

# MARCH

## "Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the

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

March 2025

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12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 30, Reston, VA 20191  
Established 1990

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

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### DIRECTOR

Director:

February was a short month, but filled with lots of love ❤️, laughter, and learning:

- Dramatic storytelling in costumes with Mother Goose was a hit!
- A visit from the "Balloon Doc" was a neat way to learn about dental health. 😊
- Our "Cupid dance party" was *poppin'* on Valentine's Day... 🧑🏻💃 🧑🏻💃
- Walker Nature Center taught our SR's about where animals go in winter, too.

In March, we will focus on books, books, and more books! To start the month, we will host our spring Scholastic Book Fair week while also celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. Classes will be decorating their doors based on a picture book, and we will have a bracketed "Book Battle" to find out which children's book is the winner.

For the preschoolers, we have invited the librarian to come, and we have a local author coming to share her book about grandparents with the SR's, too. We hope to host many guest readers in March. Thanks, and happy reading!

- Leila





## Assistant Director:

Ahh, spring is right around the corner! This means walks around the pond, nature walks, and stroller walks for the infants.


On March 11th, we will dress up in our favorite color. With St. Patrick's Day the following week, we may see several friends dressed in green. St. Patrick's Day is also a fun time to make traps and do silly pranks in the classroom. With my Giraffe class, I would put green food dye in the toilet. The children thought that was the funniest thing! Little memories like these remind me how special the Simon Center is. 😊 Now, I am ready to welcome warmer weather and make springtime Simon Center memories in March!

REMINDER: On 3/21, we are closed for our Professional Development Day. Thanks!

- Jessica

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## Did you know... ?

- Refer a child & get \$250 off a month's tuition. See Robin or Leila for more details. 😊
- We have an official (and private) Parent Group Facebook page.   
Please "join us" at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902695849810695/>



## Board of Directors:

Happy March! Here's hoping that March will bring us some much-needed warmer weather and allow for more days on the playground for all the children at the Simon Center.

In our neighborhood, the daffodils are just starting to bloom... the first signs of spring are on the way! But in the meantime, as we stay tucked inside, I'm so grateful for the Simon Center and the constant creativity and variety that the children get to experience. From creative art projects to the music lessons to story times to yoga to Spanish class - it's wonderful to see all the ways that the children get to learn and express themselves.



I feel lucky to have found a place that prioritizes learning through play like Simon Center. As we look ahead to March, the center will be helping families by extending the hours starting March 10th to assist the many parents who must return to the office. As more workers return to offices, I encourage you to share your positive experience with the Simon Center with family and friends. Referrals are the best way to have new families join the center! Thank you for your continued support for the Simon Center.

- Laura (Mom of "Bear" Adrianna & "Dolphin" Emilia)

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## Nursery 1 Penguin class:

March is already here! We are very excited because it is finally getting warmer. As spring approaches, we have lots of activities in store for the warm sunny days to come. We are ready to be outside in the strollers and have lots of fun on the playground. Charlotte, our oldest, is trying very hard to stand up without support. She is eating food from home and drinking water out of her sippy cup. Charlotte loves to play with puppets and the cellphones.

Clara loves to play with scarves and pop-up toys. She is eating food from the caterer and drinking out of her sippy cup. Clara is standing on her own and is very close to taking her first steps!

Greta is doing great! She loves to play with soft toys and look at plastic books.

Although tummy time is not her favorite, Greta makes a big effort to try to roll over.

Isabelle is eating the purees from school and enjoys trying different flavors of food. She is working on standing up while using the furniture to support herself. Isabelle loves to army crawl and hunt for her favorite toys... the shakers and the books.

James is officially crawling! He eats purees, but he enjoys vegetables more than fruits. James likes to play with balls and our little fishies.

Livia, while furniture-walking, loves to explore everywhere! She enjoys playing with the soft books and the magic stars. Livia is eating food from home and likes to drink water from her sippy cup.

Parker is sitting without support. He eats all types of baby food with beef and chicken as his favorites. Parker enjoys playing with the rattles and the bottle shakers.

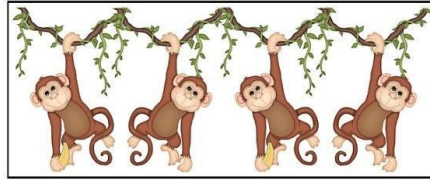
Emiliano, our youngest, is happy with all his new friends. He enjoys tummy time and likes rolling from his back to his tummy or from his tummy to his back. Emiliano likes to play with the little fishies and to look at the soft books.

In February, we welcomed Emiliano and Juniper to our Penguin class while Jack and Ethan both moved next door to the Monkeys. This month, we will welcome Karina to our class and her parents and older brother to Simon Center. Hugs to all! 😊

We wish everyone a nice St. Patrick's Day!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





## Nursery 2 Monkey class:

Our little Monkeys were busy learning and exploring in February. The children loved our story times about Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day.

