



# "Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the  
Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center, Inc.  
May 2024

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Established 1990

[simoncenter.org](http://simoncenter.org)

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## DIRECTOR

### Director:

April was a busy month for us at the Simon Center. We went from a day of "Wacky Hair" to a "Week of the Young Child". Next, we hosted a visit from Hopcam and a visit from the Reston Regional's librarian. Then to end the month, we had our 2-day St. Jude's Trike-a-thon event and the Prevention of Blindness Society's vision screening for the preschoolers. Yep... busy!

In May, I am sure we will have another busy month. Early in May, we will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with our "Silly Hat" day and celebrate our teachers that same week on Childcare Provider Day (followed by a weekend celebration for Mother's Day, too!). The next weekend, we will hopefully have a good showing of volunteers at our spring Adopt-a-Highway clean-up. Then on that Monday, we will have a fun yet informative visit from the Goldfish Swim School for their water safety presentation for the preschoolers just in time for the pools opening for the summer season. Yep... busy!! All May, we will push to get ready for June 7<sup>th</sup> ... a very busy day for us. We have the Star Class of 2024 Pre-K graduation, our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Fiesta and Silent Auction, and Peter and His One-Man Band performing... all on the same day! Yep... busy!!!

- Leila





## Assistant Director:

After the *unfortunate event* when the pipe burst causing our "home" to flood, we were all very patient throughout the remediation stage and now remain hopeful for the start of the reconstruction phase... soon! On the bright side, we got to see how hard-working our staff are, how resilient the children were to the changes, and how supportive our parents have been through this process. 😊

In April, we hosted a fun event for our SR classes, our annual St. Jude's Trike-a-thon. Teachers and their classmates were cheering each "triker" on as they did laps around the playground. Funds raised will benefit children fighting cancer at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Many thanks for your participation and donations! We had some interesting *sightings* in April. Mid-month, teachers were amazed to see hail falling in our parking lot (!?!?). Then, to end the month, the children were enthralled to see a large crane being set up to do rooftop work on our building, and to see the baby goslings hatch out by the pond!

We also saw many warmer than usual days in April. Please make sure to bring sunscreen and a sun hat for your child's daily protection during outdoor activities.

In May, we will be celebrating mothers and RESCC women who have made a difference in our lives! First, we will celebrate National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day, and then we will celebrate Mother's Day! I must say from a parent's point of view, we have the very BEST teachers here at RESCC, and it shows when all the children are smiling and enjoying their time here at school! So, let me be the first to say "thank you" to all our teachers who are here every day for all our children. ❤️

- Jessica



## Board of Directors:

It's finally May, and as the warm weather approaches, we are ready to say...

"Let the summer activities commence!"

First, thank you to everyone for being patient and understanding as we remediate the water damage in our suite. The children have been resilient, and it's nice to see them already used to the new routines and classroom spaces. In May, repair work will begin in the Nursery classrooms to start. We would like the youngest back in our "nest"!

Last month's fundraiser was a success, and we will plan more in the coming months.

This month, our focus will be on acquiring donations for the Annual Silent Auction at the Family Fiesta in early June. If you have a favorite, local business that you frequent, let us know. We can give you the auction donation form and letter to drop off. Since the Simon Center is a non-profit organization, contributions may be tax deductible.

Also, we're still looking for volunteers for the highway cleanup on the morning of Sunday, May 19th. Please let the Board know if you would like to participate.

Have a wonderful month and a great start to summer!!

- Adrian (Dad of "Giraffe" Alex)

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## Nursery 1 Penguin class:

Happy Spring! We are excited to welcome all the beautiful flowers, birds, butterflies, and even rainy days. In April, our Penguins enjoyed circle times... reading books, singing our favorite songs, and learning new songs.

Evie is exploring our room by army-crawling and sitting up without support. She enjoys playing with soft toys as well as toys that spin. Evie is now eating solid foods and enjoys trying new flavors.

