” and our “Big Kid” words to communicate with our friends.

Our biggest accomplishment to date is seeing the entire Chargers 2 class move closer and closer to being fully potty trained! We are so proud of all of our students that are sitting and going potty in the toilet! Diapers and pull-ups are a thing of the past! It makes us very happy when we see a child transitions from diapers to underwear, because he/she is so proud of this new accomplishment, and we can actually see a little stride in his/her step!

The children are continuing to work on alphabet recognition, color recognition, and name recognition. During Circle Time, they are learning the days of the week, simple patterns, matching and identifying different shapes. December was great and brought up our themes of Holiday Traditions Around The World,

Children and Culture, and Music and Movement. Last year, Chargers 2 learned about how Christmas is celebrated in Ireland. We learned and sang Irish holiday songs, did some Irish Jigs, and celebrated the holiday season with jingle bells and lots of “Ho Ho Ho’s”. The children really enjoyed all of our activities, and we focused on how the holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends.

We will ring in **January** 2018 with the themes of New Years, Winter and Arctic Animals. We will discuss the change of seasons and what winter brings. Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You See? will help illustrate different Arctic animals and show them in their environment. We will study penguins and polar bears and learn about what they eat and where they live.

In **February** we will focus on the “Dental Health” and do a cool experiment where we learn how to clean our teeth properly and also talk about our bodies and how important it is to be healthy. We will celebrate “Black History” month by looking at pictures and talking about it.

Then as the seasons change, we will blow into **March** winds and talk about Farm Life and all the workings of a farm and the animals that you would see there. We will then talk about Spring and plant some seeds so we can record and watch to see how long it takes for them to grow. We will also go on a “Bug Hunt” with our “BIG” magnifying glasses and collect a few to look at closer up.

Then **April** will bloom with activities as we will talk about the Earth and what we can do to take care of it, as well as do an art project with recycled items. We will also celebrate our kiddos during “Week of the young child” with lots of fun and unique activities.

Please remember to bring a change of weather-appropriate clothes, especially during the potty training process. Label all personal items and check daily sheets for any important information or reminders.

The Chargers II Teachers



Q: How do you fix a broken tomato?

The quickest way for a parent to get a child’s attention is to sit down and look comfortable.

Lane Olinhouse

A: With tomato paste!





PINTOS

January is where everyone is starting to slow down and things are getting back to normal. We will study the season of winter and all the wonders it brings. We will do this through observations when we go on nature walks, conduct science experiments with ice and water, and, of course, read several different books. The Pintos will also learn about all the different types of Arctic animals. We will study the homes they live in, the food they eat, and why they are equipped to live in the cold Arctic weather.

Because everyone will be celebrating the New Year, so will we! The children are slowly getting some concepts of time. They are beginning to understand about tomorrow, yesterday and of course, “stay home days.” We work on expanding that knowledge by going over the months of the year and days of the week.

February is a very exciting month. Not only do we have a chance to appreciate our friendships on Valentine’s Day, but we will also learn appropriate ways to express our feelings and learn some new vocabulary words at the same time. Learning about diversity is important at all ages. We chart who has what color eyes and what their favorite color is to bring in science and math. We read books that discuss how to be kind to others with our words and our actions. Keeping our bodies healthy is very important. We do this several different ways: eating healthy food, exercising, and getting regular check-ups. We will study which foods help our bodies grow and which foods just taste good but don’t benefit our growing bodies. We will also learn about the journey our food takes in our bodies when we eat it. To help the children understand how important check-ups are, we will talk about and pretend play doctoring and dentistry.

March is the month that we have our Scholastic book fair and month of Dr.

Seuss’ birthday! This is a great opportunity to talk about rhyming words and making up fun new words and an opportunity to honor a great author and artist. What a perfect time of year to learn about how plants grow and what they need to grow. The best way to learn about plants, of course, is to grow some of our own. We will experiment by planting seeds in different ways and places to see how well they do in each environment. For example, planting seeds in water versus soil, planting seeds in shade versus the sunlight and finding out which combination works best to grow our seeds. Learning about plants is a great way to start learning about why farmers are so important to us and where our food really comes from. Along with plants and farms, we will study fun facts about insects! We will get to watch the entire life cycle of a butterfly for ourselves.

