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Growing Highlights

MAY 2025



Dear Parents,

First and foremost, you are all amazing! Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Tosa Food Pantry. We had collected an entire van full! Also, thank you to everyone who signed up to spoil our amazing teachers during Staff Appreciation week (May 5 - 9)! It means a lot that you recognize how fabulous the staff at Grandmas House are. They work so hard each and every day and love your children so much. If you want to give your child's teachers a more personalized gift, be sure to look at the back door for their "All About Me" paper for ideas!

We've had glimpses of summer weather even though mother nature is being a bit stingy with it! But, I'm still excited because that means we are approaching our Summer Program which starts on June 16th! Lots of children will be moving into new classrooms so instead of receiving a move up slip (like we do throughout the year), the summer lists will be posted on the office door near the front entrance! They should be posted during the middle of May so make sure to take time and check it out.

Thanks,

Cassie Makinen, Director

cassie@grandmashouse.org

"Every child is a different kind of flower, and altogether make this world a beautiful garden." -Anonymous



March - November 2025
CLICK HERE for more details:
Construction on Watertown Plank

Staff Appreciation Week - May 5-9, 2025



Once upon
a time,
there were
teachers so legendary
that they rivaled the
greatest story books
of all time.

Monday

Bagel
Breakfast



Tuesday

Olive Garden
Luncheon



Wednesday

Outstanding
Snacks



Thursday

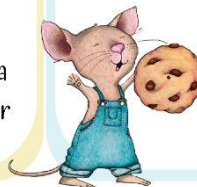
Reepsake



Draw/write a
card for your
teachers

Friday

Sweet Treats



- 2 Ms. Kailie
- 3 Ms. Esther
- 5 Nikhila S.
- 6 Jonathan N.
- 8 Vincenzo B.
- 8 Noah C.
- 9 Keller O.
- 10 Arden B.
- 11 Amelia M.
- 11 Makenna J.
- 13 Wyatt H.
- 13 Ms. Courtney

15	Ms. Emily S.
17	Sirena R.
18	Tullia S.
23	Ben H.
24	Parker S.
25	Ms. Vee
30	Alex W.

CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Amy R. 25 Years

Ms. Joan 14 Years



Infants

With Spring here, it is time to check your child's cubby to make sure all the spare clothes are the right size. Also make sure that your child has a coat or sweater (sun hat) to enjoy the weather outside. We try to get outside at least twice a day depending on the weather and the baby's needs. Please make sure that all items are labeled with, at least, your child's last name.

This month we will be working on our gross motor abilities. We will start off the month focused on tummy time exploration with different textures. Then we will work on sitting up with support while playing.

Young 2's

Hi Busy Bee Families, Spring is finally here! We have had so much fun learning about everything Spring; from chicks and bunnies to birds and insects. We were able to see a lot of these little critters outside on our playground. Now our class is learning about Fruits and Veggies and once the weather gets warmer, we'll be able to pick our very own produce in our garden. Some skills we continue to work on every day are our small motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving, and using our words to communicate. Another thing we are really trying to work on is coughing and sneezing into our

For practice at home, you can place your little one in between your legs and shake a rattle/toy in front of them. Bonus points if they reach for the toy.

Thank you to the families that signed up for conferences. If you were not able to attend, please see us at pick up/drop off to sign the goal sheet.

Important: messaging through the app really helps with communication. Please help us start your child's morning right by filling out the intake form every day. If you need help, we can send you a video or we can show you quickly at pick up. Have a great month!

Ms. Ana and Ms. Virginia

2nd Infants

Spring has officially arrived, woo hoo! With the sporadic weather rolling in, please be sure to bring in appropriate weather clothing (light jacket, sun hat, and sunscreen-if not using GH). We plan to take some trips to the toddler playground so crib shoes or booties would be helpful to protect our little feet. Thank you to all the families who came to Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you missed signing up for one, feel free to discuss any concerns or milestones at pickup or drop-off.