Tessa can stand with the support from the teachers, as well as from the furniture. Her favorite classroom toys are the pop-up toys and the stacking cups. Tessa enjoys dancing the moment we start singing or playing music, and she enjoys trying new foods and will start making noises of excitement while she is being fed!

Pearl has amazing strength! She loves reaching for the toys on the shelf while standing on her tippy toes, and she enjoys playing with our little fishies and stacking rings. Pearl loves to crawl through the tunnel!

Franklin is our very active little man 😊. He loves exploring the classroom and using the furniture to prop himself up. Franklin enjoys trying new puree flavors, and he loves playing with the spinning toys and gives us a big smile when we play with puppets, too. In May, we will be saying “goodbye” to our sweet boy Oscar, as he will “officially” join the NUR 2 class (we are still combined). He enjoys playing with balls and chasing after them on the floor. We know Oscar will really enjoy the daily playground visits and gym time with the Monkeys!

At the end of April, we welcomed Ethan to our class. We are excited to get to know him, and very happy to welcome back his parents 😊.

In May, we will be welcoming a new baby, Emilia. Please help us welcome Emilia and her family. It is not their first time at the Simon Center, but this will be their first time in the Penguin room. Welcome!

We wish all our “Penguin Mommies” a very ... Happy Mother’s Day!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





## Nursery 2 Monkey class:

In April, the Monkeys were busy learning and exploring. To welcome spring, first we painted cherry blossoms using sponges, and then we played pretend. The children went on a "picnic" with the play food, and they did some spring cleaning in the classroom (and on the playground, too!).

During the "Week of the Young Child", we enjoyed a fruit salad on Tasty Tuesday and did some dot-dot art to make butterflies on Artsy Thursday.

Our next theme was all about "bugs". The children crawled like caterpillars and made little lady bugs using red paint on a paper plate.

For Earth Day, we painted the planet earth outside on the playground using blue and green paint. We all enjoyed the lovely spring weather outside on the playground and on our stroller walks to the water to visit the ducks.

In May, we will learn about the following themes: Gardening, Mother's Day, Farm Animals, and Flowers.

Also, this month Emelie will officially become a Dolphin on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and later in the month Adeline will "graduate" to JR 1 and Oscar will join us in the Monkey class.

As the weather continues to get warmer, we will be spending more time playing outdoors, and we will need sunscreen and a sun hat to protect the children for "fun in the sun". If you haven't already, please bring in the permission form and sunscreen.

Thanks!

- Reena and Alicia



## MAY BIRTHDAYS:



Ms. Pompeii

Ms. Julia

Ms. Annie

Amani

Norah

Sarah

Adrianna

Tess

Wren

Pearl

Oscar

Aidan

Dylan M.



## Junior 1 Dolphin class:

We hope everyone enjoyed the nice spring weather in April. The children enjoyed the days with sunshine as well as those with spring rain 😊. We started the month with some fun “Spring Cleaning” activities in our room. The children wiped the tables clean with sponges, washed their toy dishes and pots at the water table, swept the floor with dusters, and learned to fold laundry, too!

During NAEYC’s “Week of Young Child”, the Dolphins had fun with the different daily themed activities. We painted with “drum” sticks, made (and enjoyed) a fruit salad, built large block towers together, did collage art, and colored a family picture with crayons. It was a busy, but exciting week!

Next our theme was on “Spring Rain”. The students made dot-dot decorated umbrellas and raindrop sun-catchers. We also enjoyed jumping into “puddles” of bubble wrap. 😊

Then for “Baby Animals” week, the children went on an animal rescue mission to “save” rubber duckies taped on the wall and finger-painted blue ponds for the duck family. They also loved lifting flaps on baby animal peek-a-boo boards.

In May, the children will be learning about more spring-related themes like gardening, flowers, butterflies, and bumble bees and we will be making something special for our mothers to celebrate Mother’s Day ❤️.

