

# Sandcastle Child Care

## Newsletter

### May - 2018





# May News

Dear Parents:

The spaghetti dinner was a huge success! Thank you so much to everyone who donated to this event! We also appreciate all of our families who came to eat and socialize! This is one of our favorite events at Sandcastle because we love to see all of the families having fun together. Thank you also to those of you who purchased books from the book fair and those who donated money to the All For Books program. The silent auction was a huge hit! Thank you to all who spent time working on this amazing fundraiser. We appreciate all the support for our program.

Conference Forms for toddlers and preschoolers will be sent home before Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. These are not sit-down conferences, but if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.

If you have any spring clothes that your child has outgrown that you would like to donate, please drop them off in the office. We are looking for shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, or spring jackets to have extra clothes. We need clothes sizes 2T-5T.

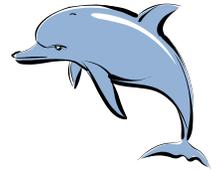
## A Few General Reminders:

- Please take home all winter clothing items (including snow pants and boots) and replace them with seasonally appropriate clothing that is the correct size. These clothes (as well as all items brought from home) should be marked with your child's name
- **Please empty your child's file every day!** This is where important information from the office or from your child's teacher is placed.
- **Please sign your child in every day.** It is very important to do this, so our office staff do not have to go back and fill in the missing times. This is a very time-consuming task.
- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before you drop him / her off. To be effective sunscreen must be applied 30 minutes prior to going outside. Also, please bring a bottle of sunscreen to keep at Sandcastle; this will allow the teachers to re-apply it as needed. All sunscreen must be labeled you're your child's first and last name and, due to our licensing regulations, we cannot allow sunscreen in spray bottles.
- Be sure that your child has good walking shoes available every day. Flip-flops are cute but they are very impractical for young children who spend much of their day running, jumping, and climbing.



In recognition of Memorial Day, Sandcastle will be closed on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer, Wendy, Lisa, and Rachael

## “Infant Information”



**Dolphins:** (Danette, Jackie, Rose, and Carol)

Mosquito bites can be uncomfortable for your baby. Treatment for the bites can vary. To minimize the swelling, apply a cold compress to the bite. Calamine lotion can be used to help with any itching. Keep your babies' nails cut short to prevent them from scratching.

To prevent mosquito bites on babies, dress them in clothes that cover arms and legs that are lightweight. Avoid dark colors- mosquitos are drawn to dark colors.

We hope that everyone has a safe and Happy Memorial Day!

**Seahorses:** (Becca, Isabel, Jody, Angie, Jessica, and Tiffany)



We have warmer weather! Please help us out by bringing in a non-aerosol container of sunscreen and any other weather appropriate clothing (sweaters for cool days, sun hats, etc.) for our walks outside. We'll be outside anytime the weather is nice.

**Game of the month: Jack in the Box**

Push a stuffed animal into a plastic container or oatmeal box. Put the cover on. Sing a short song and open the lid when the song is over. Make a fun expression. Do it again. I will learn to expect the animal to pop out when the song is over.

“Because of interactions with you, by the time I am 6 months, I may have already developed 1,000 trillion new connections in my brain.”

We are running low on extra clothes. If you have any unwanted/unneeded spare clothes, we would love to take them off your hands. As always, thanks for your generosity.

-Infant 2 Staff

**Clownfish:** (Jaime, Rosa, Miracle, and Q)

Spring sure has taken its time coming this year.



The clownfish are planning on making some memories this month. We are also planning on spending some quality time outside. Please make sure to bring in sunscreen (non-aerosol). And be sure to have your child appropriately dressed for outdoor weather, as we will be going out daily now!

Please watch your calendar this month, we have lots of fun days planned!

-Infant 3 Staff

## “Totally Toddlers”

### **Sea Lions:** (Debbie, Deanna, and Brittany)



April was without a lot of April Showers, but we still talked about signs of spring- raindrops, clouds, and umbrellas. At the time I'm writing this it was our first real spring day (first day to hit 70 degrees yippee!) We had fun talking about Earth Day and how we can keep our Earth clean and other ways to help the Earth (reduce, reuse, and recycle). We would like to send a big shout out to all the parents that participated in spirit week and week of the young child. It was great to see so many people at the spaghetti dinner and the family breakfast.

