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## Growing Highlights

APRIL 2024



April is

**FAMILY  
STRENGTHENING  
MONTH**

**Wear BLUE  
APRIL 5th**

Dear Parents,

Week of the Young Child is almost here! We are very excited about all of the activities the classrooms have planned and looking forward to having our first post-Covid Family Night! We are often told how impressive it is to get all the kids involved in activities, so we wanted you to see how we do them first hand. Below is a list of activities that each classroom will have:

*Ana -Art/Sensory Bags*

*Cassie & Katherine -Favorite Books*

*Laura & Amy -Gross Motor Play Room*

*Mailee & Taylor -Fine Motor*

*Emily & Hannah -Flannels*

*Elise & Kailie -Gross Motor*

*Kim & Alaini -Reading*

*Courtney & Esther -Magna Tiles & Puzzles*

*Amy & Stephanie -Legos*

*Charlie & Abbie -Light Table Play*

*Kayleigh -Sensory Play*

*Nikki -A Day in the Life of a Kindergartener*

A pizza dinner will be held in your child's classroom from 5:30-6:00 pm where you can get to know each other. Then from 6-7 pm you can wander through the center and investigate each classroom to see what activity each room is doing and participate in it alongside your child.

Be on the lookout in late April for Conference sign ups, and then in early May-Teacher Appreciation Week! Also, we continue to be very, very busy when it comes to enrollments- we are looking well into 2025 before we have space. If you are looking to expand your family, you should get on our registration list right away (you can estimate when you think you might need care and we can adjust it at a later date). Registration forms are on our [website](#) or outside of my office. Remember, you do not pay the registration fee again. If you have friends who are thinking about starting a family, I would encourage them to start investigating centers even before they are pregnant, as I've heard from many people that lots of places in our area have extensive wait lists.

As always, please see me with questions!

*Christie Dapelo, Director*

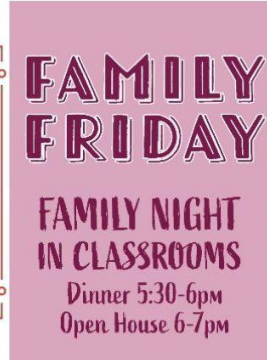
[cdapelo@grandmashouse.org](mailto:cdapelo@grandmashouse.org)



**APRIL 8 - 12**

**A FUN FILLED WEEK  
CELEBRATING  
YOUNG CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH  
HANDS-ON, COLLABORATIVE  
ACTIVITIES ENCOURAGING MOVEMENT AND HEALTHY  
LIFESTYLES THROUGH MUSIC, FOOD, AND ART.**

*Please see your child's teacher for the specifics  
on activities for each day.*



- 1 Thomas R.
- 1 Noa H.
- 2 Lucy L.
- 3 Ezra A.
- 4 Josephine H.
- 9 Jordan D.
- 10 Ada Y.
- 11 Shay M.
- 11 Evelyn S.
- 11 Henry V.
- 12 Kai Z.
- 13 Sophia G.
- 17 Myles K.

17	Ms. Joan
23	Ms. Mai Lee
25	Colin M.
27	Elyse M.
30	Lilyana M.

## CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

*Ms. Mai Lee 23 Years*

*Ms. Joan 17 Years*



### *Infants*

Happy Spring! This month we will be encouraging the children's interest in tummy time, group play, and books as well as feeling textures in our books and toy exploration during our tummy time. The children's portfolio focuses will be beginning to roll over, following objects, and basic communication as we start on this month's theme of Flowers and end with Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day. On April 8-12 we will be celebrating Week of the Young Child. Our schedule will be posted in our classroom for that week. We are asking for donations of boxed dry cereal that we can give to a local food bank. On Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>, we are having an open house. We will serve

### *3rd Toddlers*

Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel prize? Because he was outstanding in his field! Just like our tots had an outstanding time in March with our farm and Spring themes! They got to learn more about their favorite animals, dress up as cowboys and leprechauns, scavenge for gold, and explore more ways to move their bodies. We turned the classroom into a rodeo and a circus, building our muscles in a "hay-larious" fashion despite the "udder" nonsense. We have also been taking advantage of the improving weather to herd them outside more to make the most of their boundless energy especially since we have wrangled some new friends into our room. It has been another opportunity

dinner and have an exciting simple art activity to show our great creativity and what we do here with the infants while in our care. Please also remember that we would like to enjoy the outside weather and ask for appropriate clothing to be provided to do so. Thank you very much and let's give Ms. Virginia our well wishes as she welcomes the new member of her family.

*Ms. Ana and Ms. Virginia*

### ***2nd Infants***

The Week of the Young Child is fast approaching. We hope you can all join us in a fun spirit week starting April 8th. Each day is themed and we will also be doing a fun dress up each day. Keep an eye out for an information sheet on what the spirit week will be. Most of our class is officially on table foods!!! We do a lot of signing with them (more, all done, water, etc.) and they get a lot of practice with their pincer grasp. Trying new food is always a fun experience, too. Keep an eye out for our "yogurt facial spa mornings;" they are messy and fun! Pictures will be sent through the app of their lovely spa time. When you and your child are ready to venture into table foods, just let us know and we can answer any questions and ease any worries you may have!

*Ms. Cassie and Ms. Katherine*

### ***3rd Infants***

to encourage lessons on waiting and taking turns. We are also practicing drinking from an open cup! We welcome all our friends to practice these valuable concepts at home in their play with family, siblings, and friends.