We made Valentine's Day cards for children in the hospital who are battling cancer. We also played with currency to celebrate Presidents' Day. Next, we made a winter hat collage.

We already miss Emilia who moved to the toddler class in February. We know she is having a great time and that she was ready for a new challenge. We welcomed 2 new Monkey friends in February, Jack and Ethan. The boys fit right in and are enjoying our Monkey business. 😊

We will meet a new friend named Charlie on March 10th. He will be new to our class and new to Simon Center. Welcome!!

In March, our themes will be Dr. Seuss' Birthday, St. Patrick's Day, Holi, weather, and spring.

Thank you for the Valentine gift cards and cookies. As we march into March, we hope you all stay happy and healthy.

- Reena, Alicia, and Fettouma



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 3 - 7 | Scholastic Book Fair week  |
| March 10    | New operating hours begin, 7 AM to 6 PM  |
| March 11    | Dress up "Favorite color" day  |
| March 12    | Librarian visits SR classes in AM;<br>and Speech & Language Screenings by OWLS |
| March 18    | Author visits SR classes in AM to share book about grandparents                |
| March 21    | CLOSED for Professional Development Day for teachers                           |



## Junior 1 Dolphin class:

We are pleased to share that we had a fantastic February!

During our **Dental Health** week, we discussed the role of dentists as vital community helpers. Each Dolphin colored a tooth and took turns removing “plaque & bacteria” from a *toothy* smile using a toothbrush. 😊

Next, we talked about the **Post Office**, and we read and enjoyed the book: I’m a Mail Carrier. Then, the toddlers wrote “letters” to mail using envelopes to drop into the pretend mailbox. They also prepared Valentine’s Day postcards to give as gifts to their parents. To end our lovely postal week, we enjoyed the Valentine’s Day dance party with bubbles. We also made snow ice cream... it was a delicious treat!

For our week on **Money**, we discussed money and practiced purchasing with an exchange of play money to “buy” toys in our room. The children took photos behind a large cardboard cutout designed as a Dolphin-dollar... it was \$100 of cuteness!

In the final week, we focused on **Shapes**. The children assembled puzzle pieces of various shapes to construct a train. Using shape stamps, they created artwork on paper. We read There’s a Square, A Big Guy Took My Ball!, Shapes All Around, and I See Shapes together to enhance their comprehension of different shapes.

During the last week of February, we welcomed Emilia to our group. Emilia already fits in very nicely with our Dolphin class! 😊

In March, our themes will be **Wind, Color: Green, Rainbows, and Farm Animals**.

- Shirin, Fara, and Ellaine

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS:



Ms. Shirin

Ms. Rozita

Livia

Clara

Eve

Nora

Luca

Eleanor

Logan

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## Junior 2 Goldfish class:

February flew by within a blink of an eye! We had fun starting the month dressed in our cozy PJ's. 😊 Mid-month, the class loved the dance party Ms. Annie threw for us on Valentine's Day. We got to dance with our friends and pop bubbles!

Meanwhile, back in our fishbowl, we had a busy schedule. We started February by celebrating Chinese New Year and Groundhog Day. We made fans and lanterns and listened & danced to Chinese songs all week. The children learned to say, "Gong Xi Gong Xi" which means "Happy New Year". We listened to stories about groundhogs and practiced yoga poses to groundhog songs during our yoga class with Ms. Nora! The next theme was very popular because it was filled with a lot of love and crafts to give. We made flowers and hearts for our parents but also created crafts for Hopecam to share with their pediatric cancer patients. We put time and love into each gift, and we hope to brighten their day as they continue their journey. Our favorites are the big hearts we have up; we don't want to take them down yet!

The following weeks, we touch lightly on patriotic crafts with red, white and blue to celebrate Presidents' Day. We took the colors and splashed them on lantern designs and even dotted stars with them. We finished the week by making peace signs and the class made traffic signal lights using colored rice.

Our fishies are growing so fast! In February, we said "see you later" to Connor at the end of the month and we will say "farewell" to Hudson at the start of March, as both will join the Pandas. See you boys outside on the playground and during music class! In March, we are welcoming a new fishy friend named Krish into our fishbowl. We can't wait for him to join us!

For March themes, we are looking forward to saying "**Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss**" to start the month. Then, we will welcome **Spring** before saying hello to **St. Patrick's Day** and adding a touch of **Rainbow** here and there to color the month of March! Spring, here we come!!

- Mayi, Anjali, and Warda





### Junior 3 Panda class:

Wow! We can't believe that we are already in the month of March.

During February, we said our "good-byes" to Gaby and Benny as they moved up to the Bear 🐻 class. They will be missed!

Then at the end of February and to begin March, we had Connor and Hudson join our class from the Goldfish room. Welcome to our newest Pandas 🐼; we can't wait to build great memories with you both!

