



"Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the

Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center, Inc.

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simoncenter.org

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DIRECTOR

Director:

Every year, NAEYC's "Week of the Young Child" is one week in the month of April. Each day has a special child-focused theme:

First, we observe **Music Monday** by playing instruments, learning a new song or two, and dancing 🎵.

Tasty Tuesday gives the groups a chance to cook-up something yummy to taste!

On **Work-together Wednesday**, we focus on group activities which involve cooperation and teamwork.

My favorite is **Artsy Thursday**... I love to see creative artwork 🎨 from the children's imaginations.

Finally, we end the week with **Family Friday**, and we celebrate the children's home life, family members, and relationships. 😊

At the Simon Center, we focus every day and all year long on the young children in our care, but I guess you could say in April we are *super*-focused. 🔍

- Leila





Assistant Director:

In March, we had fun welcoming spring flowers and even painting with them! Then, on March 23rd, a pipe burst upstairs and caught us all off guard. Ms. Leila did an amazing job jumping into action with clever solutions and ideas. Then while closed for two days, the teachers came together as a team and worked their "blossoms" off!

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

The children returned and it was amazing how well they all adapted. For the older children who are now upstairs, they were very excited to use the elevator. Even our very youngest children had no problems. It was great to see how resilient children are! As a parent myself, I was impressed by all the teamwork, commitment, creativity, and determination each teacher had. I am so happy that my child and yours(!) are part of this beautiful *center family*. After all, this is where I and my three children have grown up. It is my 2nd home, and I am proud to be a part of this center and our amazing staff! As I am writing this, it brings tears to my eyes because I know that our center has the best interests at heart for every child in our care. ❤️

Now, I am looking forward to spring weather and April showers outdoors, not in! 😊

- Jessica



Board of Directors:

I love this time of the year - the trees are blooming, the daffodils are bursting, the birds are singing, and the cold winter air has given way to a gentle warmth. Spring is an exciting time, and there are several exciting things going on at the Simon Center.

First, be sure to mark your calendar for April 9th as the Simon Center will be hosting a fundraiser night at the Buffalo Wing Factory in Reston from 5pm to 10pm. You don't have to prepare dinner, and you're supporting the Simon Center – that's a "win-win"!

Next, the Board is planning the Center's Spring Highway Cleanup for May (date TBD). It would be great if we could get more volunteers for our May cleanup. Be on the lookout for more details soon. Additionally, please let the Board know if you have any ideas about other community service projects for future Simon Center participation.

We also have the Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta coming up on August 10th. Even though August is a few months away, the Board would like to determine if there is any interest in getting a group together to build a boat to represent the Simon Center. Email the Board (board@simoncenter.org) if you are interested in participating.

Finally, I want to give a huge shout out to the amazing Simon Center staff! As you all know, a burst pipe two floors above the Center caused an unfortunate flooding incident on Saturday, March 23rd. In the days following, the Simon Center staff was hard at work assessing the damage, salvaging items, and cleaning. Please take a moment to tell the staff how much you appreciate their efforts to quickly get the Center back in working order. I am sure a few kind words would make their day!

- Meredith (Mom of "Giraffe" Eleanor)



Nursery 1 Penguin class:

Happy Spring! This is the most beautiful time of the year. Everyone enjoys the outdoor activities like, stroller walks and playground visits. The smell of fresh air and listening to birds as they sing.

We continue to read books and sing songs together. The babies love when we use the glove puppets. They get so excited!

Oscar is the little guy who loves to climb. He enjoys exploring and tries to climb on the furniture. He loves to push the small cars on the floor and chase the balls around the room.

Evie loves to move all over the room practicing her army crawl. She is sitting up without any support and has started to push through the tunnel. She loves to play with the rattles and the bottle shakers. She enjoys all kind of purees.

Tessa love exploring all over the place! She stands up from the divider and all the furniture. She is practicing picking up dry food that is on the table. Tessa loves to play with pop-up toys and the spinning toys. She also enjoys shaking the bottle shakers.

Pearl has started pulling up from the furniture and loves to be under the table. She enjoys playing back and forth through the tunnel and she practices picking up dry food. She loves to play with the stacking rings, shapes, and enjoys the soft books.

Franklin is a very strong little one! He is also army crawling. He crawls and sits up. He enjoys exploring the room and is so curious about the rest of the center. He will often sit near the classroom doors. He enjoys reading books and loves to chase the balls. He is practicing eating different flavored purees.

All children are developing in all areas. They continue to grow each day. This month, we are celebrating NAEYC's "Week of the Young Child". We also want to welcome Ethan to our room! He will be joining our Penguin family this month, and we are so excited to see him.

Enjoy your spring!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





Nursery 2 Monkey class:

Spring is here and we hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather.

Our little Monkeys are keeping busy learning and exploring.

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss (March 2nd is his birthday) and read several of his books to the class.

Then, we learned about the weather by making paper plate umbrellas with dot-dot markers and enjoying sensory play with cotton balls.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day by hunting for **green**, indoors & out, and enjoyed dress-up play in the color **green**, too.