In **April** we are going to talk about how important it is to recycle the things we can, reuse the items we have and reduce the use of things like electricity and water. This is great time to have the families bring in recycle materials for fun art projects so that the children get the full concept of reuse. Around Easter time the children see and even decorate eggs at home, so I will take this opportunity to teach the children about birds and eggs and their life cycle. Natural science is always fun to learn about. The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world’s largest early childhood education association, with nearly 80,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families

At this stage in their development, the children will more likely pair up in same gender groups to play. They do a lot of gender identity at this time, saying things like, “only boys can do this,” most of the time the children’s presumptions are incorrect. I make sure to point out all the different things that both boys and girls can do. So don’t be surprised if some of those conversations start to come up. As the children start to play in small groups, they also might start excluding others from their play. My job is to help the child who is trying to join in do so successfully or find another group to join. I do this by giving them phrases like, “I can be the brother.” “I can help you build that tower.” “Which toy can I use?” This way you are not giving the children the obvious opportunity to say, “No.” Phrases like, “Can I play?” usually come back with the “no” response.

Excluding at this age is not personal or as hurtful as you might think. The children are only trying out a new social skill to see how it works. They are all still really good friends; the teachers always make sure everyone is safe, both emotionally as well as physically. All of the children can recognize the first letter in their name when they see it in the environment. Most children can recognize their name in print. So I will continue to work on these skills with all the children at group time as well as in small groups.

Most of the children can count at least two objects successfully and many can count up to five objects, pointing to each one as they count. We have been working a lot on this with simple finger plays and fun sorting toys. As the children start to master these skills we will do some simple addition and subtraction.

Pintos





MUSTANGS

Wow, where did the time go? There are only 5 more months before our Mustangs graduate to Pre-K.

We will start off our new year with Parent-Teacher conferences at the end of **January** to discuss the progress of your child. We also have several great topics planned for January starting with time and calendar. We will focus on simple concepts such as how many hours are in a day, as well as continue learning the days of the week, months of the year and corresponding seasons. Our next topic for January will be about Winter Weather and Arctic animals. We will explore what it is like to live in Arctic areas and what animals need to survive there. We will do a science project in class on how animals like polar bears, seals, and walruses stay warm in the icy water of the Arctic and Antarctic?

In **February** we will explore our emotional and personal health. We will talk about exercise, dental health and healthy habits and foods. While learning about dental health we will discuss ways to keep our teeth clean and strong, the importance of regular dental check-ups, as well as not eating too much junk food. We will have a visit from a local dentist as well. We will talk about different ways to move our bodies for exercise, as well as take the "rainbow challenge" where we

will track the different colors of the rainbow that we eat every day. We will look through magazines for food that is healthy and practice our scissor skills to cut and paste them into a healthy and unhealthy collage. During circle time we will practice yoga poses and do obstacle courses during gym time. We will also review proper handwashing techniques and personal hygiene. Lastly, we will also discuss our emotions and learn healthy ways to deal with big emotions like fear and anger.

Also during February we will celebrate Black History and learn about the contributions made to our country by African Americans. I will introduce fact sheets and handouts for us to explore. We will do a matching game linking inventions to the inventor. We will also talk about respecting each other's differences.

Now onto **March**, where we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2 with a Scholastic Book Fair that week. We will read his classic stories like Hop on Pop and One Fish, Two Fish, while also creating fun Seuss-ical inspired crafts and a dessert inspired by Green Eggs and Ham. In addition March is the month that we spring forward. We will talk about spring plants, growth and gardening. Each child will plant a bean in a cup to watch and track it's growth. After a few

weeks of observing it, the children will be able to take it home to continue to watch it grow and care for it. Our discussions will include the changes in the weather, the days becoming longer, the nights shorter and the grass and trees turning back to green. The month will close with insects, a favorite of the children. We will go on a nature walk and discover what insects we see on our walk and write them down. We will learn words like thorax and abdomen and what distinguishes an insect- it's six legs and 3-part body.

