



NEWSLETTER - MARCH

From the Director's Desk:

March brings many distinct symbols and events that work well as Pre K themes. Whether the month comes in like a lion or a lamb; related themes inside the classroom keep the kids entertained while teaching them about this time of year. Some of our Pre K themes in March include: Dr. Seuss's Birthday, Barbie's Birthday, National Irish Heritage Month, National Nutrition Month, National Reading Awareness Month, Saint Patrick's Day, Saint Joseph's Day, and Lent/Easter.

Spring Weather

The weather in spring typically includes rain and wind as well as increasing temperatures. Rainbows are also associated with this time of year. The changing weather at this time of year offers inspiration for many science and art projects. Tracking weather and painting pictures of different types of weather are simple activity ideas. Taking activities outdoors, when weather permits gives kids the chance to explore the changing environment themselves.

Nutrition

March is National Nutrition Month. Starting with nutrition education at the preschool level builds a solid foundation for good eating habits in the future. Activities that teach kids the basic of healthy food choices work well for the pre-k curriculum. Healthy snacks give the kids firsthand experience with good nutrition. Working nutrition activities into the curriculum throughout the month of March helps the kids gain a better understanding of the topic.

St. Patrick's Day

March 17th marks St. Patrick's Day each year. St. Patrick's Day offers a broad theme with many different subcategories for planning activities. Leprechauns, clovers, rainbows, Ireland and the color green all fit within the St. Patrick's Day theme. The St. Patrick's Day theme fits different areas of the curriculum and teaches kids about holidays.

Who is Saint Patrick?

Saint Patrick was born between 387 and 390 in Scotland. He was the son of a Roman military officer stationed in Britain. St. Patrick was captured by pirates and taken to Britain where he was forced to work as a slave. For six years he worked as a shepherd, suffering from cold and hunger as well as the loss of his freedom. While tending sheep in the fields, he spent his time in prayer and turned to God. St. Patrick escaped from Britain aboard a German vessel. When he got back to his homeland, he studied in a monastery and was ordained a priest. He was asked to go to Ireland to christianize it. Eventually St. Patrick was ordained a bishop at the age of 42. St. Patrick used the symbol of the shamrock to teach that there is only one God, but three divine Persons---Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In addition, he set up monasteries and convents, established parishes, adapted Irish celebrations to Christian feasts and continued to work to destroy paganism in Ireland. After living an apostolic life of labor and prayer, Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461. He is the patron Saint of Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York.



Doctor Seuss

Dr. Seuss's birthday falls on March 2, making it an ideal theme for the preschool classroom. The rhyming patterns in the Seuss books are particularly appealing to youngsters and lend themselves well to rhyming activities. A birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss on his actual birthday helps kick off the other related activities we have planned for our students. In March the learning theme is all things Dr. Seuss. Not only are Doctor Seuss books loved by children the world over but they help introduce children to the fundamentals of reading. With Dr. Seuss' simple word repetition and rhyming words a child can easily begin to hear it, learn it, and read it.

National Women's History Month

March is National Women's History Month. During this month we celebrate influential women. Susan B. Anthony, Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, and Sally Ride are just a few from a bountiful selection of important women in history.

Saint Joseph

Everything we know about the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary comes from Scripture. We know he was a carpenter. He was a compassionate, caring man. Joseph was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him. His feast day is celebrated on March 19th.

Who is Saint Joseph?

St. Joseph is an important figure in Christian belief. He was the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' foster father here on earth and the head of the Holy Family. Everything we know about Saint Joseph comes from Scripture. He was a carpenter, and a working man. He was not rich, however, despite his humble work and means, he came from royal lineage. St. Joseph was a descendent of David, the greatest King of Israel. Jesus' foster father was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. Saint Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at His death, or resurrection, thus many historians believe he probably died before Jesus entered His public ministry. He is the patron saint of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters and social justice. We celebrate two feast days in honor of Saint Joseph: March 19th is for Joseph, the husband of Mary and May 1st is for Joseph the Worker.



Please Note:

Approximately 5,000 children fall out of windows each year. To help your youngster stay safe, don't leave them alone around open windows, and keep in mind that screens won't prevent falls. Move beds and furniture away from windows. Also, keep windows locked, or install window guards so your child can't open them.

IMPORTANT: SAFETY NEWS

- It is unsafe for children to run and climb on the steps and rocks. It is also unsafe for children to run and play along the sidewalk and grassy areas where cars are coming down the street. Thank you for helping us to ensure the safety of your children.
- I'd like to remind parents to please close the doors behind you-particularly our front door. We want to be very careful about who's coming in and out of our facility. Also, with the weather changing from day to day please be sure you are leaving a sweater or jacket in your child's cubby. Please also be sure to label ALL CLOTHING and your child's other belongings. We have lots of duplicates in our school and we want to be sure they go home to their proper owners.
- Also I have been informed by the Police Department and the Fire Department that parents dropping children off to our preschool are parking and blocking fire hydrants. This is not only jeopardizing access to our building and other surrounding homes in case of fire, but it is also a traffic violation and parties who do so will be ticketed.



