



hello

FEBRUARY

CURRICULUM CORNER

In the past, a large emphasis has been placed on teaching literacy concepts such as letter identification, sound recognition and phonological awareness in Early Childhood classrooms to set up children for success in Kindergarten and beyond. However, recent research suggests that mastering mathematical skills may actually be more critical to student success longer term.

In our play-based environments, children are provided with materials that encourage them to count, measure, compare quantities, make patterns, record data, sort objects, add/subtract, and practice shape recognition. Teachers also incorporate music and movement. Activities to promote development of these skills through auditory listening and kinesthetic movement. In addition, high quality children's literature is also utilized to introduce and reenforce mathematical language and vocabulary.



Click the link below for a list of recommended picture books that promote mathematical concepts and thinking:

[Microsoft Word - Math Picture Books Full List.docx \(stanford.edu\)](#)

Adding Math into Your Child's Day

1. Look for familiar numbers on signs as you drive to school, take a walk through your neighborhood or shop at the grocery store.
2. Invite your child to cook or bake with you. Measuring, scooping and pouring are not only fantastic fine motor activities, but they are also wonderful ways to introduce concepts such as comparing quantities. Cooking together is also a great way to introduce new vocabulary and encourage them to follow multi-step directions.
3. Ask for their help preparing the table at meal times. Counting out the appropriate number of plates, utensils, napkins, etc. is perfect to practice counting and 1-to-1 correspondence.
4. Count, count, and re-count! Choose toys that are already of interest to your child and encourage them to count as they play. You can also help them count at snack or meal times, using foods such as cereal, crackers, pieces of fruit, etc.
5. Build together using Legos or blocks. These manipulatives can be used to count, compare sizes and introduce concepts of measurement.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Clearwater

IN OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM here at the Clearwater campus, we are learning all about **SPACE!**

We have been learning the names of each of the planets, and what order they are in.

Ask your child what the sun does for us. We've been having a blast studying shadows and making a shadow portrait.

There are so many fun activities that we explored with making moon rocks and creating fruit rockets and building our own rockets out of magnets.

IN OUR EXTENDED CARE they made fake snow, and could not believe it felt cold! Our celebration for the new year we made fireworks and enjoyed brunch with pancakes and waffles. They also had a tug of war match and played relay game in the gym. Our Extended care also enjoys building interactive marble run GraviTrax, they build with experimenting with gravity, magnetism and kinetics. It definitely is a challenge. Arts and crafts are always a big hit with creating master pieces here at #theclearchoice



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Saint Pete

PRESCHOOL

Both of our Pre-k 3 and VPK classes have been busy this month learning about Space and starting our Animals unit. VPK students really enjoyed everything about the space theme, they loved learning the different planets names, making name rocket ships, planet patterns, space slime, tasting space pudding and pretending to go to Outer space in the space tent that we had in the housekeeping center. PreK 3 students enjoyed making paper plate aliens, moon art, name rocket ships, Oreo moon phases, pretzel and marshmallow constellations, learning about gravity and making rocket ships out of the magnet tiles. We are looking forward to next month where we will conclude our Animals unit and start our Storytelling unit.



EXTENDED CARE

We cannot believe that the school year is at the half way point. We have enjoyed creating a fun environment every day for our students. Our extended care students have had another great month. Some activities our Kindergarten & first grade group have done this past month were kickball games in the gym, and free expression art. Some activities that our second-grade group have done this past month were free expression painting, and kickball in the gym. Some activities that our third and fourth grade group have done this month have been making winter owls using forks and pipe cleaners, and planning their Valentine's activity. Some activities that our middle school group did this month were vision boards for 2024, Bit Moji BINGO, Disney themed food activity.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Palm Harbor

January was an exciting month as we focused on Space and Dinosaurs.

VPK learned about planets, constellations, rockets, gravity and much more. The students made name rockets, painted with balloons to make Planets, created and named their own plant and made craters using rocks and kinetic sand.

PreK 3 had a blast learning about Space and forest/jungle animals. They played a parachute game and pretended to be in a space shuttle going into space.