Because April Showers bring May Flowers, we will be talking about gardening with flowers, vegetables and at the end of the month with baby animals. The color of the month will be yellow, the shape will be circle, and our yoga pose will be tree.

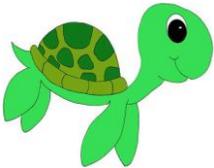
With the weather getting warmer, please bring in sunscreen (non-aerosol) and also please make sure your child's extra clothes are season appropriate. Also please no flip-flops or open toe shoes. We do spend a lot of time outside and we don't want their toes getting scraped up. If you would like to send in a sun hat to protect their heads from the sun and sand.

Things you can do with your child at home:

1. Plant some plants or start a garden with your child
2. Take a trip to the garden center
3. Visit a farm
4. Go to the Farmers Market

Hope you have a super May!

### **Sea Turtles:** (Rachel, Brittney, and Sarah)



In April all of our Turtles had a blast filming our channel 13 weather. Everyday we were predicting sun and rain but I guess our machines were broken because all we got was snow. The turtles kept reading their machines and finally got the weather right! We are loving this spring/summer air. We have been spending every chance we get outside soaking up that wonderful sun. Speaking about the sun we are starting to talk about our summer months and the weather.

Just a few reminders/ things to do:

- Bring in sunscreen (non-aersol)
- Change out clothes out in baskets
- Take winter snow pants and boots home

Now lets talk about May. We are going to learning about transportation. Our room is going to be filled with cars, trains, and lots of other transportation machines. One really fun event we have this month is BIKE DAY. On this day your turtle can bring their bike, tricycle, or anything they can ride. We can't wait to see how it goes. Also this month we are going to be cleaning cars, fixing them, and pumping gas. Hopefully our turtles will be able to show off their skills.

Things to do at Home:

Take your car for a car wash or di it yourself and have your little turtle help

Go for a bike ride

Enjoy the sun!!

The Turtle Teachers- Brittney, Rachel, & Sarah

**Sea Crabs:** (Laura, Myesha, and Tiffany)

Summer is almost here, and we can't wait! We will be spending a lot more time outside so make sure to bring in sunscreen and appropriate outdoor clothes. Last month we learned all about doctors, firefighters, dentists and mail carriers. This month our theme will be Garden Shop. We will even be going on a flower walk and making smoothies. Our color of the month is purple and our shape is square.



Things to make at home:

1. Make a garden at home
2. Sensory in soil and shovels
3. Make flowers out of pop bottle bottoms

Happy Mother's Day!

-Laura, Myesha, and Marcianna

# “Preschool Players”

## Whales: (Patti, Megan, and Sreymao)



It's a bug's life! This month our class will explore the life of a bug. In dramatic play, the class can play with rubber bugs. The children can catch bugs with a net and put them in a jar to examine. They will also have magnetic bugs and costumes to play with. The sensory table will have toy bugs and dirt! Here the class can further their exploration of the life of a bug. This month we will begin having monthly bike and park days. On park days, please have your child wear tennis shoes. On bike days, please provide your child with a helmet and a bike or scooter from home!

To further our theme at home:

- Try painting with rubber bugs.
- Explore your backyard or a local park and look for all the different bugs that live there.
- Reading books is always an excellent thing to do as a family and a very easy way to extend our theme. Go to your local library and check out some books about bugs!

## Penguins: (Allison, Cody, and Tiffany)

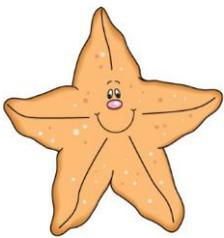
During the month of May 'construction' will be the focus of our next curriculum unit. This unit will help your child become more aware of many kinds of tools, tool safety, and equipment that they use for construction or on construction sites. While exploring the classroom activities, the children will have opportunities to use different hand tools at the tool bench.



At school some of the activities the children will participate in includes:

- Painting with screws and bolts
- Exploring dirt and rocks (black beans) in our sensory table
- Playing in our construction site (dramatic play)

At home to develop language skills, recall with your child the tools you use in your home and what those tools are used for.



