



March 2016

Boy oh boy, the months are going by quickly! March is upon us, and with that – Spring and St. Patrick's Day! We will begin our study of both of these themes shortly, but for now, we are lost in Space and loving it! The children, as I'm sure you know, are learning a lot about the solar system, especially the planets. Every day they ask to watch the various short Planet songs during Snack Time. These are modern songs produced by StoryBots, and KidsTV123 that teach while they entertain. After they watch one, we discuss what they've learned, and when I quiz them on the names of the planets and what they're like now, the hands shoot up to answer. We also have a new display board in the class, on the wall to the right of the door. Ask your child to show you as they quite like it.

We are therefore super excited about our **trip to the Telus World of Science**, so that we can watch the planet show in the Margaret Ziegler Star Theatre! We will be seeing **In My Backyard**.

As well, we will be:

- participating in the **Blast Off** program,
- touring the galleries,

-having a brown-bag lunch in one of their lunch rooms, and

-exploring and playing in **DiscoveryLand!**

Our original date, which was slightly earlier, did not include DiscoveryLand, so I re-scheduled, as this is a highlight for young students! Our ***fieldtrip date is Tuesday, April 19, 2016***. This will be an **all-day excursion**, and **I will require 6 volunteers between the two classes, as there will be 35 students**. (There will be 7 groups of 5... 6 with volunteers, one with me.)

There are several other field trips in the works, with confirmation and dates to come shortly. (Our next one is a short outing to Save on Foods, to be happening in the next couple of weeks.)

Upcoming Events

Brother Joe will visit both the am and pm class on **Monday, March 14, 2016**. This visit always involves discussing different people, or concepts from the Bible, as well as doing action songs such as The Unicorn Song, and Jesse Manibusan's Cow Says Moo, among others. Brother Joe's visits help to strengthen the connection between faith, school, and church.

Based on consultation with professionals from Alberta Health Services, I am pleased to inform you that **Taylor McFarlane, an Occupational Therapist (with AHS), will be coming to our class to offer a specialized session on Fine Motor Skills**—one for the morning class, one for the afternoon. The afternoon class will participate in this program on **Wednesday, March 16th, 2016, from 1:00-2:00 pm**, and the morning class will participate on **Monday, March 21, 2016, from 10:00-11:00 am**.

ECS/Kindergarten Open House – Wednesday, March 16, 2016, from 6:30-7:30 pm. If you have children who will be turning 5 on or before March 1, 2017, please join us next Wednesday, to discuss particulars of the program, do a mini tour of the school, and connect with other families who will be joining you on the journey. We have fun every day – and the whole school environment is one of

positive energy, joy, faith, acceptance, kindness and loving care... and that's above and beyond all the fantastic stuff going on related to academics and citizenship. Hope you will make us your choice, and come grow with us.

Thursday, March 17, 2016 – St Patrick's Day Celebration

Please send your child to school wearing as much green as possible. This makes for a fun experience -and a great picture! =) We are not having a party per se, but rather a St Pat's focused day. This will involve first and foremost – finding out who Saint Patrick was, and what special things he did. This is a good way to connect special days to our faith. (As I am half Irish, and the only one out of four siblings to have been born here in Canada, I celebrate the opportunity to share a little bit about the people and country of Ireland.) We will also be doing a craft, listening to Irish music, and eating green food. I will post a sign up sheet outside the classroom door for parents to fill out if willing to send food, and as always, please feel free to email me if you have questions, concerns, or special requests. In sticking with our Apple Schools values, I would like to keep it to healthy snacks. Please choose from the list below, or message me with other ideas.

Green apples

Green peppers

Cucumbers

Celery

Broccoli

Green grapes

Green kool-aid (the one sweet indulgence) (This will be substituted with water for those children who are on a sugar-reduced diet.)

Snow peas

Green beans

Green Rice Krispie squares (ok, two sweet treats – unless parents object. Please let me know if you do.)

Supplies needed

We are in need of a few supplies in order to complete craft projects. Please send in a paper towel roll and an empty egg carton at your earliest convenience.

If any of you have a fly swatter that you wouldn't mind loaning to the kindergarten class, that would be great. I have one of my own that I will use, but we need two, and they are not available in the dollar stores yet. These are to be used for a fun, little math game. I was going to explain but I'd rather your child experience it first hand and come tell/show you.

Academics

We continue to work on printing, letter and sound identification, sounding out words, reading, drawing, cutting, colouring, taking turns, sharing, playing cooperatively, moving to music to enhance gross motor skills, moderating the volume of our voices, using problem solving to resolve conflict, and so much more.

Interruption of Reading Program:

Unfortunately, I chose to put the Home Reading Program on hold briefly, as several books were returned damaged: covers bent, pages torn, and covers or pages wet/damp. I was very distressed by this, and have spoken to the children about the necessary care that must be taken in order to keep the books in good condition. I have purchased extra-large Ziploc baggies, to use to safely transport reading books to and from school. The program will resume on Monday, March 14, 2016. Thank you for your anticipated understanding and assistance in this regard.

On a personal note

Every day your children bring joy to my life, and I hope I do the same for them. I believe to the depths of my soul, that they are miraculous, and beautiful people created by you, in partnership with God, and should be nurtured, appreciated, and celebrated as such. I feel extraordinarily blessed to have shared just this short segment of the journey with them, and will treasure it always.

(To be clear, I do not in any way mean to imply that our time is over, it's just that I know how quickly the months will go, and I want to say it now –while it's in my heart, and not just as a year-end farewell statement.)

Looking ahead...

Aside from our trip to the Telus World of Science in April, we also have an author visit to look forward to. Well known **children's author Gordon McRae will be visiting Madonna on Thursday, April 7, 2016**. The am class will meet with him at 10:30, and the pm, at 1:35.



Please see next page...

In honour of St Paddy's Day, this is my wish for each of you...



Best regards,

Ms Stocker (Fiona)



