

ROCKING HORSE ACADEMY

May-August 2018



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Candace Rupard

Did You Know?...

Rocking Horse Academy, an accredited school, is dedicated to teaching old-fashioned values tempered with today's educational research. We believe children are our treasures. That is why making sure they are nurtured, well-educated, and safe is so important to us.

We are committed to making our school a state-of-the-art facility, designed to provide children with the best learning environment possible.

Our extracurricular program includes gymnastics and dance. We also provide Stretch 'n Grow to our older classrooms.



We invite guest speakers from the community to help teach the children about fire safety with our local fire fighters, or stranger-danger from our local police department and a birthday visit from the Cat in the Hat himself.

During the winter holidays, we celebrate International Children's Day with our own international festival with food and flags, music and games from around the world. Our older children take field trips to a variety of events: museums, exotic animal parks, pumpkin patches, and other exciting adventures.



About our Staff

Our minimum standard for our LEAD Teacher is that she/he holds a Bachelor's degree, OR an Associate's degree with 5 years' experience, OR a CDA with 10 years' experience OR at least 5 years' experience in the Childcare field or working on those degree plans. Our PreK classrooms are generally taught by a Bachelor degreed teacher. Most of our after-noon part time staff are students from Texas State University, many of who are studying in the education field to become teachers.

We value education and experience both. We have very low turnover rate and most of our teachers live in this area. We are your neighbors. The owners also live in the Kyle area, so we are invested in this community.

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Today

6022 McNaughton
Kyle, TX 78640
(in Plum Creek)
512-405-3700

6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m

Accredited by:



Community Events

We are a member of the Kyle community and participate in many fairs and festivals including *Plum Creek's Front Porch Days*. We sponsor *soccer teams, swim teams, high school projects and students, Hays Women's Shelter, CTMC Hospice, Susan Komen Foundation, Alex Lemonade Stands, Girl Scouts, Negley Elementary PTA, Blanco Vista Elementary PTA, and Kyle Elementary PTA*. CPR/First Aid classes are open to the public and offered monthly. After hours, our gym is converted into a *Boot Camp* for anyone in the community to exercise. Rocking Rocking Horse Academy is an active member of the Kyle Chamber of Commerce. We believe in giving back to the community whenever we can. We are your neighbors!

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Tuition Due

May	7 21
June	4 18
July	10 24
August	13 27

Date Night

May	19
June	16
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August	18



Pre-School Graduation

May 26, 2018

11:00 a.m. Luncheon

Sack Lunch -Graduates

Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11

RHA Closed

May 28

Happy Memorial Day

RHA Closed In-Service

August 10

Good Friday

RHA Closed

July 4

Happy Independence Day



First Day of School
August 27, 2018

FOALS I

I would like to start off by saying how excited I am to be going back to school to ACC-Child Development Certification. I am learning so much more and so thrilled to be able to share what I am learning into our classroom.

Fine motor skills involve coordinating the small muscles of the hand, wrist, and fingers. Some fine motor skills development include:

holds and shakes rattle

eyes and head follow moving objects

grasping objects

looks at an object in hand while bringing it to mouth

drops and puts small blocks into a container

While playing on our mat or enjoying time in our bouncy seats or exersaucers, our babies practice these skills. Our American Sign Language requires the development of fine motor skills. We begin teaching infants these signs early. They may not be able to perform them, but they do attach meaning quickly and once they do master more fine motor skills, they will begin to use them to communicate their wants and needs.

Let's Enjoy Our Summer

The themes for **May** are: Transportation, Maps, Tools, Building, Inventions, and Technology. Our Spanish words are: May-Mayo, transportation-transportacion, friends-amigos, and name-nombre. Spending time together on the mat is always fun and we love to sing songs which are "Old McDonald," "Ants Go Marching," and "Bingo."

Talking with the infants is so important which helps them to build their vocabulary. For story time we will read "Pet the Cat," "The Ants Go Marching," "Little Owls Colors," and "Puppy Love."

