



SPECIAL NEWS AND NOTES

6/16—"CROSSING THE BRIDGE" CELEBRATION FOR CHILDREN GOING TO KINDERGARTEN— 3 PM

6/21—VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING 4PM

6/29—INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY

7/4—CLOSED FOR FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT AN UPCOMING CENTER PICNIC

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Dear Families,

No snow suits, heavy coats, hats or mittens—summer is almost here! With the warmer weather finally here, the children are getting outside every day to play on the playground and go for walks in our beautiful neighborhood. Anything other than walks in the neighborhood are considered field trips and require parent’s written permission. Please watch for Field Trip Permission Forms from your child’s classroom as trips to the fountain and other locations are scheduled.

Ready, Set, Grow is due for re-accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We are expecting a call from them any day to receive a two-week window for their visit. Once we have that window, we will get a call from them the day before their visit. NAEYC will be checking Child and Classroom Portfolios, the Program Portfolio and spending time observing in classrooms. They will observe in the Honeybee Room, and choose one toddler and one preschool classroom to observe. The 10 areas they are looking for high standards in include Relationships, Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment of Child Progress, Health, Staff Competencies, Preparation and Support, Families, Community Relationships, Physical Environment, and Leadership & Management. The program had held this accreditation since 1998 and is the only program between Ithaca and Rochester to have NAEYC Accreditation, the gold standard for early childhood programming in our field!

Did you know that listening to the birds singing can reduce anxiety and depression for adults and children? Now that the weather is better, I hope you and your family get to spend more time outdoors and enjoy all that nature has to offer.

Wishing you well,

Sandy

Sandy Nevius,
Executive Director

Honeybees

Wendy, Deb, Jessica, Mary Kate & Sabrina

Welcome June! This month we will take more walks around town, play outside on the playground and enjoy the beautiful weather. The Honeybees will help plant flowers and some vegetable's on our playground.

Our curriculum theme for the older infants this month is **Tasty Colors of Summer**. We will focus on different foods we eat and what colors they are. We will read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and design our bulletin board to look like a picnic blanket with colorful fruits and a paper plate caterpillar. The babies will marble paint with their hands, shaking the bin and making colors show on the fruit to make colorful window clings for our window. The Honeybees will also help make fruit salad for our snack this month.

The Honeybees love the dramatic play area! They love to dress up as firefighters, police officers, military personnel, chefs and even gardeners planting food. They use the dramatic play area to learn cooperative play, self-concept, role playing, creativity and language development. They use their imagination to explore all the different possibilities for their futures!

The Honeybees will say a sad goodbye to Tommy and his family this month as he moves up to the Caterpillar room. We will miss him but wish him well on his new adventure!

Happy First Birthday to Navy this month also!

Celebrating
each child's
journey.

Ladybugs

Lisa & Alyssa

Summer is right around the corner, and we are excited to have consistent warm weather. As the weather warms up, we will bring some of our art activities out to the playground as well as do some outside water play activities. As the weather changes we will be asking parents to supply towels, swimming clothes, and water shoes so we can have fun on the playground and at the fountain!

Our curriculum focus for the month of June will be **Sensory Exploration**. Sensory activities engage the body and mind in a way that builds critical neural pathways: children do something, and the environment around them reacts, forming new connections and associations. These wonderful connections occur while the children play, create, investigate, and explore. While exploring their senses through the activities provided, they will enhance their cognitive, motor, and social development. Some of the activities will include finger painting with different textures, along with painting on different textures, taking a sensory walk, and using their senses to taste different fruits and veggies. We will also have different sensory bins with a variety of sensory materials out daily for the children to enjoy.

During the months of June and July we will take walks to the farmers market and to the fountain. We will put out field trip forms for you to sign as soon as we have them available.

The Ladybug staff would like to thank the parents who participated in Teacher Appreciation Week. You have helped to make us feel very appreciated!

The Ladybugs are very excited to congratulate Alyssa Jordan as she was promoted to Assistant Teacher! Alyssa has made a great support teacher and we are happy to have her in this new role!

Happy Father's Day to all our Ladybug family members!

Caterpillars

Jenna, Emily, & Cierra

In the month of June, we will be learning about **Community Helpers** and **Jobs**. We will be visiting different businesses around town to learn what types of jobs are in the community. We will even be visiting some of our parents at their jobs within walking distance! We will be learning about different professions by doing activities that help us understand what they are. We will be learning about what dentists do by learning about germs on teeth, learning about what gardeners do by growing flowers, and learning about what doctors do by learning about our body parts.

We will be singing "Community Helpers" (Little Angel Kids Song on YouTube), "Bucket Truck" (Truck Tunes of YouTube), and "Fire Truck" (Blippi). We will be reading *Pretend You're a Community Helper* by Karen Bryant-Mole, *This Little Scientist* by Joan Holub and Daniel Roode, and *This Little Artist* by Joan Holub and Daniel Roode. We will also be reading books specific to trips we will be making, such as reading *Glass* by Abby Colich when we talk about our Caterpillar parents that are glass blowers.

We would like to wish Ms. Cierra a Happy Birthday on June 13th. We would also like to wish Heidi a Happy 3rd Birthday on June 26th. We wish her and her family well as she transitions to the Butterfly room. We will miss you!

Please make sure that your child has summer clothing, a bathing suit, a towel, and shoes that can get wet. We will be starting our trips to the fountain as well as doing water play on the playground a couple times a week.

Happy Father's Day to all of our Caterpillar family members!

Butterflies

Tonya, Lauren & Marissa

Happy June Butterfly Families!

