

March

## TEACHERS' BLOCKS

**Murnie Leary**

Director

I just read an article from a podcast by Nancy Carlsson-Paige, "Young Children in the Digital Age: A Parent Guide." Dr. Carlsson-Paige offers 6 core ideas of child development. She tells us we can use these ideas "as a guide to help us make decisions and support kids in this tech-saturated world of ours." Her helpful ideas encourage more active participation in play, and less in sedentary screen time. (Full disclosure, sometimes "screen time" is helpful!) Dr. Carlsson-Paige has been researching and studying child development for many years. She is Professor Emerita at Lesley University and is the author of Taking Back Childhood, as well as numerous articles on violence in the media, conflict resolution, peaceable classrooms and global education. She is a true advocate for children. Here's a link to the article. <https://marylandfamiliesengage.org/young-children-digital-age-parents-guide/>

**Mrs. Young & Ms. Drew**

5 day 4-year-olds

Hi Everyone! Where has the month of February gone? We enjoyed preparing for Valentine's Day, and did lots of projects to spread the love! The children really enjoyed opening their valentines. Many in our class took skiing trips or trips to warm climates for February break. We enjoyed hearing about their vacations. The month of March is here and we were excited to change our class calendar. We will celebrate 100 Day!!! Every child will bring in a collection of 100 items and we will have a 100 Museum so the rest of the school classes can see what our collections look like. We will be doing lots of fun activities. We are finishing our dinosaur unit. It has been so much fun listening to all the imaginative play in our room. The roaring T-Rexes have been loud! We will learn about Ireland and read lots of stories about leprechauns. Every year we try to catch a leprechaun with leprechaun traps that the children build at home with their parents. This will be the year we get one!!! The last two weeks of March we will have a ton of fun as we read Fairy Tales. We will be acting some out, doing lots of fun projects, and even writing a fairy tale of our own. Super fun and great for literacy enhancement! March has come in like a lion, so we are looking forward to an early spring. It's not far away.

**Mrs. Warren & Mrs. Ross**

4 day 4-year-olds

The month began with our continued exploration of space! The dramatic play area continues to be an elaborate space command center. The children have visited the moon, some of the planets and many different galaxies during our time at school! The children have been very excited to participate in our many space-related activities including: working as a "team" to make classroom space decorations, moving to the song, "Rocket Ship Run", singing the song "S\_P\_A\_C\_E" to the tune of "Bingo", making a rocket ship with our names, using tweezers and tongs to collect moon rocks in the sensory table, reading space-themed books, and painting, decorating and flying our "magic rockets". During read-aloud we have enjoyed reading the first two books in the Magic Tree House collection, My Father's Dragon and Peewee's Adventure. The last two weeks in March we will focus on a beach or ocean theme. Our class will have **Beach Day on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Detailed information regarding Beach Day will follow in a separate notice at the end of the week. **Conferences will be held on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside of the classroom at the end of the week. March can be a long month, but it will be filled with so many exciting learning experiences!

**Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Christino**  
3 day 4-year-olds

After spending some time taking care of the animals in our HNS Animal Hospital, we turned to honoring Kindness Week which officially occurred during the week of our vacation. We felt it was only appropriate given the level of focus we give to this quality in our room. Everyone drew and painted pictures of a kind act they performed while on vacation. They are hanging in our room for all to see. We also painted kindness rocks, each bearing its own unique heart. Please look for them in or on our school grounds as a reminder of the kindness we hope to spread to others. Lastly, in true acts of kindness, each child made and decorated a card with a picture and the message "You are kind" for other students of HNS. The cards were secretly placed in cubbies for the other children to find after returning from a long weekend. We can't wait to see their reactions! During this kindness week, the children also helped us to get ready for our next reality unit about fairy tales by painting the walls of what will be our in-house magical castle. What is a fairy tale? Well, just ask your child soon. We will learn what different elements comprise a fairy tale including characters, opening and closing lines, props and problems and solutions. You will notice some of these props coming home in your child's bag. The children will also learn that there are and can be variations on a story meaning that the words and pictures may vary, but the idea of the story itself remains consistent throughout each one. Our room has been transformed into an imaginary place so that they can "visit" these imaginary places every day. At the end of our unit, we will be writing our own fairy tale. We're certain you'll see just how excited and expressive their growing minds are. They will even bring home a tangible and live item that they are literally growing. It coincides with one of the stories that we have read. (Ask them. We're certain they can give you the title.) We can only hope that the seeds they have planted are "magical", too! Finally, spring conferences will be held at the end of this month to discuss your child's growth over the year. An email will be sent out soon with the date as well as a sign-up sheet.

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

Winter is finally here! March has come roaring in and the playground is officially a winter wonderland. The children have enjoyed sledding and shoveling as well as making snow angels. And we are so proud of how independently they get themselves dressed for outdoor play. They have grown so much this year! Our current unit is an exploration of nursery rhymes and fairy tales. It is lots of fun sharing these classics with the children and watching them engage in memorizing old favorites such as Hickory Dickory Dock and London Bridge is Falling Down. Soon the house corner will be transformed into an Animal Hospital and the children will learn all about caring for animals through collaborative play as well as literature and art activities. There are some important dates coming up. On Friday, March 22, we will be celebrating Special Person Day. The children are invited to bring a special adult to school to share their day with. School hours that day will be 9:00 - 10:30 and the children will arrive and be dismissed with their special person. On Friday, April 5, will be having spring parent conferences. Keep your eye out for a sign-up email and please keep in mind that we ask you to arrive ten minutes early to read through your child's report prior to the conference. We look forward to meeting with each of you regarding your child's growth and experiences throughout this year.

**Mrs. Fox & Mrs. Sweeney**

2 day 3-year-olds

February was a busy month for us and went by quickly with the break. The children so enjoyed Valentine's Day and delivering their "mail" to each other. I hope they enjoyed opening them at home! They all got right back in to the rhythm of school on Tuesday only to have a snow day on Thursday. This week we will start reading some nursery rhymes and fairytales and continue next week. We have some fun activities planned. This group loves to cook so we will be doing some more cooking! They also love to sing so we will incorporate that into our meeting time as well. Cooking is a great way to practice math skills and singing is a great way to practice listening and language skills. As the month goes on we will move on to studying pets and animals, and build our own animal hospital in the classroom. Thursday, March 21, will be a very special day. Every child should bring one special person day to school to play and have fun. The special person has to be an adult. We will have fun playing, having snack and a little music time. It will be a shortened day, from 9 to 10:30. Every day it is wonderful to see how much your children are growing up and the friendships they have formed. It is a pleasure watching them move around the classroom with ease and curiosity.

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

2 day 3-year-olds

This month our room has been transformed into an imaginary place complete with a magical castle as we dive into our unit on fairy tales. March will be adventurous as we read different fairy tales, learn what makes them so, and construct some personal items often found in many of these stories. Already they have learned that a common thread among them is that they begin with "Once upon a time" and end with "And they lived happily ever after". Some other common threads include specific characters such as kings, queens, princes, princesses, knights, etc., settings such as castles, forests, the countryside and the theme of good vs. evil. Along the way, our class will make some of these elements. Just wait to see what that HNS school bag will reveal! Your child may even return home one day under the guise of a favorite persona or character. Don't be surprised, but do ask lots of questions that will keep his or her imagination bubbling! We're certain you'll see just how excited and expressive their growing minds are. Each child will have an opportunity to share our fairy tale environment with an adult on **Special Person Day** which is on Thursday, March 21st. On that morning, the children will be able to spend time in our room with their guest, showing them around, partaking in the center activities and constructing a unique item together as a reminder of the day.