Extended Care had a great time at Winter camp making peppermint slime, playing games, indoor and outdoor sports, painting and creating with playdough. January 8th school was back in session that meant Homework help was back at it!



VPK: Is learning all about Animals.

During the month of February, they will learn about reptiles/amphibians, jungle animals, ocean creatures and pets. The class will meet a bearded dragon, and a few pets during pet week. VPK will classify living things with their habitats, match upper- and lower-case letters and match numbers to objects 1-15.

Prek 3: Will learn about artic animals, dinosaurs, zoo animals and pets. The class will be graphing the animals, measure dinosaurs, sort living and non-living things and match animals to their habitats. During pet week the students will get to bring a stuffed pet for a pet show. Parents are welcome to bring a real pet from home as a show and tell during morning playground time. More information will be sent home.

Extended Care: Continues to offer outside sports, homework help and fun competitions to show the students creativity. We continue to focus on building community with peers in a fun and safe space. We will also have fun contests with our "coupon rewards" that our students have been **LOVING!**

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Pinellas Park

Preschool: January was fun and we celebrated the 100th day of school and also opened up our two-year-old classroom! The VPK students learned about space, different holidays around the world, story retelling and exploring cultures of peers and family. PreK3 students also learned about space and different holidays around the world. They also learned about alliteration, patterning, positional words and spatial relationships. The twos also learned about space, sorting by size and identifying sounds (animals & environmental). In the month of February, the VPK students will learn about all kinds of animals from, jungle, zoo, reptiles, amphibians, dinosaurs, arctic animals and etc., blending & deleting compound words and letter sound recognition. PreK3 will also be learning about animals, 1 to 1 correspondence, rhyming and alliteration. The twos will also be learning about animals, sorting by a single attribute, 2D shape and color recognition.



Extended Care: In January, our weekly themes were new year, space, decades and the future. Some of the activities included were build a time machine, DIY kaleidoscope, paper plate roller coaster, space landing mission project, time capsule crafting, disco ball making and rock candy experiment to name a few. In the month of February, the themes will be gaming/inventor's, survival week, ocean life and art week. Some of the activities to be included will be a lot of minute-to-win-it challenges, art/talent show, bottle rocket projects, designing a character for a gaming system and making an airplane in a jar.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

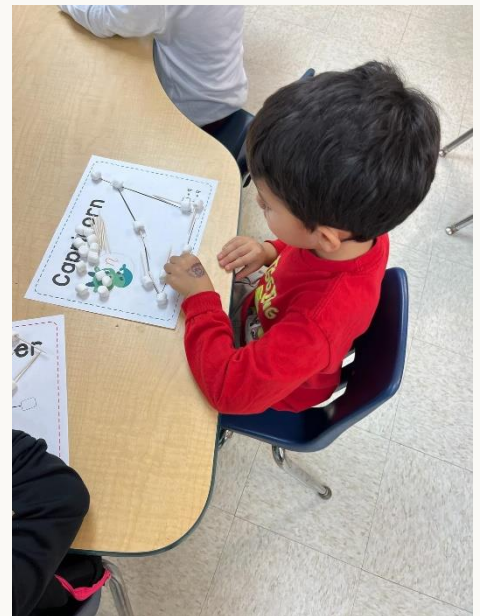
Largo

Early Learning: The first month of the new year flew by as we studied the farm and space. The children enjoy learning about the animals on the farm and what foods we get from where. They created a classroom graph with their favorite farm animals. We played Farm Animal BINGO Farm Animal Yoga. We had some out of this world fun with our space unit. They created constellation with marshmallows and toothpicks and even created their own aliens and did an Alien

In extended care we have been drawing and creating pictures of our favorite things. Some of the older children are learning the game of football. Playing UNO is a favorite among the extended care children.

February: There is so much in store for the month of February. In Preschool we will be studying all sorts of animals from dinosaurs, jungle, forest and ocean animals. We are still focusing on letter recognition and sounds. We have added Rhyming as a daily lesson with transitioning. We will be sending home a class list for Valentine's Day.