In **April**, we will celebrate The Week of the Young Child. It is one of our favorite times of year as we do some of our most messy and fun projects, such as splatter painting, spaghetti walking and lots of messy, sensory play! It all ends with the Carnival on Friday with face painting, bubbles, dancing, games and silly photos. We will wrap up the month with environmental awareness during Earth week. We will talk about the 3 R's – recycle, reuse, reduce. We will make our own paper and use it for craft projects. Seeing their reaction when they make something awesome from something they would normally just throw away is priceless. Here's to the next few exciting months!

Mustangs

Why did Johnny get such low grades after Christmas?





WRANGLERS

Wow, where did the time go? 2018 is already upon us! There are only 5 more months before our Wranglers graduate to Pre-K. During the last week in January, we will have our parent/teacher meetings to discuss your child's progress. Our Wrangler room is unique and different because I absolutely strive to stimulate the natural curiosity of each child. The goal of our lessons is to get him/her involved with open-ended questions and actual hands-on experiences. Our environment is neat and organized, which promotes respect and responsibility from the teachers and the children. Our learning centers are clearly defined and inviting. Our shelves are labeled with pictures to enhance pre-reading skills. We take care in making sure each shelf is fully stocked with a variety of activities, which helps eliminate negative behavior.

As teachers, we consistently model the behaviors we expect from each child. Along with our weekly topics, we will do more handwriting practice (journals on Fridays), letter and number recognition, as well as pre-reading activities in preparation for Pre-K. I have been communicating with the Trotters and Broncos teachers to assure that each child is properly prepared for their next level of learning. We will also work on rhyming words, patterns and opposites. If you have any questions concerning your child's next transition, please don't hesitate to ask.

In **January**, we have several great topics starting with time and calendar. We will focus on simple concepts such as how many hours are in a day. We will create personal clocks and a favorite time of the day chart. Our next topic for January will be about Winter Weather and Arctic animals. We will explore what it is like to live in Arctic areas and

what animals need to survive there. We will do a science project in class on how animals like polar bears, seals, and walrus stay warm in the icy water of the Arctic and Antarctic. A couple of activities that we will be doing will be building an igloo out of marshmallows and toothpicks and making "blubber" so the children see how the animals are able to be under the ice-cold Arctic water.

In **February** we have several topics starting with Dental. We will talk about ways to keep our teeth clean and strong. We will discuss the importance of regular dental check-ups, as well as not eating too much junk food, which is not good for our teeth and our bodies. Wranglers will look through magazines to look for food that is healthful and non-healthful. If parents have any magazines they wouldn't mind donating for this topic, it would be greatly appreciated, which leads us into discussing health and body. We will talk about which meals and snacks are healthful foods that provide energy and help us grow. We want to encourage the Wranglers healthful eating habits and exercise routines. During this lesson, we will also review proper hand-washing techniques. During this month, we will celebrate Black History. We will learn about the contributions made to our country by African Americans. Feelings are another topic we will be exploring in February. We want each child to know that his/her feelings are important, and we will talk about ways to better express joy and happiness or disappointments and anger.

Now onto **March**, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday. We will have a desert inspired by Green Eggs and Ham. In addition, March is the month that we spring forward. We will talk about spring plants, growth and gardening. We will grow a bean in a clear cup to see it grow.

The children will be able to take it home to continue to watch it grow and care for it. As a class, we will be able to take a little trip to our school garden to see what plants are growing. Our discussions will include the changes in the weather, grass turning back to green & leaves growing back on the trees. Then we will end the month with insects. We will go on a nature walk and discover what insects we see on our walk and write them down.

In **April**, we will celebrate The Week of the Young Child. This is always a fun time! We will also have a class party that Friday, please look for the sign-up sheet located next to the attendance clip board. Finally, we will learn about environmental awareness during Earth week in April. I personally love this week because of the art projects the children make with items that are not your typical art supplies. Seeing their reaction when they make something awesome from something they would normally just throw-away is priceless. **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!!!!**

Parents, although we have planned lesson topics, please let us know if there are any additional topics that you would like for us to explore with the children, you are more than welcome to come in and share things with our class during our lesson time or other times throughout the day. Please sign your child in/out, and check child file, daily. (Only authorized adults may do so). Also, provide a fresh water bottle-LABELED daily. Also, change your child's change of clothes. It is the season for weather changes: cold in the morning and warm in the afternoons. I find it helpful to have a variety of changes of clothes in the cubby to help us stay comfortable. Please take your child's linen home weekly.





