

April

TEACHERS' BLOCKS

Murnie Leary
Director

In addition to technology, **The Partnership for 21st Century Skills** identifies four skills that children need to become successful:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Collaboration skills
- Creativity and innovation skills

Here at HNS we work to develop these skills, to help children become confident, self-assured and lifelong learners. This foundation is critical for later academic success.

Mrs. Young & Mrs. Brown
5 day 4-year-olds

We have had a very busy month of March and are very much looking forward to April and some warm, spring weather. During March we enjoyed building leprechaun traps and learning about St. Patrick's Day. We were not able to catch one but we sure had fun trying! Dinosaurs were also a favorite theme and we made dinosaur fossils, dinosaur eggs and learned many dinosaur facts. We ended our month with an airport in our room and took a trip around the world! We visited Guatemala, Australia, Ireland and Denmark. Thank you to Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Burm for helping with presentations. We all learned a lot. We will always have our passports that we made so we can travel again. April is a short but fun-packed month. We will study outer space for the first two weeks. Lots of fun projects and books will be used to help us learn about space. We will enjoy making rockets, galaxy dough, painting moon rocks and making constellations. As always, we will continue to work on alphabet recognition and sounds, and are beginning math concepts with verbal problems to practice simple addition and subtraction skills. April vacation is the week of the 16th. It is helpful for us if you let us know if you will be taking extra days off either before or after. Thank you!

Mrs. Murphy & Mrs. Laine
3 day 3-year-olds

We are having lots of fun down on the farm in our classroom! After closing out our spring thematic unit we have launched into an exploration of farm life that will incorporate theme related books, songs and art activities. We are exploring rhyming words in some of our literature and challenging ourselves with lots of new farm themed puzzles. We thought by now we could be outside in just our coats but in true New England fashion the snow just won't go away. Thank you for continuing to send in the red bags! We also enjoyed meeting with you to discuss your child's progress this year. Your children have grown so much right before our eyes and we have enjoyed every minute of it. After the April vacation we will have some new members of our class join us - real live caterpillars! The children will be learning about metamorphosis as they watch these fascinating creatures transform before their eyes. We will move into a study of butterflies just as our little friends hatch out of their chrysalises. Keep your eye out for information about Parade Day coming soon!

Mrs. Fox & Mrs. Sweeney

2 day 3-year-olds

April is here but we are still waiting for some spring weather! We are ALL tired of hats mittens and boots! It was nice to meet all of you for conferences and catch up. We started studying farms this talking about animals and what grows on a farm. Some of you may have heard our Pig song. "5 little piggies rolled in the mud, squishy squashy, squishy squashy, it felt good!" They loved making piggies rolling in the mud! We also are making vegetables that get planted on the farm. On April 12th we will have parade day. That means your student gets to wear a costume to school. We will parade in the parking lot. Parents can come watch but no pressure! It is a five-minute parade and other students will be outside to cheer friends on. Exact timing will come via email. We have a week of vacation this month and when we get back to school we will hopefully be focused on spring with some spring weather to join it! Keep bringing the red bag. Even though there might not be snow it is cold, wet, and there is plenty of "squishy squashy" mud!

Mrs. Warren & Mrs. Ross

4 day 4-year-olds

Beach Day was a huge hit in our class!!! We wore our bathing suits, swam in the pool, laid on our towels, ate popsicles, caught fish, made a "Beach in a Bottle," played beach ball games, and read a story called "Harry by the Sea". Spring is here! We will be focusing on the season of spring in our classroom. We will begin our study with a mini unit about weather. The children will have many opportunities to participate in weather-related activities. **Parade Day will be on Thursday, April 12th**. Children may wear costumes to school and we will march to music. More information will follow in a separate notice. Spring can be a very muddy time on the playground! After or during particularly wet weather, boots are always a good choice for the playground, with an extra pair of shoes for indoor play. Happy spring!

Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Read-Brown

2 day 3-year-olds

After quite a long stretch, our fairy tale unit has ended but not until we read many, many classical stories. We are moving on to a different kind of story in the form of poetry. Shel Silverstein is our inspiration for many of those that we will read. What is a poem? Does it have to rhyme? We will find the answers to the questions and learn a lot more than perhaps expected as we read some fun and silly works. The children will also discover that they, too, are poets. Look for some very exciting pieces in the white bags as we begin. We are also going to be looking out our classroom windows as well as experiencing first hand on the playground the changes that the new season is bringing. Pretty soon, our room will reflect what is happening all around us as flowers, trees and plants start to bloom and bud. We'll also create some seasonal toys that will help to decorate our walls and ceilings, too. After April vacation, the fun continues. We will have Parade Day, a special day where the children come to school in costumes and parade through the parking lot with their own handmade flags for the other HNS children to enjoy. Upon return, too, a special living surprise will await us in the room. We will get to see these creatures grow and change, just as the children themselves have done all year. It's going to be very exciting!

Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Christino

3 day 4-year-olds

We have ended our stay in fairy tale land. The children had a “royally” good time transforming themselves into queens, kings, princesses, princes and knights when they drew a different kind of self-portrait. They are fit for a palace wall and will be coming home to hang on your walls this week. On the other end of the spectrum, they also made moveable trolls based on the characters in Jack's Tale by Ellen Stohl Walsh. This was the culminating story of our unit, and rest assured, those trolls did not win. The one very important lesson we did learn during this unit was that kindness and goodness always prevail. Our next unit will combine reality with imagination as we learn a little about poems, specifically those by Shel Silverstein. We will talk about what a poem is, their many intentions and even write a few of our own. This month, too, we will also notice some seasonal weather changes taking place and our classroom will begin to take on a whole new look which reflects those changes. Walls and ceiling will be flourishing, not only with plants and animals, but some familiar spring toys and weather gear! When we return from April vacation, we will continue celebrating the new season with our own annual HNS Parade Day. Get the costumes ready!