February: In Extended Care we will be playing more sports and creating some murals. Also, we are learning some new games and having some fun contests with Minute to Win it Games.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Seminole

Preschool:

In our preschool, Ms. Holly and Ms. Cindy will be getting the classroom ready for Valentine's Day and we look forward to creating wonderful works of art for all of our loved ones. We will learn more about the animals within our world and what we can do to make our world and their environments safe place.



Extended Care:

In Extended care this month, we will be crafting, building, and looking forward to the warmer weather. We are excited to show the ones we love what we can do with our imaginations and experiment with various art tools.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Tampa

PREK & VPK

As we jump into February, we start to learn more about different animals and the unique types of habitats that they live in. For example, VPK got to explore the ocean by playing with different sea creatures in the sensory bin. PreK3 will create different animal masks for them to act out their inner wild animal as they travel deep into the jungle.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day this month so be on the lookout for a signup sheet if you want to help donate for our party. We will also have students bring Valentines to pass out to each other for the day of festivities. Can't wait to see what else we can learn this month!!

EXTENDED CARE

For the month of February, the staff is planning a "Sports" week theme.

Week 5th - 9th : Activities include Soccer, Flag Football, Capture the Flag and hopefully staff vs. students activity in a game of Kickball.

Week 12th - 16th : A Valentine's theme including making cards for loved ones, pink slime (highly requested from the students) and paper flower bouquets.

Week 19th - 23rd : Cowboy/Country Western Theme including line dancing and other country western activities.

Week 22nd - 26th : Pirate Theme Week including related arts and crafts.



The final week of February will center on "Plato Goes Hollywood" Theme which will include walking the red carpet and possibly a movie where students will discuss their favorite movie.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Tarpon

EXTENDED CARE:

Greetings to all our families! As we leap into February, the anticipation for Spring's arrival grows. This month in Extended Care, we're excited to bring you an array of fun activities, including spring-themed art projects, group Jeopardy games, and engaging riddles for everyone to enjoy. Please remember, Homework Help is available every Monday through Thursday between 4:10 PM and 5:10 PM.

IN OUR EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM,

we're thrilled to dive into a fascinating exploration of animals, dinosaurs, and their habitats. This theme is consistently a hit among our young learners. Additionally, we're gearing up for Valentine's celebrations! The children can anticipate a fun-filled time crafting their own decorations and Valentine's bags, as well as participating in a Valentine exchange. It's shaping up to be a memorable month filled with learning and joy.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Trinity

Happy February!!! As we jump into February we explore animals, dinosaurs and their habitats. The children will have fun doing dino prints, dinosaur masks and other fun activities relating to this unit.



We will host Valentines Day parties for each classroom on Wednesday, February 14th.

The children are welcome to wear red that day to celebrate with their friends.

The children will exchange Valentines cards with their friends, please reach out to their teacher or the Director for the number of children in each classroom.

The children will also create special crafts in each class to celebrate the holiday.

On February 23rd we will have a teddy bear picnic in our Early learning classrooms. The children are invited to bring their favorite teddy bear to school and their teachers will host a picnic on the carpet during pm snack.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Fundamentals

INFANTS: We had two new friends start in the room this month! Mrs. Vaso and

Mrs. Lakmini are doing a fantastic job building their bonds with the new students to help them feel safe and secure in their school home.

TODDLERS: The toddlers have been learning new skills with their gross motor skills.

The teachers have been practicing how to hop and kick balls outside. This also teaches social skills with their friends.

TWOS: Twos are blasting into space by learning space songs and the shape of a

star! They also created rockets and are learning how to count down to blast off!



THREES: The threes have been learning about light and darkness by using flashlights with the light off. They also created name rockets and are learning the planet song.

VPK: VPK created their own telescope to use at home and started doing letter bags to go home.

This is a great activity because it promotes family involvement and beginning letter sounds. VPK also made their own in class rocket ship and got to blast off in their rocket ship.

IMPORTANT NEWS!

We had a company called Music Stars come in and do music with our school. More details to follow!