Gross motor skills development includes:

turns head from side to side

rolls from back to stomach

holds head and chest up when lying on stomach

uses arms and legs to move forward

when on stomach or back

begins to sit without assistance.

We ensure that each child gets tummy time every day to encourage these developments. We use the boppy pillows to help teach the muscles how to hold ourselves up while "sitting."

Our school wide themes for **June** are: Summer Fun, Ocean, Beach, and Camping. As we make conversations with the babies we talk to them using our Spanish words which are: June-Juno, summer fun-vevanodivertido, and ocean life-vida en el oceano. Two new songs this month are "Wheels on the Bus," and "Hey Diddle." Books we will read are: "Five little Ducks," "Busy Farm," "Shapes," and "In the Forest."

Infants develop strong social and emotional skills when their needs are met consistently by an adult they trust and when the interactions among the adults and children are positive. Ms. Sonia and I enjoy singing to the babies while we hold them during feeding time. They love Ms. Sonia's Spanish lullabies.

Themes for **July** are: American History, Space, and Jungle animals. Everyday

we speak to the babies in Spanish, English, and Sign Language. Spanish words for this month are: July-Julio, American-Americanana, history-historia, and jungle-selva. Fun songs we will sing "Five Little Monkeys," "I'm a Little Teapot," "Teddy Bear," and "Hokey Pokey." For story time, we will read: "Ten little Bluebirds," "Snuggle up Sleepy Ones," and "Colors Colors Everywhere."

We speak gently to infants throughout the day including during routines such as diapering and feeding in both Spanish and English to introduce both languages at this important developmental stage. We try to incorporate additional words into their day to expand their vocabulary by describing what we are doing.

Themes for **August** are: Manners, Safari animals, and Pets. Spanish words for this month are: August-Augusto, safari-safari, manners-modales, and pets-mascotas. Songs we will sing are "Where is Thumbkin," "open shut Them," and "Apples and Bananas." Books we will read are: "Olivia Counts," "Little Alphabet," "Helping Hands," and "Favorite Things."

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

Thanks,

Foals I Staff

Everyone smiles in the same language

Author Unknown

FOALS 2

Ready, set Summertime! We are looking forward to a world of fun, learning, and growing these next 4 months in Foals 2. Let the adventures begin!

We have a lot of moving and shaking to look forward to in May with our themes of **Transportation** and **Tools – Building**. We will also be celebrating our amazing moms this month with a special gift for Mother's Day.

The best way to learn is through play and our babies will be doing just that through our Transportation theme. Playing with toy cars, trucks and airplanes will improve your baby's language development by learning names for methods of transportation and mimicking the sounds they make. Holding and manipulating the toy autos will also improve babies fine motor skills; To reinforce this, we will also be making our own tractors and airplanes with finger-paints. Singing "Wheels on the Bus" and "Row Your Boat" with our friends will encourage both social and emotional development in our babies.

The hands-on theme of Tool/Building for this month will allow your baby to work on his/her gross motor development by moving his/her big muscles to make our own "buildings" with foam blocks. We will also have a Tools scavenger hunt to support cognitive development by having babies look for different tools around the classroom. We will be broadening our baby's language by introducing the word hammer in English and Spanish, "martillo." Summer will be in full swing

in the month of June as we explore **Summer Fun, Ocean and Beach** for our monthly themes. Also, awesome, Foals 2 Dads can look forward to a special surprise from baby for Father's Day this month.

Starting off with Summer Fun our babies will discover all the best parts about summer. By making bright yellow suns with our hands and finger paint as well as watermelons, and hot air balloons, Foals 2 babies creative expression and sensory development will flourish. We have an array of books to boost language development along with our Summer Fun theme with our favorites being "Baby Beluga" and Baby Loves Summer.

