



Spring Break

Monday, March 11th thru Friday, March 15th is our Spring Break. We will have non-academic classes for students who are here for extended day. Students who attend from 8am to 3pm will not have classes this week. Spring Break week will be free dress. All students will return in uniform on Monday, March 18th. Have a safe spring break.

Fun Run

The Fun Run is a 2 –week program that kicks off with a Pep Rally on February 19th. Families will then gather pledges for every lap your student runs, and we'll celebrate at the fun run on March 1st. Our goal is to raise \$5000.00 total. Donations will go toward Leaf A Legacy, Enrichment Programs, and Playground Enhancements.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

Saturday, March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' Birthday. We will have Birthday celebrations for Dr. Seuss on Monday, March 4th. Students may dress up like a Dr. Seuss character and bring your favorite Dr. Seuss book.

Important Dates

- Mar. 1** Fun Run- PTO Fundraiser
- Mar. 4** Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebrations
- Mar. 11-15** Spring Break
Non-Academic-Free Dress
- Mar. 17** St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 29** Spring Pictures
- Mar. 30** Parent/Teacher Conferences



Spring Pictures

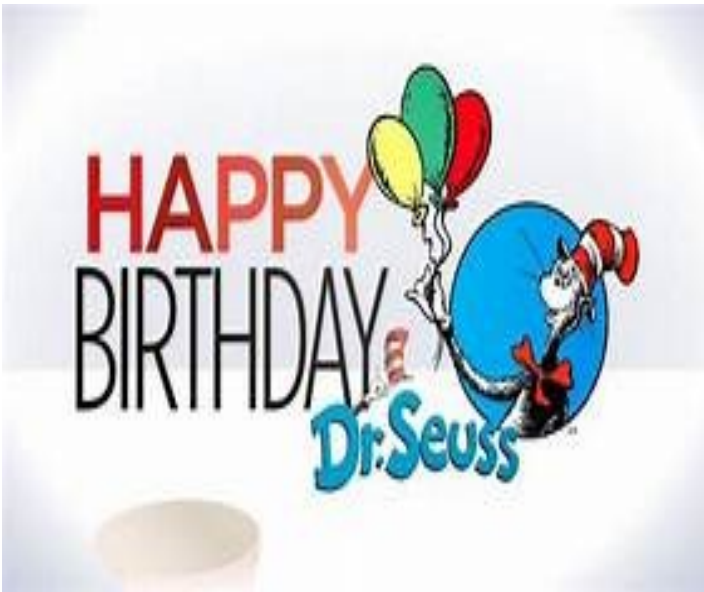
Lana Rawlinson Photography will be taking our Spring Pictures this year. These pictures will be for the parents who sign their children up only. We will not take your child's photo unless you have signed them up by Wednesday, March 27th.

Parent /Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences for Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Elementary will all be on Saturday, March 30th. Sign up sheets will be posted by March 4th.

Standardized Testing

Our 1st ,2nd, 3rd , & 4th Grade Classes will be having Standardized Testing on Mon. May 6 thru Friday May 10th.



Montessori Quote For the Month

“Within the child lies the fate of the future.”

Maria Montessori

Montessori Corner

How Do Children Learn to Read?

The skill of reading is special - and often difficult to acquire. The fact that anyone learns how to read is something of a miracle. Learning to read is very different from learning to speak; in the development of human history, speaking precedes reading by thousands of years.

The subconscious path of written language

The human brain is wired for language (Chomsky, Logical Structure of Linguistic Theory, 1955, 75), but language acquisition does not happen without models, the way motor development does. It must be nurtured through contact with human language models. Children who do not receive models of language in early childhood will have varying deficiencies of language later in life.

Spoken language develops both spontaneously and subconsciously. A 2-year old couldn't be taught sentence structure and grammar rules now matter how hard someone might try. As Maria Montessori said, "The only language men ever speak perfectly is the one they learn in babyhood, when no one can teach them anything!" Reading is different. It must be actively taught and consciously learned. If it's not actively taught, then even a life spent surrounded by the printed word will not teach someone who is illiterate how to read.

The difference between spoken and written language

There are two very different paths for learning a language: the subconscious acquisition of spoken language and the conscious acquisition of written language. Children must be able to subconsciously acquire spoken language; if children lacked this ability, nothing effective would have ever been done by humans. There would be no civilization.

Spoken language and written language are obviously related. One of the clearest examples of this is in the acquisition of vocabulary words. Language experts tell us that in everyday conversation, we use about 5,000 words on a regular basis, and another 10,000 a little less frequently. That gives us about 15,000 "common words", as they are called.

That leaves tens of thousands of other English words. How are they learned? The more complex a text is, whether it's a book, newspaper or magazine article, or webpage, the greater the percentage of "rare words" they contain; that is, words that fall outside of the 15,000 common words. Clearly, the more you read, the bigger your spoken vocabulary.

More on “How Do Children Learn to Read” in the April Newsletter



***There will be NO Extra-Curricular classes the week of
Spring Break***