

April

## TEACHERS' BLOCKS

**Murnie Leary**

Director

At this time of year, with snowpants on and off, we realize how important it is for children to do things for themselves. Here at school the children practice self-help skills throughout the day. From carrying their own bags, dressing and undressing themselves for outdoor play, pouring juice, using the bathroom, and classroom clean-up jobs, children have opportunities to develop independence. We encourage these opportunities at home as well. Allowing extra time children need to become independent can be challenging (I remember getting kids out in the morning!). Providing extra time and encouragement contributes to an "I can do it!" attitude, and develops positive feelings of self and pride in their accomplishments.

**Mrs. Young & Ms. Drew**

5 day 4-year-olds

The month of March was very busy with One Hundred Day, leprechauns and fairy tales! We all used our imaginations with a castle, costumes and lots of fun art projects. Dragons roamed our room and magic wands were used. We compared different fairy tales and wrote a class fairy tale together. Encourage your children to make up their own stories and write them down. This is a great literacy activity! We are loving the time we have outside and are planning on going out first thing now on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We will let you know when we no longer need the "red bags." As some moms have discovered, the soccer field can be muddy, so outer clothes help. Boots are especially appreciated so mud isn't an issue in the classroom. In the month of April, we will be learning about Outer Space and Spring Things. Feel free to send in any books your child may want to share with the class. We will be reading lots of stories, making awesome art projects and playing astronauts. We are learning to listen for the sounds that letters make. You can practice letter sounds everywhere you go! We have also been working on patterns and counting as far as we can for math. Please note that we will also be having PARADE DAY on the Friday before vacation, April 12. The children may wear their favorite costume and join the other classes in a parade. The parade is held on our parking lot, and parents may come to watch. Time will be announced. Thank you for your continued help with our special snacks!

**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 finally 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 while continuing to strengthen and develop the skills necessary for Kindergarten. Please note that our weekly schedule has changed. Music with Miss Nikki will now be held on Tuesdays at 9:00-9:20 am. We have learned a lot of new songs and movement activities in a short time! **Parade Day will be held on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.** Children may wear costumes to school and we will march either in the parking lot or in the indoor play space to parade 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. Christino**

3 day 4-year-olds

We extended our stay in fairy tale land a bit and 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 soon. 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. One very important lesson we did learn during this unit was that kindness and goodness always prevail. Although this was the last story we read, our class did write our own fairy tale which each child illustrated from cover to end. They worked extremely hard on their publications as you will see from all the detail, color and wording. During this unit, we also incorporated some STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) that proved to be very thought-provoking and fun. One activity asked each group to use just one piece of paper, scissors, and tape to make the longest beanstalk possible for Jack. Another activity asked each group to use clothespins, straws and popsicle sticks to construct a strong bridge over which the three billy goats could pass to escape the troll. Ask your child what his or her groups did for each. The children were surprised to find out not only what they are capable of doing as a team, but also how different the outcomes can be from one group to the next. After we conclude our unit by planting the children's bean seeds that are sprouting roots in bags on the classroom windows, we'll begin to focus on things growing outside as well. Before we leave for April vacation, we will hold our annual Parade Day on Friday, April 12th. The children will be able to come to school dressed in their favorite costumes and parade through the parking lot. Again, it's going to be a very busy month and fun!

**Mrs. Murphy & Mrs. Laine**

3 day 3-year-olds

Spring is finally here and with its arrival comes our farm unit. The children will learn about the different jobs and functions of a farm. They planted their own bean plants and we will monitor their growth over the next two weeks before sending them home. We will be reading lots of farm related books and the classroom is filled with a variety of farm themed activities. On Friday, April 12, we will be having Parade Day. The children will be making flags in preparation for this event and they are invited to wear a costume to school.

**Mrs. Fox & Mrs. Sweeney**

2 day 3-year-olds

March was a terrific month! We really enjoyed our animal hospital in the classroom. Everyone was a very thoughtful veterinarian. Special Person Day was just that - very special. As teachers of three-year-olds, we love to see our students with their families because you are really the center of their worlds. They love you so much and speak about you all the time. We could tell everyone was having fun together! Next, we move on to a farm study. We will talk about animals, how things grow on a farm and sing some farm songs. Dates coming up – on April 11 we will have parade day. That means your student gets to wear a costume to school if they want. 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, April 15-19, and when we get back to school, I will have conferences with you on the 25th. Sign up will come out soon. Even though it is feeling more like spring we still need you to bring those red bags. It is still muddy and cold on the playground. Enjoy your break!

**Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Read-Brown**

2 day 3-year-olds

After quite a long stretch, our fairy tale unit has ended but not after having read many, many stories. We all know the opening and closing lines for this genre...just ask your child! We are moving on to discover the changes that the new season is bringing in *this* world, right outside our windows and on the playground. 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 transform our room as well. Before April vacation, the fun continues. On Thursday, April 11th, 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 from vacation, 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!