We will expand our Summer Fun theme into our Ocean and Beach themes for the last weeks of June. Beach ball rolling and "sand castle" stacking cups will improve your baby's gross motor skills and promote cognitive development. Sensory bottles filled with water and beach elements will nourish social and emotional development and coincide with the babies learning the Spanish words: playa – beach and agua – water. Rounding out the month's theme, we will be sure to journey outdoors to our atrium, so all our babies can have a little fun in the sun. Don't forget the sunblock lotion (no sprays)! You apply in the mornings before school. We will apply in the afternoons before we go for a walk or to the atrium. You must provide the sunscreen with a permission notice.

July will be a blast as we learn about **American History, Space, and Jungle**

Animals. We will explore the theme of American History by looking at pictures of past presidents igniting your babies cognitive and language development. Seeing pictures of the bright colors of fireworks along with making their explosive sounds to celebrate Independence Day will stimulate baby's senses and add to the learning fun of American History. A fun class art project we are looking forward to this month will be an American flag.

Space will be the next theme we launch into this month as we sing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and read the book "Goodnight Moon" to strengthen our language development. We have some fun art projects on the horizon for this month which will stimulate our senses, by making a bubble wrap moon, and finger-paint space shuttle and star. The Spanish words for the month will encapsulate our space theme: luna – moon, estrella – star and sol- sun.

It will be more than just monkey-business as we end the month with our theme of Jungle Animals. The finger plays of "Five Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree" and the book "Five Tumbling Tigers" promote counting and language as well as fine motor muscle development. Big muscle movement will be stimulated as we encourage our babies to crawl around the room like lions and swing their imaginary trunks like elephants.

August will close out our summer of fun with the themes **Safari Animals, Pets and Manners.** Learning

***We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves;
otherwise we harden.***

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

COLTS

Are we ready for some summer fun? Before we begin, please remember to apply sunscreen to your little one. We will gladly re-apply sunscreen in the afternoon. Please remember to bring a filled water bottle for your child. Our Colts sure do love their water, and we will re-fill bottles as needed. A helpful hint: Put a little ice or water in the bottle and freeze overnight and fill with cold water in the mornings. Also, please remember to take your child's water cup home daily so that it may be cleaned and sanitized properly. If you have not done already so, please check your child's cubby hole and make sure they have weather appropriate clothing. Also, please make sure to label all your child's belongings with their first name and 1st initial of your last name. If you provide lunch from home, please make sure to label your child's lunch box and all containers with your child's name. Using a permanent marker or masking tape with your child's name will ensure readability of items and makes meal time run smoother. The next several months will be busy ones for the Colt Class. During the summer months, we will review our colors, shapes, Spanish words, and signs.

Monthly themes for **May** are **Transportation, Building and Technology**. We will also be working on a special Mother's Day project. Madre (mom), los carro (car), y los utiles (tools) are

some of the words we will be teaching the children this month. Painting, coloring, and using glue sticks for our art projects will help improve our fine motor skills. Some ideas for home include coloring with your child, cuddling up with a special book or dancing a silly dance. Some books we will read include "Are You My Mother and "Night, Night, Construction Site." Our favorite song to sing is The Wheels on the Bus. Of course, as teachers we sometimes change the words around to make it silly. At the end of the month we will make a poster for our Graduating Class. Way to go Trotters and Broncos. Just a reminder, we will be closed for Memorial Day.

The Themes for **June** are **Summer Fun and Ocean Life**. To celebrate summer fun, we will glue sand into sand pails, make colorful beach balls and umbrellas. In our lesson plans, we will learn some new signs and Spanish words that are theme related. To celebrate ocean fun, we will make crabs, dolphins, sharks, boats, and a few other surprises. Some songs we will sing are *Baby Shark* and *I'm a Little Fishy*. We will also be making special gifts for Daddy or that special male figure in our life. The Friday before Father's Day, please join us for snacks with Dad, Grandpa, or that special male figure in your life. This is a great opportunity to have a special moment with your child.