Next, the Monkeys decorated our classroom door with footprint bunnies and handprint flowers to welcome spring. During circle time, we talked about colors and shapes.

To celebrate Easter, we made handprint chicks and went on an egg hunt. We also looked for spring flowers on our morning stroller walks.

In the month of April, our themes will be: flowers, bugs, kites, bunnies, and more. 😊
Enjoy the weather, and please bring extra clothing for your child that is appropriate for the spring weather changes. Parents, thank you for the donated Scholastic book fair books. We love story times!

- Reena and Alicia



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Ms. Roselle

Ms. Fettouma

Dax

Troy



Junior 1 Dolphin class:

Hello, Dolphin Families!! Hope you have not been thrown off by the wild changes in the weather last month. One week, it was summer, and next, back to winter! The roller coaster ride of the weather did not deter the Dolphins from having many fun and exciting moments throughout the month of March 😊.

During the first week, the Dolphins learned about the colors of the rainbow 🌈 and had fun painting with wine corks and dot markers. They sprayed water onto coffee filters and watched the dot marker rainbow colors spread.

Next, the children learned about leprechauns and shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day. The class enjoyed stamping 'gold coins' with jumbo marshmallows and making shamrocks with bell peppers.

For our "Bugs" theme, the children had fun singing songs about bugs, catching toy bugs with fly swatters, and painting with strings of yarn as worms 🐛. They also loved splattering paint with the fly swatters!

The last week of the month went off course a little bit due to the water damages in the building, but everyone worked hard as a team to get us back on track as quickly as possible. Once the children returned, we had a great "Spring Break" week. We enjoyed many fun activities for the remainder of the week. We are very happy to host our

Monkey 🐒 friends (Adeline, Emelie and Rio) and their teachers (Ms. Reena and Ms. Alicia) who will take turns in our room while their classroom is repaired.

In April, the Dolphins will talk about spring, rain & puddles, spring cleaning, and baby animals. Also, the Dolphins will be welcoming a new friend, Zoe. She is new to the Simon Center, but her older brother is in the Pre-K Star class. Welcome to the Dolphin room, Zoe! We know you will enjoy learning and playing with your new friends!

It's just crazy how fast the time ⌚ goes by... we are already starting the second quarter of the year! Enjoy all the beautiful flowers and fresh green leaves on the trees and have an awesome April. Happy Spring, Dolphin Families!!!

- Julia, Ellaine, and Shirin





Junior 2 Goldfish class:

The Goldfish were busy all month long in March. We started by celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. During that week, we made *oobleck*. We got to play with and experience how it feels... it was hard when touched or poked, but would melt between our fingers. 😊

We read several books written by Dr. Seuss and listened to a few songs.

The next week, we put together a giant pot of gold for St. Patrick's Day. The children loved putting our own "gold coins" that they made into the pot and the class was proud to show it to our parents. We also made rainbows with colorful Fruit Loops and talked about what colors are in the rainbow.

As spring "sprung", we started to prepare the classroom to move from the cold winter season to a warm spring season.

In March, we read and listened to books on each of our themes, such as Put Me in a Zoo, Cat in The Hat, How to Catch a Leprechaun, Spring is Here, My Lucky Coin, and

more! We sang and danced along to some fun songs for each theme, too. 🎵

Thank you for the Scholastic book donations. We love them and the class was excited to pick which books to read each day!

This past month, we welcomed Eve and Nora from the Dolphin classroom. Welcome, girls! 😊

After welcoming new friends, we sent Bahar and Negar off to the Panda classroom. We look forward to still seeing them around the school, on the playground, and in music class. They may be gone, but not too far!

We are looking forward to diving into our April themes! We will be starting the month with a discussion about the holiday Eid. Then, we will be looking into Gardens & Flowers, and Earth Day, too! We have some Spring Cleaning on our April theme list for our friends who love helping to clean the classroom. We are flipping excited to swim into April!

- Mayi, Warda, and Fettouma





Junior 3 Panda class:

Happy Spring! During the month of March, we learned about Dinosaurs 🦖 The class had a fun time making dinosaurs during art and learning some dino-names. We learned that triceratops had 3 horns on their heads.

Spring week was very informative as we learned about what happens in spring and all the changes that happen in nature. We also planted 🌱 gladiolus and some lilies.

For St. Patrick's Day 🍀, we enjoyed reading 📖 books, and learning stories about leprechauns and rainbows 🌈 leading to their pot of gold. 😊

During our Caterpillar 🐛 & Butterfly 🦋 week, the children studied the life cycle of the butterfly.

We would like to thank everyone that participated in our Scholastic book fair and donated books 📚 to Panda room. The Pandas enjoyed reading all the new books! At the end of the month, Bahar and Negar joined our class. Welcome girls! April themes will be:

“April showers bring May flowers” 🌸

Colors of the Rainbow 🌈

Week of the Young Child

and Earth Day 🌍

- Sarai and Mary



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Senior 1 Bear class:

During March, we talked about the Post Office. The Bears learned how to mail a letter or package through dramatic play. Also, some of the children mailed cards and packages to their friends and families.