In February, we learned about dental hygiene. We talked about what things we can do to keep our teeth clean and healthy. We also had a visit from a dentist, the Balloon Doc! He was funny, and he showed us what healthy teeth look like versus dirty teeth. 🦷

Thank you for participating in our Valentine's Day exchange. The class had a great time passing out valentines to friends, and they loved receiving them, too. Everyone felt special and loved 😊.

Transportation week was fun! The children had a great time doing artwork for all the different modes of transportation. We also discussed which go up into the air and which float on the water or stay on the ground.

For Dr. Seuss week, we read many books 📖. We learned that as an author Dr. Seuss wrote picture books for young children. The Pandas enjoyed his silly rhyming words!

Our themes for the month of March will be St. Patrick's Day 🍀; Spring 🌸;

Caterpillars 🐛 & Butterflies 🦋; Gardening 🧑🌾, and Rainbow Colors 🌈.

Happy Spring!

- Sarai, Mary, and Erica



### 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 also save the following numbers on your phone: 571-375-7671 and 571-375-7673.



## Senior 1 Bear class:

February was a month full of learning, creativity, and fun in the Bear class!

We started the month by exploring **money**, the letter X, and the number 2 to focus on the concept of pairs. The Bears also enjoyed a special visit from Mother Goose and created heartfelt cards for children battling cancer.

Next, we celebrated **friendship**, learned about the letter Y, and explored the number 3. The class also focused on dental health while welcoming the “Balloon Doc” for an engaging lesson on keeping our teeth healthy. We wrapped up the week with a fun-filled dance party for Valentine’s Day and enjoyed exchanging valentines. ❤️

Continuing our learning journey, the following week we studied **patterns**, the letter Z, and the number 4. The Bears were busy engaging in hands-on activities to recognize and create patterns.

To end the month, we dove into the world of **rainbows and colors**, learned about the letter A, and explored the number 5. We also welcomed Ms. Kelly from the Walker Nature Center. She shared her knowledge of animals in the winter and her love for the great outdoors with our curious Bears.

In February, we were delighted to welcome two new Bears from the Panda room. With Benny and Gaby, our Bear family is growing!

Looking ahead to March, our weekly themes will be about **Dr. Seuss, Seasons, Signs of Spring, and Frogs**.

Happy Spring!

- Rozita and Maryam



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## Senior 2 Giraffe class:

In February, the Giraffes were engaged in many different activities and celebrations. During the first week, we learned about **Air Transportation** and had fun folding and flying paper airplanes. The children had a great time participating in Mother Goose's story time dressed up as various animals who had to tell a lion to go see a dentist. During the second week, we had an actual dentist visit to go over dental health practices with the students, like brushing teeth and eating healthy snacks. With **Valentine's Day** that week, we were busy preparing to celebrate and spread love. 💕 They made special heart shaped cards that were delivered to children getting cancer treatments, and they made another special card for their parents to show their love. We all enjoyed a fun dance party on Valentine's Day and loved making goodie bags for our valentine exchange. Thank you for the cards, stickers, jellies, and little toys!

Mid-month, we revisited the theme of **Food**, but this time we talked about what kinds of food one can get from different places, like the farm, the ocean, and in the wild. We also discussed our favorite foods and had fun making a food collage. With the colder temps this week, we spent time in the gym playing with the balls & trucks, tumbling on the mats, and riding the trikes.

To end the month, we talked about one of their favorite topics... **Space**. 😊 Each child made a space rocket using the letters in their names and their own constellations in the night sky. With a visit from Walker Nature Center, the class enjoyed learning about what different animals do during the colder months of winter. In March, we will be learning about **Gardening, Pets, Spring, Farm Animals, and Forest Animals**. We will have lots of fun reading many different books, including books by Dr. Seuss. With warmer spring weather in March, we are all looking forward to more outside time.

Have a marvelous March, Giraffe families!

- Julia






### Senior 3 Star class:

Hello from the Star class!

Our Stars began the month of February by celebrating **Groundhog Day**. They learned that on Groundhog Day if the groundhog sees his shadow, it means there will be more weeks of cold weather. For art, the children made groundhog puppets out of brown paper bags.

Our next theme was **Valentine's Day**. The class enjoyed creating cards and decorating their valentine bags. For our cooking project, we baked delicious cookies that we enjoyed during snack time. Then on Valentine's Day, they all enjoyed exchanging their valentine cards and gifts with each other... it was a lovely  affair!

After Valentine's Day, we focused on the theme of **Friendship**. The Stars "partnered up" to create beautiful paintings together.

Next, we explored the theme of the **Post Office**. Stars listened to stories about the post office and learned how important it is to our community.

In honor of Black History Month, we concluded the month by reading books, such as We Are Here, We Shall Overcome, and The Reflection in Me.

Looking ahead to March, our themes will include **Dr. Seuss**, **Dinosaurs**, **Spring**, **Spring Cleaning**, and **Butterflies & Caterpillars**. Our March letters will be U, I, C, B, & P.

See you in March!

- Roselle, Shatara, and Sameey



### Did you know... ?

- 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>