School wide themes for July are **Space and Jungle Animals**. To kick off our

space theme, we will paint rocket ships; we will make bag art moons and stars and pretend to fly like a rocket ship. For our jungle theme, be prepared for lions, tigers, snakes, and monkeys to be lurking outside our door. We will learn the signs and Spanish words for monkey (los chango), tiger(el tigre), and snake(la serpiente). Be silly with your child at home and pretend to be different jungle animals. In the month of July, we will also celebrate **America's Birthday**. We will make fireworks and dance with streamers. Just a reminder, RHA will be closed on July 4th. We will be exercising our gross motor skills by kicking and throwing balls, climbing the stairs to the slides and riding on our toys.

August themes are **Safari Animals, Pets, and Manners**. For our safari theme, we will use our hands and feet to make elephants, toucans, hippos and many other animals. We will read various stories related to our safari theme. Cool home ideas would be to look at pictures of safari animals, taking pictures of family or neighborhood pets, and maybe visiting a zoo.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact us during our nap time (12:00 to 2:00). We will be happy to visit with you then. You may also leave us a note through our tadpole program or our class email (colts@rockinghorseacademy.com)

The truest wisdom is a resolute determination

Napoleon Bonaparte

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 use sunscreen. You should apply it in the morning *before* arriving, and we will reapply some after nap in the afternoon. We will be checking for a sunscreen consent form in your file, and we'll also let you know if your Pony is running low on sunscreen. Please make sure it is the **lotion** type.

We have been working on so many things during circle time in the Pony room. We have been exploring colors, shapes, numbers, as well as singing songs such as, *Twinkle Twinkle, Bumble Bee, ABC's, Itsy Bitsy Spider*, and more. The children also enjoy singing *Jump Up and Down* while learning to jump and dance. We read many books while in circle time and the children have their favorites like Bubble Bubble, The Watermelon Seed and Please Mr. Panda. We are very excited about the upcoming season. The following is a preview of what to expect in the next few months...

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 kid 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 and How Does a Dinosaur Say Goodnight? Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th. In honor of Mother's Day we will read Are You My Mother?, Piglet and Mama, and My Mama is a Llama, and we'll discuss all of the wonderful ways our mothers love us. We will be busy working on a special surprise to give to our Moms at the end of the week.

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

In **June**, we will learn about Ocean/ Beach Life, Summer Fun, and Camping. The Ponies will dive into learning all about ocean life and discuss all kinds of fun summer activities. We plan to transform our room into an ocean and the children will learn words that pertain to ocean life in both English and Spanish, like fish-peiz, sand-arena, water-agua, and hot-calor. We will make an ocean in a bottle that the kiddos can take home. We'll also talk about family vacations and discover why some families travel to the beach, or go camping, or why other families travel to visit friends and family in far off places. Father's Day is Sunday, June 17th and we plan to discuss all 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. Dur-

ing 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. **Reminder: We will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.**

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.

Reminder: We will be closed for In-Service Training on Wednesday, August 10th.

As always, please feel free to give us a call during our nap hours (12:30 - 2:00) if you have any concerns or questions. We are looking forward to helping your Pony learn in the summer months! Have a great summer and remember to keep cool!

Thank you!
Pony Room Teachers

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.

It's hot. Don't forget fresh cold water in the water cups. Maybe freeze a small amount to form a block of ice to help keep their water cooler throughout the day. You will need to apply sunscreen on every morning. If you provide us with a tube or bottle of lotion/cream sunscreen and a permission slip, we will reapply it in the afternoons before we go outside.

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 air-planes. 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 find 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 You're Welcome. We will be closing out August with Safari animals and what kind of Pets each one has at home. We will have a show and tell circle time to be able to share our pets' pictures from home. We want to also emphasize the responsibility of caring for a pet—their food, their water, their sleep needs, their play needs. This is a good age for children to accept a small duty in helping with a family pet.