In early May, we are sending Wren up to Goldfish room. We will miss her and wish her the very best in the new room! Several other Dolphins are turning 2 years old in May but will transition at later dates. (We are happy to keep them with us just a little longer!)

This month, we will officially welcome two friends, Emelie and Adeline. They have been in our room and already know us very well. These transitions should be easy! 😊

We look forward to having many fun and exciting spring days with our Dolphin children this May, and we would like to wish all our wonderful and loving mothers a

very, happy Mother’s Day!! ❤️❤️❤️

- Julia, Ellaine, and Shirin





## Junior 2 Goldfish class:

In April, our little *fishies* were busy all month long! We started the month observing the **Ramadan & Eid** celebrations by listening to songs and crafting moon & star art.

Then, it was time for some **spring cleaning**! We cleaned our toys, swept our classroom with small brooms & dust pans, and we decided to sweep the lobby and the playground, too! Their favorite cleaning activity was cleaning the tables & chairs with rags & spray bottles after meals or art time. Now, the students will be cleaning *every* week!

We continued the month by **gardening & planting** sunflower seeds in soil and started germinating beans in containers with damp cotton balls. We watched the stages of the growing process after we planted them.

For **Earth Day**, we designed a beautiful tree from recycled boxes, and added our faces as flowers (of course!). Next, we made a large Earth 🌍 handprint painting, and painted smaller trees with recycled cardboard and broccoli.

To end the month, we discussed **flowers**. 🌸 We watched our sunflowers begin to sprout, and we made flowers during art time, too.

As always, we read and listened to books related to our weekly themes, like I Can Save The Earth, It's Earth Day, I'll Plant a Little Seed, Friends and Flowers, The Cleaning Crew, The Busy Spring, Night of the Moon, and many more!

The Goldfish class enjoyed singing and dancing along to fun songs for each theme. We even tried to learn the *chacha slide* for our dance parties in the classroom. 😊

In May, we will welcome Wren from the Dolphin class. We are excited to have her join us soon to swim around in our “fish tank”!

“April showers bring May flowers” and our first May theme will be more about flowers, focusing on making flowers bloom and creating some cherry blossoms, too.

Also in May, we will be concentrating on making our mothers feel super special for Mother's Day! Mommies are very important people in our lives, and we cannot wait to show our appreciation and love ❤️.

- Mayi, Warda, and Fettouma





### Junior 3 Panda class:

In April, we were impressed with how well the children adjusted to the new, temporary classroom. In the beginning, they did ask questions and had some concerns to share, but... after we answered all their questions and addressed any concerns, the Pandas are doing great! Even our potty-training has gone well in the new room; 4 students are now fully potty-trained 🙌.

In April, we were busy with fun activities and doing colorful and sometimes recycled artwork. During the week of “Colors of the Rainbow” 🌈, the class reviewed the rainbow colors, and we also learned what happens when we mix two colors together. The “Week of the Young Child” was filled with fun activities for the children. We enjoyed painting to different types of music from around the world, and we tasted a delicious Korean snack that Ms. Mary brought to share with the class. Yum!

“April showers bring May flowers” was a fun week. We made a flower collage with cut out pictures from a magazine of anything spring and/or flower related.

Our “Earth Day” discussions were very informative. The Pandas learned ways that we can take care of our planet, Earth 🌍, and that there are some types of “trash” that need to be recycled ♻️ and other types that go in the regular trash cans.

During “Bugs” week, we played with plastic bugs in soil, and we learned what types of bugs we can see locally. We learned that stepping on bugs hurts them, and if they do not harm us, it’s best to just leave them alone.

Reminders- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child in the morning, we will reapply it as needed.

\* Please make sure your child wears potty-training “appropriate” pants. We have noticed that some are harder to pull down or too tight. The children get frustrated when they can’t pull their pants down themselves (or in time!).

Our May themes will be:

Bugs 🐜; Mother’s Day 👩; Feelings 😞😡😄; Police Officers 🚔; and Pond Life 🐸🦆

We will be busy during Mother’s Day week planning a special surprise for our mommies 😊. Happy Mother’s Day!