*Ms. Elise and Ms. Kallie*

### ***Older Toddlers***

Spring is finally here! We have been taking full advantage of the beautiful weather lately and enjoying a lot of time outside. Our kiddos have shown a big interest in modes of transportation, from planes to trains. With that, we just finished up our unit on transportation where the children were able to do some really fun process art projects, enjoy sensory experiences, and learn about how people travel. We were also able to put a fun new train track in our room that we have really been enjoying. We had fun celebrating St. Patrick's Day as we turned our focus to everything green and Irish. Learning our colors, following directions, and using our words to express our wants/needs are skills that we are continuing to work on every day. Please continue to work on these skills at home. We wanted to thank you for sending in family pictures and finishing up the "All About Me" posters. The children really enjoy looking at them and it is a great way for us to create a sense of community in our classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out! Have a great month and enjoy

It sure seems like March came in like a lamb and out like a lion this year. Let's hope April showers really do bring May flowers (especially tulips...Ms. Laura's favorite). We are excited to welcome Ms. Amy to our room. This month we will be talking about Spring and flowers. The babies are really getting around. We love to explore our room, whether it is pulling ourselves up and cruising, using the walking toys, taking steps, or full-on walking! We are so proud of our babies! We will also be celebrating Week of the Young Child. Please keep an eye out for special events planned for that week. Until next time, take care of yourselves and each other.

*Ms. Laura and Ms. Amy E.*

### ***Toddlers***

Happy April! Last month, we were very busy working on our fine motor skills, learning body parts, and getting used to eating with spoons. We also talked about shapes and colors by naming some of the shapes and colors around our room. We also sang songs that mentioned colors and shapes, which is another way to help your child build on what they already know. During March, we also got to try different green foods and played in the sensory tub filled with Lucky Charms cereal. The children had so much fun scooping and dumping. All these things help your child build muscles and gain new knowledge. This month, we will have many things going on. One important

the Spring weather!

*Ms. Kim and Ms. Alaini*

### ***2's***

Let's see if April showers will bring May flowers?!? We have been little gardeners as we enjoyed planting different types of seeds. We are working on following simple directions like come get diapers, wash hands, and sit on the carpet for stories. It is a work in progress, but we will keep on encouraging them to do their best. Then we are going to Sesame Street, where we are going to practice our colors by playing color matching games. This is a fun thing to practice at home, too!

*Ms. Courtney and Ms. Esther*

### ***2.5's***

Happy Spring, GnomeSchoolers! Our friends are going to have so much fun learning all about artists and the different types of art! We are learning all about shapes and colors, even some unusual ones like trapezoids and turquoise. Your little one will come home talking about sculptures, paintings, and photographs. We will be delving into the art world with some well-known artists and then further into the month we will learn about some lesser-known artists! We will continue to work on potty training. A helpful tip that we have learned over the years is to have your child use your household toilet (with insert if

event is the Week of the Young Child from the 8th - 12th. During this week, we will be doing different activities each day. In the app, we will write the themes for each day, so look out for our messages. On Friday the 12th, we will have an open house from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. That day, we will have pizza for you to enjoy and an activity or two for you and your child to do in each classroom. This is a great time to meet other families and teachers. Our themes for this month are circus and transportation. Don't forget to check your child's cubby and take home any artwork or important papers. Our cubbies are smaller, so it's best to check them daily or every Friday. Thank you, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to write to us through the app or talk with us in person. Have a wonderful month!

*Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Taylor*

### ***2nd Toddlers***

Spring is finally in the air! As the weather continues to change, please check your child's cubby to take home winter snowpants and boots. This is also a good time to check the extra clothes in the cubby and make sure they all still fit. During the month of March, our two lesson plan units were Ireland and Nutrition (food). The toddlers enjoyed playing the Bodhran (Irish drum) and practiced taking turns using the tipper (stick) to make new sounds on it. We had a chance to explore our senses during our

needed) because it helps prevent fear of public toilets. Any questions, please let us know.

We are hoping to have nice weather on a more consistent basis and bring our learning outside. We are also getting ready to plant the garden on our playground. So, get ready for all the yummy veggies!

*Ms. Amy R. and Ms. Stephanie*

### ***3's***

Happy Spring everyone! We sure are happy here, more outside time with a lot less effort! Please consider bringing home snowpants and boots if you haven't already - in fact consider a "Spring Cubby Cleaning" in general. Take home any extra clothes that no longer fit or are not weather appropriate, loose toys, or paper, etc.

In March, we learned a lot about growth and Springtime. We will continue to learn about these things as we plant our outside garden in the coming months, but our first April unit will be all about Hygiene! From brushing our teeth and thoroughly washing our hands, to brushing our hair, and even bathing ourselves, we will be practicing taking care of our bodies!

I have had a few people ask about when the baby chicks are coming. Hopefully very soon but there has been a bit of a hiccup in the plan. I (Ms. Abbie) may be unable to house them at my house but will know more towards the summer. With that said, if anyone knows someone with a farm that

nutrition unit. We smelled new spices, tried different colored milk, and learned some new songs like the "Banana Song" and "Hot Potato"! We are ready to continue singing and dancing our way through Spring and getting ready for our next themes of Spring animals and gardens!

*Ms. Hannah and Ms. Emily*

would like to take chickens, I am all ears! Otherwise, the plan is to still hatch chicks, but more like June.

*Ms. Abbie and Mr. Charlie*

### ***3-4's***

Happy Spring preschool families! Hopefully the temperature keeps trending upwards! Reminder to make sure that your child has weather appropriate clothing in their cubby. We worked really hard on our rhyming skills during our Dr. Seuss unit as well as in our nursery rhyme unit. We absolutely loved dressing up for Dr. Seuss. We look forward to all the fun we will have during Week of the Young Child! Also, please be on the lookout for conference sign-up sheets. Have a great month!

*Ms. Kayleigh*