## Sea Stars: (Brianna, Giovanna, Jill, and Sue)

In April, the Sea Stars learned about different community helpers. They learned about community helpers in our 'five-day read aloud', think pair share, and by talking about what kind of community helpers they would like to be. They had fun playing in dramatic play dressing up as different community helpers. We also had fun this month with Spirit Week, doing something different each day to show our school spirit. We had great participation and the Sea Star room received two new books. Then we had the "Week of the Young Child" where we did something as a group each day. We made frozen yogurt, made a paper quilt, and thanks to Ms. Brianna we made a fun robot. The spaghetti dinner was a success and we want to thank those who donated books to our classroom.

The theme for May is Backyard Detectives. We will be learning about what lives in our backyard. This will be part of our five-day read aloud as well as dramatic play. The theme will also extend into all the other areas of our classroom. We are excited it is finally getting sunny and warm so that we can explore outside at Sandcastle and see what we can find outdoors.

At home you can read stories about what being a detective means, what you can find outside in your yard, and what kind of backyard creatures there are and what they do. You and your child can also be your own backyard detective and see what you can find in your backyard. You can collect and observe what you can find. It is a perfect time to talk about nature. Watch and talk about the seasons changing and as it continues to get warmer, how the leaves are coming out, the grass turns green, and different creatures start appearing.

# “Pre-K Performers”

## **Jellyfish I:** (Val & Sumayo)



Our theme for the month of May is “Build It Big.” Our dramatic play will be transformed into a “construction site.” Your child will explore tools, learn about machines, safety, and build with blocks while working together.

Do you use any tools at your job or at home? Share some of these tools with your child and discuss their uses. Is there a construction project in your neighborhood? With your child, take some time to observe, listening to the sounds of the machines and discuss what the workers are doing.

As the weather gets warmer:

Your child needs sunscreen on in the mornings. Please help us out by applying it at home or you can do it when you get into the school. Also bring in some sunscreen to have in the classroom so that we can reapply for the afternoon. It needs to be labeled with their first and last name. Please bring in a change of clothing and remember to look at the calendar for fun activities.

## **Jellyfish II:** (Kathi & Molly)



Our theme is Build It Big for the month of May. With this theme we will be learning about different tools, jobs, vehicles, buildings, and materials that go into building or constructing things. We will also be discussing different safety hazards and policies. We encourage you to take walks with your little jellyfish in the neighborhood and look at any construction going on. Talk about different tools being used and why, different vehicles, and different safety practices being used and why.

With the weather getting warmer please bring in sunscreen for your Jellyfish. It must be labeled (first and last name) and it cannot be aerosol. Please apply the sunscreen in the morning before coming to school. Please clean out your Jellyfish’s cubby and take home any winter materials. I believe spring is finally here! YAY!

## **Stingrays:** (Stacey, Ashley, Margaret, and Patti)

We welcome the warmer weather. Spring has finally come! It’s time to take all our winter clothing home and replace it with spring things. If you would like your child to have sunscreen, please bring it in. Remember we cannot use the spray sunscreen, it needs to be lotion. We also have a large collection of unclaimed mittens, if you happen to be missing any, please check our mitten shelf.



Last month, we searched for bugs with magnifying glasses and planted some marigold seeds. We had fun watching them grow and watering them daily.

Our theme this month is Our Water Wonderland. We will learn about the ocean, what the uses of water are, where do we find it, and how important it is in our daily lives.



## **Puffer Fish:** (Becky & Mia)

Hello Sunshine! The snow is finally gone which means Spring is finally here!

This month we will be outside so much more! As summer approaches, we will be taking longer walks 2-3 times a week. Whenever we do so, we will list the streets we will be walking down so there is not confusion and you know where

to find us.

May is all about Minnesota and growing things. We will explore all parts of the flower, discuss the legend of Paul Bunion & Babe, and have fun in the gorgeous sun!

Things to remember:

Sunscreen- no aerosol- labeled with first and last name

Extra clothes

If your child wears sandals, please have an extra pair of socks and shoes in their cubby.