BRNCOS

Happy Holiday's Bronco Families! First, thank you, parents, for your kind donations to the San Marcos Women's shelter. Thank you from all the Bronco teachers for you gifts and kindness this holiday season. Our true gift is being able to teach and care for your children and watch their little minds continue to grow! Now that we are starting the 2018 year, we are in the home stretch before your child enters kindergarten, and the next four months will be a busy time.

In our previous months our Broncos have learned many things. We have focused on letters A-J through the weeks. We have covered community helpers and buildings, family members, different kinds of families, using our imaginations, tools we use, and France. The children have grown confident in writing their first names, and we continue to work on writing our letters in the alphabet. I am very proud to say that Bronco teachers have noticed all the children using their words to explain their actions and feelings, not just to teachers and adults but with their peers also. It is, however, always a work in progress to manage classroom behaviors.

Starting off the New Year, we will be wrapping up our unit on Imagine It, Think It with learning about things we build and art all around us. Be prepared to see all the artwork, new inventions and buildings our Broncos will be constructing. Creativity and art is one of my favorite lessons to teach, and I look forward to

seeing what all the students will create. Also in **January** we will learn about Arctic animals, winter, time, and reviewing all the basic concepts we have learned in the previous months to keep things fresh. Parent-Teacher Conferences will begin the end of January. I am looking forward to speaking with each parent and working together to help your child flourish and grow.

Towards the end of January and rushing into the month of Love and **February** the Broncos will be learning about health and taking care of their bodies. In our Healthy Me unit we will cover our 5 senses, exercising, doctors' visits, eating healthfully, proteins, fruits, vegetables, staying safe, and 911 emergencies. Be on the lookout for information as Valentine's Day draws near. We will have a class party for the children to pass out Valentines and enjoy the special day!

Blooming into the month of **March** is our next unit: Nature all around us. This unit will cover the different part of plants, how they grow, the sky, clouds, stars, sun, our weather and the seasons. Projects for this unit will include growing our own little bean sprouts and flowers to watch and observe and making charts to show the differences between day and night and the four seasons. March is also the month of Dr. Seuss's Birthday. We will spend some time reading childhood classics and embracing our creativity.

April will be an awesome month. Awesome Animals is the unit for this month and I am sure every child will be excited for it. We will be learning about all kind of animals, their homes, insects, animal skin, fur, their babies, and how they grow and change. April is also the month for Week of the Young Child, a national holiday celebrating your Awesome Child and recognition for children in early learning, their parents and teachers. This is a weeklong event at our school with dress up days and celebrations in tow.

Brace yourselves as these few months fly by very quickly. Before we know it, it will be graduation time and summer right around the corner. All the Bronco teachers are looking forward to these busy months and are excited to see what all the children learn best. If you have any concerns or questions, I do not mind having brief discussions in the morning as you drop off, but please remember that I am supervising children. If you have a concern or question that will take more than a couple of minutes to discuss, please feel free to call or let me know a time I can contact you. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at (512) 405-3700. With weather changing please make sure that your child has a jacket/sweater for outside time. Please make sure they have extra clothes just in case of accidents (belongings should always be labeled). Thank you for allowing us the privilege of being a part of your child's life.

Broncos

What key has legs
and can't open
doors?

A turkey!





TROTTERS

Where has the time gone? This fall semester has come and gone so quickly! It has been a great school year so far. It has been a pleasure to spend this time getting to know the students and parents of the Trotter class. I can't begin to explain how much hard work has been done and how much fun has been had in the Trotter room up until this point.

In October and November we had our Halloween parade, followed by our Thanksgiving Family Feast a few weeks later where we took the time to learn about Native Americans, Pilgrims, and the significance of Thanksgiving.

The month of December is culture awareness month. We took the time to talk about Children Around the World. Our class took the time to discover the culture of Japan, along with many other different cultures and traditions we had among the other classrooms. We learned some Japanese words, traditions, geography and wrapped up the theme with treats popular in Japan.

In the span of those 3 months our classroom has eagerly participated in the curriculum. Activities, projects, guest speakers, and guided discussions have all been incorporated in our classroom to help ensure and scaffold children's learning. Memories are continuing to build, and lessons are continually learned personally and intellectually. It has truly been

amazing to see through these activities how much these children have grown socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. That was just a recap of the fall semester; now onto the spring semester.