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Extended Care Fun!

Our Extended Care Children have lots of fun during outside time! We have some experienced jump ropers out here; double jumping is so fun when you get to do it with your best friends!!



They also have fun during inside free play building all kinds of creative things. Imaginations run wild! The magnetic building blocks are a hit with all.



Craft time is not only fun, but helps children develop their fine motor skills and coordination, along with their creativity!

Our Homework Help Clubs have been a tremendous success this school year! We've heard from parents that this program is such a huge help, while our teachers keep saying they've seen an abundance of growth in our students!

#TeamExtendedCare

EVENTS / DATES TO REMEMBER.

SAINT PETE:

Pre-k 3:

February 14th- Valentines Day Party and Card Exchange

February 23rd- Waffle Party

VPK:

February 9th- Rice Crispy ocean treats

February 14th- Valentine's truffle and delivery

FUNDAMENTALS:

Classroom Valentines Day Parties on Wednesday, February 14

We are closed Monday, February 19th in observance for President's Day

Our focus this month:

Animals & Story Telling

TAMPA:

Birthdays:

Amelie M. (VPK) 6th

Mr. Froggy (PreK3 Mascot) 9th

Mathias A. (VPK) 16th

Ms. Tina (EC) 19th

LARGO:

2/13- Joel's Birthday

2/14- Valentine's Day & Preschool Prom

2/14- Mila's Birthday

2/16- No School for students- Inservice Day (camp offered at Largo or maybe other campuses)

2/19-No School -President's Day

2/23- Pizza Day (\$6) & Kona Ice (\$4)

PALM HARBOR:

February Events and Activities:

February 14th - Valentine's Day - Class celebrations

February 16th - Camp Day

February 19th - No School or Care available

February 29th - Leap Year

PINELLAS PARK:

Dates to remember:

Wednesday February 14th - Father and daughter dance/wear red and pink

Wednesday February 14th - Pizza party in Extended Care

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CLEARWATER SPOTLIGHT

We want to take this time to recognize one of our Extended care staff Shannon Poole. She is dedicated to bringing a positive impact to her children in her group as well as her fellow peers. The work you do is important and recognized by the children and their families. Thank you for being a part of our team!



ST. PETE SPOTLIGHT

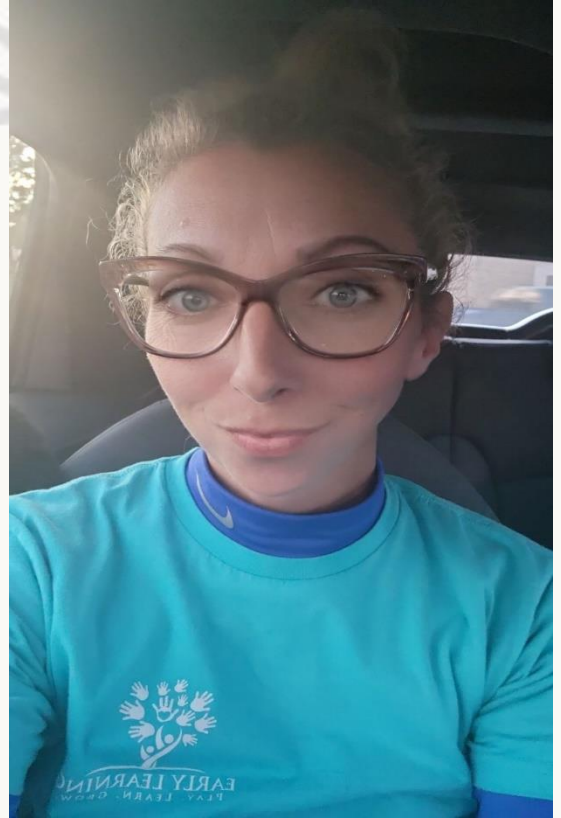
This month I would like to recognize Mrs. Jen here at the St Petersburg campus. Mrs. Jen has been one of our VPK teachers here at the St Petersburg campus since January 2021. She always comes to work every day ready to start a new adventure with her VPK students. She is always coming up with new additions to put into the centers according to the weeks theme, decorating the classroom and hallway with student artwork and always putting a smile on the students faces. Her impact extends far beyond teaching ABCs and 123s; she helps students create the foundation for a lifetime of learning, instilling curiosity, creativity, and a love for discovery. Thank you for your extraordinary work and dedication. Your impact is immeasurable!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