Mrs. Laurie, Ms. Theresa,

Zippy Sponge Painting

What could be better than a contained painting project that will keep your toddler's hands clean! You'll need some Gallon size Ziploc bags, a sponge, paper, and kids paint. Put the paper in the bag. Then take a moist sponge and cut it into smaller pieces. Press each piece of sponge into a different color paint and then put them all inside the bag and close it. Then put the bag on the table and let your toddler squish down on the sponges and see how they put the paint on the paper. Let him shake the bag to move the sponges around and squeeze down on them again. Then when he's done take out the paper and let it dry! No mess!!!!

Supplies Needed-

- dishwashing sponge
- paintbrush
- kids washable paints
- paper



CHARGERS II

The month of **May** we will be learning about **Transportation**. We will talk about and look at different cars, trucks and other vehicles that get us from here to there. We will make paper plate cars and do track painting with different toy vehicles to teach us about the different textures of tires. We will talk about tools and how they help us fix things and how to use them safely. We will review our letters, numbers, shapes and colors through group time and individual activities as well.

Summertime 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 from our garden, we hope.

Summer is going to be hot but the Chargers 2 will stay cool with plenty of fun activities and projects. After all the summer fun activities, we will march into **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 "manners 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 have the opportunity to bring in pictures of our pets from home. Summer's heat is sneaking around the corner, so don't forget to bring a water bottle filled with fresh water for your

child every day. Make sure that your child has a change of weather-appropriate clothes in his/her cubby. Please check Tadpoles daily for details about what we did today and if we need any supplies, or important information for parents. 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 our potty trainees are doing fantastic! It really helps when parents keep a consistent potty schedule at home as well. Chargers 2 are using the potty like "old pros" that they are doing their best and setting the example for those few kids who are so close, that it will be any day now.

We are so proud of their successes and we will continue to work on this huge developmental milestone.

Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.

Maria Montessori

PINTOS

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

Themes and Activities

May- May holds lots of new and fun ideas. All children love the different forms of transportation. I like to offer interesting information on hot air balloons and how they work. We will learn through books, pictures, the internet and through science experiments. That is just one of the forms of transportation that we will learn about. There are so many options to pick from, and the children will help pick out which ones to learn about next. We will make our own vehicles and have lots of creative fun with this unit. The Pintos will also learn about maps, building, inventions and technology. All those fun topics are inter-related and have endless possibilities.

June- During this month the Pintos will talk about swimming and how to stay safe in the water. Froggy Learns to Swim by Jonathan London will be read often during this time. Since the weather will be warm, we will also talk about water and its different forms. This will be a great opportunity for us to do some science experiments in and out of the classroom. We will also spend a couple of weeks playing board games together in small groups. We will work on turn-taking, counting, following consistent rules, and cooperative play. What is Summer without taking trips to the **beach or going camping**? This month will be

packed full of fun summer lessons.

July- Having Independence Day during this month gives us some great opportunities to explore some American history so that they have a basic understanding of why we are celebrating. I will be introducing 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.

August- Next we will move onto "manners"; we will encourage the children to use their manners during meal times. 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 beneficial to all, like Be Polite and Kind, Share and Take Turns and one of our favorite character books How Dinosaurs Eat Their Dinner. One of the other themes for this month is pets. What a fun way for the children to share part of their home life with their friends by bringing in pictures of their pets. The children will be 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.

Social Play

As three-year-olds, the children are learning that they now have an effect on other people around them. As this happens, they start to test each other's boundaries both physically, by pushing or sitting too closely by each other or verbally, by using silly names and arguing about different topics that come up. I have already started seeing this take place in the classroom. This gives me the opportunity to help the chil-

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

ABC'S and 123'S

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

Reminders

As the weather gets warmer, water will become even more important for the children. Please remember to send fresh cold water for your child to drink in their personal water bottle every day. 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 Academy has a policy that states the children should not come to school in open-toed shoes such as sandals and flip flops. Please send your child to school in tennis shoes or closed toed sandals.