In the New Year, January, February, and March, our Trotter Classroom will continue to grow as the year progresses. After a nice long break, our class will jump back in the curriculum by finishing up with our "Imagine it" theme, then move into "Growing up" by February, so by March our class will be able to begin our "Nature all around us" theme.

In January I will begin to conduct assessments of each student so by the time parent-teacher conferences are scheduled, we will be able to discuss goals met, progress, and new goals for the New Year. Our theme of "Growing up" will consist of subject content such as the 5 senses, taking care of ourselves, eating well, and staying safe. Our class will conduct experiments and activities to help discover and enrich our senses. During this theme, I would like to take the time to ask for any guest speakers such as nurses, doctors, dentists, nutritionists, and trainers to find the time to visit our class to help discuss the importance of growing up and taking care of our bodies, which shall take us to the end of February.

In the beginning of March, we start our "Nature all around us" theme, followed by our "Awesome Animals" theme in April. Our science center will incorporate animals and insects the children may observe and investigate such as pictures and x-rays. Our math center will involve counting bears, insects and animal patterns, along with animal and insect memory games. The ABC center will allow the children to work on puzzles of animals or insects and spelling. Centers in our classroom are used to encourage our students to use their knowledge and curiosity over lessons we have been learning throughout the month.

In closing, I would like to remind all parents to please check their child's folder daily for updated information and daily information. Also, please keep in mind the weather changes and update child's extra clothing as necessary, along with labeling everything that is brought into the classroom to help ensure it gets returned to its rightful owner every time.

Trotter Teachers

Q: What do librarians take with them when they go fishing?

Because everything is marked down after the holidays!





CORRAL KIDS

2018...We are coming for you!!

We are saying goodbye to 2017 and awaiting all the adventures 2018 will hold for our Corral Kids! Parents don't forget that your Corral Kid will be starting back to school on Thursday January 4th and RHA will have All-day care available Tuesday and Wednesday for those who will need it. We also want to remind you that while the weather has been UP and Down this season, it is important to be sure to send your Corral Kid with coats, sweatshirts, long sleeves, hats and gloves, etc. as we will be spending time outside and weather appropriate clothing is important to stay warm and healthy! The Corral Kids staff is excited to make 2018 a year of joy, peace and purpose. Thank you to our parents and Corral Kids for an amazing 2017...Happy 2018!

December is a month of JOY and **January** is a month of CELEBRATION so we are choosing LOVE for February. Corral Kids will be creating one-of-a-kind Valentines and then delivering their LOVE to local Kyle senior citizens learning an easy lesson on participating in acts of kindness

and how the smallest action can generate the happiest of reactions.

School involved clubs will be starting again so please give us some heads-up for any changes to your Corral Kid's schedules

Spring as in Break???

March madness is among us, giving us warmer weather and more daylight aka more playground time!!!! March isn't just all about basketball and Dr. Seuss but is also SPRING BREAK!!!! This means a week off school and an opportunity to enroll in Corral Kids Spring Break Camp. Make sure to sign up with your Corral Kid's teacher! As if that wasn't enough excitement about vacation and fun to look forward to, RHA will also have Pre-Enrollment for Summer Camp available to our Corral Kid parents the week after Spring Break! This will allow our parents to sign up ASAP as our spots fill up fast!!! So much going on in March it's giving us mad-happiness!

Spring is in the AIR...

April showers will bring May flowers... couldn't segway us into our Environmen-

tal Awareness/Recycling theme better!

We will be focusing on implementing a recycling program within the Corral Kids to teach the importance of what we consider "waste" and how recycling it can provide other forms of potentially useful materials. This is going to be a student-wide project on creating and designing the best form of recycling that works for our After-school program. We are looking forward to all April has to offer, even if it brings us some showers, we will still have sunshine on those cloudy days!

We would love to hear from you!

You can reach Brooke anytime during school hours via phone or email

512-405-3700

corralkidsrha@rockinghorseacademy.com

This is a wonderful way for you to let us know about your child's expected attendance, questions about the programs and services that we provide, or any other questions that you may have. Please feel free to contact me any time!

Brooke

