



APRIL

Kindergarten 2024

OUR LEARNING

Welcome to spring and warmer weather (in theory)! In March, we spent a great deal of time learning about Lent, and the biblical story of Easter and Jesus' sacrifice. We will continue to review this and learn about how Jesus is the light! This will lead into discussions of how students can be a light in our world.

In April we will continue on our literacy journey, taking what we have learned about letter-sound pairings, and combining them to write and decode words on our own; or build on our own written words by making phrases or sentences!

In numeracy, we are focusing on composing and decomposing numbers, and looking at larger and trickier numbers, quantities, and patterns.

As the weather continues to warm up, we will again be focusing on the changes that occur in our environment and building up to several visits to nearby parks to explore local wildlife. We will start learning to document our observations like scientists, using our literacy skills to describe and label what we see. This is such an exciting time of year for students to explore, starting with the geese returning!

CULTURAL POTLUCK

Please join us for our 2nd Cultural Potluck happening April 25th, from 5:30-7:00 pm! We will come together to break bread and share food from all the wonderful cultures we have in our school! This is such a lovely way to gather as a school community and get to know more of our community members!

Please use [this link](#) to let us know if you will be attending and what you will be bringing.

STORY FOR EVERY CHILD

Our school is hosting our first ever **Story for Every Child Event** on May 7 between 12&1pm. We are looking for community member volunteers to spend the hour reading with a student in our school.

Since we will be needing many volunteers, we wanted to plant the seed early. Parents are welcome, and if you have any other community connections, feel free to pass that information on to myself or our admin.

MALVERN PARK VISITS

This month, we will be starting our walking trips to Malvern Park. Here we will be looking for and observing wildlife in the area, exploring math and literacy in a new environment, looking at maps and mapping, and making connections to the land and animals around us. It is also a great time to explore neighborhood signs, pedestrian rules, and how to stay safe in the community!

Please ensure your student is well prepared with **weather appropriate clothing** including footwear (we will go in most weather – light rain, wind, cooler days), and a water bottle.



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KINDERGARTEN 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8 Assembly 9am Lukas' S&T	9 Carter's S&T	10 Autumn's S&T	11 Manuel's S&T	12 Malvern Park PM Vy's S&T TTH
15 Assembly 9am Kinsley's S&T	16 Collins' S&T	17 Bus Evacuation Drill Luke's S&T Parent Council 7pm	18 Bus Evacuation Drill Kashton's S&T	19 Malvern Park PM Mateo's S&T MW
22 Assembly 9am Earth Day	23 Kelia's S&T	24 Sri Harshini's S&T	25 Marthus' S&T Cultural Potluck 5:30-7pm	26 Malvern Park PM Natalia's S&T MW
29 Assembly 9am Ryker's S&T	30 Vada's S&T	1 Early Out & Spirit Day – Blackout/Whiteout	2 Rayali's S&T	3 PD Day – School Closed

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Walking trips to Malvern Park begin on Friday afternoons – parent volunteers welcome!
- Bus evacuation Drill April 17&18
- Parent council meeting 7pm – **all are welcome**
- Community clean-up April 26
- May 1 spirit day – wear all black/all white & Early Out
- May 3 PD Day – school is closed
- Please continue to send a “secret object” for your child's show and tell. We are using our Expanding Expressions strategies to practice describe objects!



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5 Key benefits of Outdoor Learning

[\(Learning through Landscapes, 2023\)](#)

1. Children's mental health and wellbeing improves

There is an enormous body of research available showing that time spent in nature can improve children's mental health and wellbeing. Likewise, a lack of learning outdoors is steadily resulting in a '[Nature Deficit Disorder](#)', where spending less time outside is suggested to lead to behavioural problems. By taking learning outdoors, we can combat Nature Deficit Disorder and increase mental health by improving mood, confidence and wellbeing.

2. Children's relationship with nature improves

A four year study (and the largest of its kind) conducted by Natural England showed that 94% of the teachers involved reported that outdoor learning led to a greater understanding of nature. Children need to spend time outdoors to truly understand it. Combining important lessons with memorable experiences outside the classroom means that these moments in nature can be strengthened, and so too can children's connection to and love of the natural world.

3. Education is more inclusive

All children are unique – they learn in different ways and for some, these can actually be stifled by the classroom. One of the many brilliant things about outdoor learning is that it gives more scope for inclusive activities and overall mindset. There are more possibilities and opportunities for *all* pupils to be together, experiencing the same range of activities. Plus, the sensory immersion opportunities are far higher and children feel less tied to one specific mode of learning.

4. Curriculum learning is enhanced

Learning outside isn't an unnecessary add-on: it's a way to deepen children's learning experience by getting them to experience lessons in a new and exciting way. It provides practical, real-life experiences: the type that children truly take on board. These engaging experiences can teach brand new skills and also enhance problem solving, teamwork and thinking skills while feeding seamlessly into the curriculum.

5. Child development is enhanced

By moving away from regimented seating plans and standard classroom based learning, children can embrace a greater sense of freedom and independence: essential contributors to their development.

[Research](#) has even suggested that outdoor learning boosts confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding. It has also been found to boost children's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work cooperatively and positive attitude to learning.