Next, they learned about Land Transportation. They all loved their car painting art, and they asked to do it again and again! They also enjoyed a magnet and paper clip science activity.

After noticing an increased interest in prewriting and writing activities in March, our writing center is now newly equipped to support their *written* learning through play! For our spring holiday discussion, the children learned about Nowruz while reading books, cleaning the classroom, and setting the haft-sin holiday table.

For the last week of March, we learned about spring, and the changes that happen in nature and for animals.

In March, we welcomed Ayra from the Panda class. We are excited to get to know her better!

Our April themes will be about Rainbows, Butterflies, Water Transportation, and

Recycling . We will also be reviewing the letters Q & R, and the numbers 16 & 17. Happy Earth Day!

- Rozita, Maryam, and Sameey



Did you know... ?

- Our telephone number when we call you will look a bit different. To call us, please use 703-834-5880. To be sure you know when we are calling you, please save the following numbers to your phone: 571-375-7671 and 571-375-7673.
- As a non-profit, we have an Amazon “wish list” for various classroom wants & needs, as well as for much needed Center supplies. <https://a.co/4WoEviD>
- We have an official (and private) Parent Group Facebook page. 
Please “join us” at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902695849810695/>



Senior 2 Giraffe class:

It's spring!!! In March, we started playing on the grassy portion of our school yard. We had fun running with our friends and enjoyed the very pleasant weather. 😊 Outside playtime is a good time to release our “springy” energy! To celebrate **Spring**, we cut out some flowers and leaves to make a flower garden on our windows.

When discussing **Gardens** and planting, we enjoyed nature walks to look at the buds growing on trees around our school and to look at and smell the daffodils by the playground.

Next, our theme was about **Pets**. We learned that pets need special care, including shots for their health.

Then, we talked about **Farm Animals**. We played with our toy barns and animals, and learned about how they give us food, such as eggs from hens, milk from cows, etc.

We continued our special activities, like MUSIC FOR LIFE with Mr. Diego; SPANISH class with Ms. Sarai; and YOGA session with Ms. Nora.

Another fun, special activity was our game of March-ing around the alphabet with Ms. Leila in the Kangaroo room. Earlier in the month (and also in the Kangaroo room), we had the Scholastic Book Fair week. Parents, thank you for donating some books to our class from the book fair. The Giraffes love the new books!

In April, we are continuing studying themes about animals, like **Forest Animals**; **Animals in the Zoo**; **Birds**; and **Ocean Animals**.

April is a time to enjoy the beautiful weather together, but also a time to focus on taking care of “Mother Earth”.

- Pompeii



Special “thanks” to Ms. Jessica, Ms. Annie, Meredith Mouser, and Alex Reed for going after donations from local businesses for our upcoming Family Fiesta’s Silent Auction on June 7th.

(And of course, thank you to the rest of our Board members for contacting local businesses for donations, too!)



Senior 3 Star class:

In March, we started by talking about Dinosaurs and the Paleontologists who study them. We learned how dinosaurs lived their day-to-day lives and how they ultimately went extinct, and we made “Dinosaur Dirt Cups”.

Next, we started our Butterfly unit to learn how they start developing from an egg to a caterpillar, then to a pupa to a butterfly. To show their newfound knowledge of butterflies, the Stars built example life cycles, and a huge butterfly (for you to find!). This led us to our Planting and Harvesting week’s discussion from the seed to plant. We discussed the season in general and how it affects the plants and trees in our area. We continued discussing how we can grow plants and vegetables this summer and what we should be putting in our playground garden boxes.

To end the month, we talked about Spring and Spring Cleaning. The children always enjoy cleaning our classroom by washing toys, and they loved cooking rice with fresh vegetables. We enjoyed reading spring cleaning books and new Scholastic books, too. In April, we will participate in the Week of the Young Child, play with Rain & Puddles. Then, we will focus on studying Rainbows and how they are formed. Also in April, we will be learning about Earth Day & Recycling to benefit the planet. Finally, we will be learning about different Insects & “Bugs”. The *Letters of the Week* for review in April will be C, P, R, I, & E, and the *Numbers of the Week* will be 4, 10, 5-15, & 20.

“Thank you, thank you!” for all your \$ contributions to the sensory table fund. 😊

- Roselle and Shatara



UPCOMING EVENTS:



April 1	Dress up “Wacky Hair” day (as “April Fools”!)
April 8 - 12	NAEYC’s “Week of the Young Child”
April 9	Buffalo Wing Factory fundraiser from 5-10 PM
April 15	Story and discussion about childhood cancer with Hopecam, S1 & S2
April 18 & 19	St. Jude’s Trike-a-thon days for the SR classes
April 22	Earth Day - recycled art display in front hall
April 23	Librarian visits SR’s in AM
April 29	Vision Screening for SR’s in AM (@10:30)