For the month of June, our main curriculum themes are **Camping** and **The Ocean**. We will also discuss different activities that we get to do in the summer with the children. Over the next few weeks, there are a lot of fun activities planned to support our curriculum, such as: setting up a campsite in our classroom, making a campsite mural, tent making, and creating an ocean mural.

The Butterflies will be celebrating one of their favorite days of the year on June 29th, which is **International Mud Day**! Expect your child to get very messy and have a lot of fun that day! Extra clothing in cubbies will be important that day!

Happy Father's Day to all our Butterfly Dads! We hope you have a great day!

For our science curriculum, we will continue to observe our sunflower plants grow. The Butterflies will be observing life in our environment and discussing the changes we experience with the weather this time of year. We will also continue to learn several new words that begin with the letter of the week. For June we will focus on the letters **C, I, O** and **P**.

As always, the focus of our Butterfly classroom is to make as many new discoveries as possible! We will be exploring our world through different sensory, math, literacy, large motor and creative art projects.

Happy Birthday to Marley, Isla, Gloria and Miss Lauren!!

We would like to welcome Heidi to the Butterfly Room! We are so excited you are with us!

Marley and Isla are moving up to the Dragonfly room this month, and we will miss them very much!

Celebrating
each child's
journey.

Dragonflies

Kayla, Montana N. & Trevor

Welcome to the month of June, Dragonfly families. We are on the cusp of summer, and hope for a beautiful month of fair skies, sunny weather, and hours of outdoor play and exploration!

During the month of June our class will continue the NY State Common Core for ELA and Math by continuing our new unit on **Plants**. During our Plants unit, we will be discussing the basic needs of plants and comparing those to the needs of animals! We will be planting some seeds in the classroom as well as plants on the playground. We will also be observing and recording information about the growth of our plants as well as caring for the plants inside and out.

In ELA we will continue to focus on rhyming words as well as letters and their sounds. It is important for children to be able to detect and manipulate individual sounds in words for future success in reading and writing. Therefore, we will continue practicing letter names and letter sounds through child-friendly activities such as dictating stories, playing matching games, and sorting word pictures by beginning sound.

This month we will be resuming our June tradition of Crossing the Bridge! For those parents who are not familiar with Crossing the Bridge, it is a short ceremony where we recognize the children going to kindergarten and wish them well. It will take place on June 16th at 3 P.M. with the ceremony lasting approximately 15 minutes followed by a short snack. Only the 10 Kindergarten-bound children will be "Crossing the Bridge," even though all children will be present for the ceremony. There will be a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Big Room. Please sign-up prior to June 15th.

In June we are wishing a very warm welcome to Marley, who is moving up from the Butterfly Room. We also wish her a Happy Birthday as she turns 4 on June 28th! A very Happy Birthday to Ms. Montana on June 18th! We do have to wish a very sad goodbye to Ian and Henry who are leaving this month. Have some wonderful adventures in kindergarten! We will miss you!

Have a wonderfully sunny June, Dragonfly families!

Celebrating
each child's
journey

Kitchen Notes

Lola Burrows

Summer is finally here and the days are turning hotter. Studies show that foodborne illnesses are on the rise during the summer months. Below are some summer food safety tips from "The Partnership for Food Safety Education" on how to keep foods safe during hotter weather.

Wash your hands often: When preparing or eating foods, it is especially important to wash your hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds. Children should be reminded to wash their hands after playing outside.

Keep cold foods cold: When shopping, choose cold and frozen foods last. Pack cold foods together and make your trip to the grocery store your last stop before going home.

Rinse fruits and vegetables: Washing fruits and vegetables under cold, running water helps remove germs and particles of materials that may be on the surface. If the outside of the skin is hard or rough (apples, melons, oranges, potatoes, etc.) a clean vegetable brush can be used while washing.

Keep counters clean: Remember to keep counter and food preparation areas clean. Backpacks, pets, purses, and shoes should not be kept on the counter used to prepare food. Always remember to keep raw meats and poultry separate from fresh fruits, vegetables and any other ready-to-eat foods.

There's going to be some changes this month in the menu so please watch for updates. Enjoy your summer! :)

Recognizing our Amazing Staff

Anniversaries with Ready, Set, Grow

Mary Grace Farr—13 years

Barb Mosher—2 years (and then some 20 more!)

Alexa Cates—1 year

Thank you for being part of the Ready, Set, Grow Family!

A Sad Goodbye to You:

Mavis Laith—May 26th—Daily Substitute

Trevor Henneman—June 23rd—Daily Substitute

You will both be greatly missed!

Good luck in your future adventures!

Staffing Updates:

Alyssa Jordan—Promoted to Assistant Teacher in the Ladybugs

Congratulations! We are so excited for you!

****We are still looking for substitutes and a Pre-K Lead Teacher****

Please refer anyone you know who might be a good fit. Thanks!

Staff Birthdays

A very Happy Birthday to you!

Madeleine Quinlan—June 2nd

Cierra Smith—June 13th

Montana Nichols-Johnson—June 18th

Barb Mosher—June 24th

Lauren Finnell—June 25th

*Celebrating each
child's journey*

Ready, Set, Grow is restarting our Fund Development (fundraising) Committee! Our first in-person meeting will be held at the main site on June 22nd, at 12 Noon. Please consider volunteering if you have a little time to spare for this committee! The work of the committee helps off-set the cost of special programming for the children.

We have contacted Doc Possum to entertain for our summer picnic which will be held at Hodgeman Park in Painted Post during the 2nd or 3rd week of July. We will share that date with you as soon as Doc confirms!

Thank you to all of our families for completing annual Income and CACFP Verifications!

Ready, Set, Grow
Child Care Center



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