March Calendar:

March 2-March 6: Week Long Celebration in honor of Doctor Seuss

- Monday: "Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter won't mind." WEAR GREEN FROM HEAD TO TOE!
- Tuesday: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Read a T-Shirt Day-Wear a tee shirt with a message
- Wednesday: "I like nonsense, it wakes-up the brain cells: Wacky Wednesday: Mismatch and Inside/Out Day.
- Thursday: "Sometimes the questions are so complicated the answer's are simple."
- Crazy Socks Day - Wear your Craziest Socks!
- Friday: "You have brains in your head and feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."Wear Red, White and Blue Day

March 2: Read Across America Day

March 3: Staff Meeting 8 a.m PTA/Carnival Meeting 9 a

March 17: Feast of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of the NY Archdiocese

March 18: Donuts with Dad (Fours) 8:45-9:45

March 19: Donuts with Dad (Threes) 8:45 - 9:45

March 19: Feast of St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus

March 20: Carnival Set Up 7 p.m.

March 21: Candyland Children's Carnival 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March 22: Carnival Snow Date



March Themes:

- March Comes in like a Lion and goes out like a lamb
- Doctor Seuss
- National Nutrition Month
- Irish Heritage Month
- National Music in our Schools Month
- St. Patrick's Day
- Spring
- St. Joseph's Day
- Read Across America Month
- Kites
- Zoo
- Jungle
- Rainbows
- Leprechauns

Discipline is Teaching:

Discipline is our way of teaching children about safety and societal norms. Whatever type of discipline parents choose, the key is that some form of it is essential. When you are faced with a three or four year old who is throwing a temper tantrum, or who is being unkind to a playmate:

- Be specific. Instead of vague instructions like, "Cut it out," use specific ones like, "Don't take, Jeremy's toys. It's not nice"
- Use body language. Move next to your child, put a hand on his/her shoulder, make eye contact.
- Preschoolers like to say the word, "no." So avoid the word as much as you can when dealing with your child. Instead save "no" for times when you describe unacceptable behavior
- With older children, set guidelines in advance. If your child knows the consequences of his or her misbehavior they will think twice about acting up.
- Be consistent, even when it's hard to follow through. Children need to know their parents' word is good---for punishments and rewards.



Annual Children's Carnival: March 21

Candyland Children's Carnival 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

How Can you Help???

- Purchase your two 50/50 Raffle Books (\$30) We ask that EACH of our school families sell or purchase at least two books if possible. Sell some to friends and family.
- Donate items for your child's Classroom Theme Basket - Teachers have left lists posted outside their rooms
- Obtain donation gift items and gift cards from local merchants in the surrounding areas or donate something yourself. Get Merchant Solicitation letter from Jenna Evangelista or the Pre K Office.
- Volunteer at least TWO HOURS to work at the Carnival. Check out "Sign Up Genius". We need "all hands on deck." The financial profit from the Carnival is used to benefit ALL OUR CHILDREN.

Three Year Old Themes for March:

- March Comes in like a lion and out like a lamb
- Letters: S,T,U
- Community Helper: Chef, Waitress/Waiter, Cableman
- Colors: Grey
- Shape: Rectangle, Cone, Shamrock
- Numbers: 18, 19,
- Skills: Color, Letter, Name, Number, Recognition, Cutting, Patterns, Rhyming, Opposites, Jump/Hop, Stand on one foot
- Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick, Rainbow, Pot or Gold, Leprechaun, Four leaf clover, Spring, Circus, Zoo/ Jungle animals, St. Joseph, Nutrition
- **Donuts with Dad** Celebration: On March 19th from 8:45-9:45



Four Year Old March Themes

- Letters: Uu, Vv, Ww, Xx
- Number: 19, 20, 21
- Community Helper: Sanitation Worker, Mechanic, Cableman, Chef, Waitress/Waiter
- Shape: Semi Circle, Hexagon, Shamrock
- Color: Purple/Violet
- In like a lion, out like a lamb (weather)
- Dr. Seuss
- Word Families
- St. Patrick
- St. Joseph
- Weather and Wind, Rain, Clouds
- Good Nutrition
- Fours Celebration on March 18st from 8:45 to 9:45 "Donuts With Dad"

Donuts With Dad

This is a special day when we invite our Dads into our classrooms to show our appreciation for all they do for our students. Coffee and Donuts will be served.

Books for March:

- Rainbow of My Own
- The Leprechaun Who Lost His Rainbow
- All the Colors of the Rainbow
- Ten Lucky Leprechauns
- One Windy Day