- Sarai and Mary





## Senior 1 Bear class:

In April, the Bears learned about forest animals, birds, and ocean animals. During the “Week of the Young Child”, the children made their own musical instruments, tasted the smoothies we made as a class, and built their own beach houses during their group art activities with their Giraffe partners.

We also celebrated Earth Day and learned how to keep our planet 🌍 clean. Check out our “trash to treasures” art display that is in the upstairs gym just outside our combined classroom.

This past month, we had some visitors, virtually and in person:

Hopecam visited our class and the Giraffe children to read stories about children who are struggling with difficult treatments for different childhood diseases. They brought some t-shirts and pencils to give to the Bears, too. Hopecam gave the children the opportunity to have a virtual visit with their friend, Eliza. It was great to connect with her and see her smile!

*NOTE- On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Hopecam will be honoring Eliza with a special medal at their Reston 5K event. Congrats, Eliza! 🙌*

The other April visitor was Ms. Kelly, the librarian. She came back from maternity leave and shared a new book with the children.

On the last Thursday of April, the Bears brought their helmets to school and participated in the St. Jude's Trike-a-thon. We learned trike safety rules and raised money to help children fighting childhood diseases, like cancer. Go, Bears!

In May, we will explore and learn about **colorful foods, insects & spiders, math in our everyday life, and many ways to travel.** Happy Mother's Day!

- Rozita, Maryam, and Sameey



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## Senior 2 Giraffe class:

Moving to a new classroom due to unavoidable circumstances was not easy, but the Giraffes were excited and resilient. We have a huge classroom to share with the Bears until repairs can be made in our classroom downstairs. Until then, we will be combined for activities, meals, and circle times. The children are having a ball in their very own gym!

Together in April, we talked about Forest animals. We read books about Animals in the Zoo, Ocean Animals and Birds, too!

We had an interesting discussion about taking care of Mother Earth, just in time for the Earth Day celebration. After discussing and giving examples of the “3 Re’s”, we learned the song: *REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE*. We did open-ended art activities related to this topic using scrap papers, boxes, paper bags, crayons, and other materials to recycle and reuse while also reducing waste... from trash to treasures!

In May, we will explore and enjoy varied activities for the following themes: Colorful Foods; Insects & Spiders; Math, In My Everyday Life; and Many Ways to Travel!

Thank you, parents, for coming to our spring one-on-one Parent/Teacher Conferences.

It was nice sharing what I have learned about your child with each of you. 😊

- Pompeii



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



- May 5 Hopecam's Reston 5K supporting children in cancer treatments
- May 6 Dress up "Silly hat" day
- May 6 - 12 Children's Book Week 2024- bring in your favorite book to share 😊
- May 10 National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day
- May 19 Weekend "Adopt-a-Highway" Spring Clean-up
- May 20 Goldfish Swim School's "Water Safety" presentation for the SR's in AM
- May 27 CLOSED for Memorial Day



### Senior 3 Star class:

In April, the Stars learned about **Rain and the Water Cycle**. The class did a science experiment making rain falling from clouds using a cup, cream, food coloring, and water.

For the “**Week of the Young Child**”, we got to make tasty smoothies and partner up with a friend for footprint art.

During the week on **Rainbows**, the children did a cool experiment using watercolor paints and milk.

Then to celebrate **Earth Day**, the students made robots using all recycled products. Our robots are on display in the front hall. 😊

To end the month, the Stars painted with toy bugs while learning about **Insects & “Bugs”**.

In May, we are planning to start the month with a week’s discussion all about **Mothers** and we will be making special gifts for them too. Then, we will learn about **Community Helpers**, like police officers, and how they help our community. At end of the May, we will talk about **Transportation** topics.

Our letters for review will be M, A, S, & T, and we will review our numbers 1-10 & 20-30.

- Roselle and Shatara



### 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/>