Thank you,!

MUSTANGS

I'd like to start off with a huge THANK YOU to all the families who volunteered their time, sent special snacks or donated items for Week of the Young Child. This year's celebration was one of the best we've ever had. I hope you all enjoyed the multitude of pictures we shared of our activities through the Tadpole app. From the fizzing science experiments to the wet sponge target toss and edible necklace making it was a week to remember for sure!

The spring months have flown by and the warm weather is now here to stay. May has been busy already with our Teacher Appreciation Week and preparations for Mother's Day. I am humbled by the overwhelming generosity of our parents, not only during teacher appreciation week but throughout the year. It is an honor to be entrusted with these children, they are a joy to teach! For many in our class it will be their last full month as Mustangs. The start of **June** means that the current Broncos and Trotters will graduate and prepare to enter Kindergarten! Our current mighty Mustangs will then become the new leaders of RHA.

As we prepare to send them on their next journey into the Pre-K rooms, we will first tackle the topics of tools, transportation, inventions and technology.

In our discussion about tools we brainstormed the different types of tools we encounter in everyday life, including the classroom! From kitchen whisks and basters to garden trowels, classroom scissors and, of course, hammers and wrenches, we have discovered tools are everywhere. The kids enjoyed singing The Toolbox Song and reviewing their alphabet while reading the book *Alphabet Under Construction* by Denise Fleming.

Next, we will move on to the topic of transportation, a favorite among children of all ages. It's all about things that go! Wheels, water or wind we will talk about how different vehicles move and take us from place to place. We will drive toy cars dipped in paint to trace our letters, have races with sponge boats and see who can craft the most creative vehicle out of Legos. It will also give us an excuse to read a book from the Usborne Shine-A-Light series, *At the Garage*. The kids love this special story that requires us to turn down the lights and use a flashlight to shine through the pages and reveal a hidden picture.

After exhausting (pardon the pun) the topic of transportation, we will move on to technology and inventions. We will learn about famous inventions and inventors and how they have shaped our world, everything from the wheel to modern technology like the tablets and smartphones of today. We will encourage the kids to think of problems they would like solved and what ideas or inventions they might have to create those solutions. Don't forget that we will have our summer send-off party on Friday, May 25th. While the Broncos and Trotters celebrate their graduation that day, we will have one last class bash as our own way of celebrating our Mustangs that will move-up.

Before you know it, **June** is here and with it: all things summer!

Please don't forget as the weather changes to provide sunscreen and fresh water in your child's water bottle, daily. Also check cubbies to make sure your child has a seasonally appropriate change of clothes. This is not only in the event of a potty accident, but we do engage in some messy play and kids are always most comfortable in their own clothes.

Speaking of getting messy, in June we will cover the themes of summer fun, camping and the beach/ocean life. From playing with faux sand in our sensory bin to making s'mores in a solar oven the Mustangs are in for some ooey-goey fun!

First, we will prepare ourselves to beat the heat with a lesson in sun safety. We will experiment with spreading sunscreen on one half of colored construction paper and leaving the other half untreated to give our Mustangs a visible example of the power of the sun. We will observe and record the daily temperatures and make a chart to compare them throughout the week. We will also talk about perspiration and evaporation and bring back our wet sponge target toss game to witness the act of evaporation as our sponge splats seemingly disappear before our eyes! This will be a good week to have extra clothes on hand, we will get wet! Later that month we'll cover camping and the beach/ocean life. We can't wait to pitch our classroom tent, make sidewalk s'mores and tell stories around our makeshift campfire! We will listen to clips of wildlife and try to guess the animal based on the sound, as well as match animal tracks. In a twist on a classic we will take some time to stretch our bodies with an interactive yoga variation of the story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

During our beach and ocean unit, it will be all about the senses. We will stimulate our tactile sense as we dig for shells in faux sand in our sensory bin and make our own squishy aquarium in a bag. We will engage our imaginations as we transform our room into an underwater habitat with various ocean animal crafts. Jellyfish, octopus and sharks, oh my!