PINELLAS PARK SPOTLIGHT:

Staff spotlight: I wanted to spot light Mrs. Nikki who is one of the teachers in our VPK A classroom. She has been in the field for over 20 years and brings a lot of fun and engagement to our program. This is her first year here with us and first year teaching VPK. She is very creative and crafty and the students look forward to the things she adds and brings to the classroom. She loves to dance and sings songs with the students. She thrives to make sure they are successful in all academic, social and emotional areas. Thank you, Mrs. Nikki for all of your hard work and dedication!



LARGO SPOTLIGHT:

Mrs. Kimberling

This is Ms. Kim's second year with us in Extended Care during the mornings. She is also the DMT for Plato Academy Largo. She is the first one here in the mornings and willing to do whatever is needed to help the program run smoothly. She has a passion for the children and they all love her. She is a great teacher to our program. Her spirit is contagious that you can't help but smile when she's around.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

TARPON SPOTLIGHT:

We at Tarpon are thrilled to shine a light on a truly remarkable teacher whose hard work, dedication, and genuine care for her students set her apart as an exceptional educator within our school. One of the most admirable aspects of Mrs. Christine's work is her tireless effort to foster a love for learning among her students. Whether it's organizing engaging educational activities or simply lending an ear to a student in need, her commitment to her students' well-being and growth is evident in everything she does. Thank you for all that you do!



TRINITY SPOTLIGHT:

Our staff spotlight this month is Ms. Angela in VPK. Ms. Angela is a reminder of what teacher should be. She is present in her classroom daily with the children and makes each one of her students feel special. It is a pleasure to work with her and to see her classroom flourish this year.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

TAMPA SPOTLIGHT:

Ms. Erika P. is in the spotlight this month. She joined our family in September 2023 as our VPK Teacher Assistant. She has been a tremendous help with the VPK Classroom as well with helping out in our PreK3 Classroom. Ms. Erika is loved by the students and she's always singing and dancing with them in the afternoons. Ms. Erika, we appreciate you and all of your hard work. You're always willing to help out anywhere it's needed and the love and compassion that you have for the students is absolutely AMAZING!!!!



SEMINOLE SPOTLIGHT:

For the month of February, I would like to recognize Ms. Holly here at our Seminole Campus. She brings so much joy and creativity to our VPK program. She consistently comes in with a smile and is ready to fill our kid's day with a plethora of activities and games. She creates a community with her children and their families. She is always eager to lend a helping hand, works well with everyone, and remains to be a constant support system within our team. Thank you for all of the love and support you showcase each and every day.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

FUNDAMENTALS SPOTLIGHT

Mary has been working in our Toddler Room for two years. Mary truly enjoys teaching her students songs and promoting their language development. Mary continues to do classes on learning more about the toddler brain development. She always comes in with a smile and positive attitude. She is also very dependable and a true team player. She helps the transitions of the toddlers to the twos classroom by helping her students slowly get comfortable in a new room. We are so proud of your dedication to early learning Mary!



PALM HARBOR SPOTLIGHT

Our spot light staff from PH is Ms. Chryssanthi. Ms. Chryssanthi is one of the students' favorites in Extended Care. She has a positive attitude and adds so much to our Extended care program. The students love playing and learning Greek with her. She brings encouragement to the students as they create fun art, work on homework or need to talk about their day. Her positive and calm demeanor is exactly what we all need on a day-to-day basis. We love having her as part of the team. Thank you for offering quality care to all our students! Thank you for all you do.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for joining us for this month's newsletter, and for making this month so great! We hope you get lots of sweets, love and happiness to spread to those around you. Have a great February & Happy Valentines Day!