In **July**, as we celebrate our country's

WRANGLERS

It's that time again! On June 11th, most of our Wranglers will be moving up to Pre-K.

The month of **May** will be filled with celebrations and fun. During the first week, we will have been celebrating the Cinco de Mayo and discussing what this holiday is about and how they celebrate it. Mother's Day and Teacher Appreciation Week is also upon us. We will be doing a survey on moms and their favorite things. It's also fun to hear what the children come up with. During the same week, we will be celebrating Teacher's Appreciation. 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 little ones. The last couple of weeks we will be learning about transportation and buildings/construction. For transportation, the children will get to "wash" cars with shaving cream and water. While we learn about buildings/construction, we will learn how to build things with different materials.

On **June** 11th, we will have some friends transitioning into the Trotters/Broncos. A second group will join their friends in August. Ms. Jada and I are excited to have the Pintos join us this summer! We have truly enjoyed bonding and growing with our Wranglers, and we are confident that they will transition well into the next class. We would also like to thank all the

parents as they gave us support and many meaningful words as the months went on. You Wrangler parents are the best! As the Wranglers continue in June, we will begin by celebrating summer fun followed by ocean, beach and camping themes. One of the many things we will learn about the ocean is the different depths and what they are called. We will put water in a mason jar with different shades of blue. Camping is always fun! I know I'm excited to hear the variety of stories the children will tell us about their families' camping trips. We will of course get to make our own 'smores! Yum!

In **July**, we will be learning about American History, space and jungle animals. The Wranglers will be working together to learn about the planets and their qualities. When we learn about space, we first learn about rockets, astronauts and what astronauts do in space. During the second week, we learn about the planets and their qualities. One of the art projects we will do is making a moon with puffy paint. Before it dries, we use a wine cork to make the craters. When it dries, the kids love the feel of it. Then will learn about the jungle and what kind of animals live there. During this week, we talk about the different places animals live and how some of the same animals live in different areas. Also, we will talk about their differences, such as zoo animals are cared for by people and jungle animals care for each other.

As we head into **August**, we will work on manners, pets and safari animals. In the classroom, Ms. Jada and I make it a priority for the children to use their manners. We will teach the children the basic *please and thank you*, but we will also teach them the importance of sharing and using our words when we want or need something. During pet week, one of favorite books to read is What Pet Do I Get?. We will do a little graphing and ask the children what pet they think they should get. Sometimes the answers are a little crazy, but we love it! I will be asking for friends to bring in a picture of their family pet to share with the class for show and share. I will let you know the date as it comes closer. If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let one of your Wrangler teachers know!

Reminders:

- Please remember to sign your child in and out with initials
- Please provide a fresh water bottle daily and apply sunscreen in the morning. We will apply it in the afternoon if you would like to bring some.
- Please check your child's change of clothes as the weather is getting warmer
- Please check your child's folder for important information or art work

Wrangler Teachers
Ms. Kristina
Ms. Jada

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 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 Mrs. Angie 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 they have learned with us here at Rocking Horse Academy and take it with them as they enter kindergarten. Pre-K graduation will be held on Friday May 25th at 11 a.m.; a reception will follow. 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 they were in Foals 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 Broncos and Trotters will be going on a field trip to the San Antonio Zoo May 31st. Both classes will be sporting their custom designed self-portrait t-shirts on this special day. June 7th will celebrate our goodbyes with PJ day, special movie, and popcorn in the gym. Friday, June 8th will be your child's final day in the Broncos, but Ms. Norma and Ms. Angie will be out June 8th to celebrate our daughters' graduation from high school. For those who have decided to join our school's summer camp program starting on June 11th, 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 2018 Broncos leave us for Kindergarten but know that they will do great. Bronco teachers will be looking forward to welcoming a new group of Broncos, the class of 2019. We 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, 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 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 pack a water bottle every day and apply sunscreen before leaving home. We do play outside twice a day, so please bring a bottle of sunscreen to keep in the classroom (No sprays allowed) and a permission slip so that we can reapply after nap. My main form of communication is in your children's individual classroom folders and tadpoles. 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,
Bronco Teachers
Mrs. Angie, Mrs. Norma, and Ms. Alyssa

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. Towards the end of April, we ended our Animal unit and continued our curriculum through the month of May. 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 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, 25th 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 2018 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 child 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 before it's all over, on Thursday, May 31st the Trotter and Bronco classes will go on a field trip to the San Anto-

nio Zoo! I will have two weeks with my Trotters before they transition into the summer camp program which begins on June 11th! This summer camp is packed with field trips, fun events, swimming, and other great summer activities. Enrollment is NOT automatic. You must fill out new paperwork if you want to continue bringing your child to RHA this summer. See Ms. Rebecca or Ms. Kimberley for those details.

On the other hand, on Monday, June 11th I will be welcoming in our new Trotters, the graduating class of 2019. I will take the first week to allow the students and parents to get know me, as I get to know them, and they get 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 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 that oceans aren't just associated with hot, sunny beaches; there is also the Antarctic Ocean which includes animals that can't be found on the beach.

In the month of **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 affects the waves. This study will help jump us into our outer space theme, beginning with the Moon. While your Trotter is

captivated by 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.

August 28th will be the first official day of Pre-K. Now, we will begin to introduce students to the curriculum. Our first theme will be Back-to-School. Each theme will last up to 4 weeks; during this theme students will get acquainted with new students and new routines. In closing, 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 your child prior to dropping off and leaving a tube of sunscreen here in the classroom so that we can 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 communicate with me or any staff member in the classroom is always welcomed and encouraged. Thank you, Ms. Aubrey

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Cow says. Cow says who?

No silly, a cow says Mooooo!

CORRAL KIDS

Let the countdown to Summer begin!! This summer Corral Kids will enjoy weekly swim days, field trips, special guest performers, science, arts & crafts and soooo much more!!! To help both our *Parents* and *Campers* be prepared for an amazing SUMMER 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!

Pool Days

Our Corral Kid Swim days are Thursday and Friday each week from 1:30pm-3:30pm at the City of Kyle pool. Your child's first visit to the pool will include the City of Kyle lifeguards administering a swim test to determine each child's 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
TOWEL
Swimsuit
Corral Kids T-shirt
Flip flops
Sunscreen (Rocking Horse Acade-

my is providing SPF 30 sunscreen for all our students. If you have an alternative preference, please bring your bottle labeled—no sprays please)

Field Trips

All groups will be attending field trips this summer. Corral Kids morning staff will present each parent with a permission slip on Monday mornings. If a sack lunch or specific clothing will be required, a counselor will inform you. Reminders will be posted on the gym doors and front bulletin boards as well.

Things to Remember this SUMMER

- **Morning Drop-Off** - Your child may be dropped off in the morning as early as 6:30a.m. At that time, all students will meet in the computer lab with our opening camp counselors. The children will visit the playground from 7:15 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.
- **WATER BOTTLES!!!!** - **Water bottles must be taken home, washed, and refilled daily!** 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 when we can. Please be sure to check the Corral Kid's lost and found box located in the gym for any missing items. It's full after every camp!

- **Appropriate Attire** - *Flip flops are not allowed at RHA.* We ask for all 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 on the playscape for their own safety. Campers should also wear their Orange "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. Kimberly'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.

The countdown to sun & fun has begun and 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, Kimberly Cantrill.

Healthy Snack Ideas



Ants on a log (celery topped with peanut butter and raisin "ants")
egg boats (hard-boiled egg wedges topped with a

cheese sail)
fruit kabobs-or dried fruit
Fruit smoothie
mini-pitas with hummus dip