This month we are excited to learn about Musical Instruments. If you or your family have any special music or songs to share, we would love to hear it! Music gets so many senses going and hearing the sounds the babies make is so much fun. Cause/effect practice comes into play

elbows! This is an important skill that can be worked on at home to stop little germs from spreading. Although it is Spring, it still can get chilly outside so please make sure your child still has all their warm gear here (with labels). If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to reach out. Happy Spring! Have a wonderful month.

Ms. Kim and Ms. Alaini

2's

They say April showers bring May flowers....We hope the flowers we planted will be starting to sprout!! To start the month off, we will be exploring the Deep Ocean Floor and playing "What Ocean Animal Makes that Sound?". This really gets their brains thinking because they have to exercise their brains to come up with an answer after using their ears to hear a sound. We have been working on following simple directions. For example, if you take a toy out...please clean up and put the toy away. Another fun example of following simple directions was when we made our ocean floats (recipe below).

1st scoop ice cream into the cup

2nd add blue juice

3rd drink it

Try this at home to practice being safe while having fun. Following recipes is a great way to practice following simple directions even if it's making a simple sandwich!

Ms. Courtney and Ms. Esther

with instruments, too. You are always welcome to share with the class. We are also wrapping up the month with a Gardening unit. Stay tuned for all of our new adventures!

Ms. Kayleigh and Ms. Brianna

Young Toddlers

Happy Spring! With warmer weather approaching we will be spending some more time outdoors on the playground and going for walks. Please make sure your child has the appropriate gear such as a coat and shoes for outside time, if you have not done so already. Also, it is helpful to have extra clothing in case their outfits get wet or dirty. We have been working hard on assisting new friends with independently standing and beginning their walking journey. Walkers have been utilized and placing objects on top of shelves has been a huge success so far. We have also been working on placing items into stacking cups and working on those pincer grasps which help with feeding time as more solids are being introduced. We have been using our pop-up toys to help with those muscles as well. In the coming months, we will be exploring more sensory objects that will be brought in from outside to help with the transition to more outside time. We also will be working on communication styles with our words and sign language.

Ms. Amy E. and Ms. Cherish

Middle Toddlers

2.5's

Happy Spring! As usual we have been experiencing some confusing weather during this season, so please remember to leave outerwear here for your kiddo. You never know when 37 turns into 70 in the course of a morning, or vice versa!

The GnomeSchoolers have been having a lot of fun learning about our wonderful National and State Parks. We have been talking about how to be safe with campfires and wildlife while camping and/or hiking. We have taken virtual field trips to several of America's National Parks and were able to see waterfalls, animals, volcanoes, mountains, and canyons. The children did a wonderful job creating cool art based on the natural elements.

After exploring the great parks, we moved on to gardening. Our Gnomes had fun playing with actual garden gnomes in the sensory buckets. We also appreciate all of you for being great "gnome sitters" and having fun adventures with our "take home gnomes"! Learning to care for others is an important life skill to acquire early on. So, we are teaching the children how to take care of a garden and each other.

The children are learning that they need to ask before they touch a friend because that friend may not want a hug at that moment. We are also learning to check in with ourselves and friends about emotions. As you have seen, your child is doing a daily "journal" page about their feelings. Being able to express how they are feeling is important for a child's social-

April has been a joyful and busy month in our toddler room! With the sunshine making more frequent appearances, we've been soaking up every moment of the beautiful Spring weather. Outdoor time has been filled with fresh air and lots of running, exploring, and playing. This month, we explored two exciting themes: Butterflies & Flowers, and Fairy Tales! The children loved learning about how butterflies grow. We created colorful butterfly crafts and even did some pretend "gardening" in our play area. Our Fairy Tale unit brought magic and imagination into the room! In addition to our themed fun, we've been working on important self-help skills. This month we focused on gentle touches—learning how to be kind to friends and use our hands in positive ways. Mealtime was another area of growth, as we encouraged the use of utensils during snacks and lunch. We're so proud of the progress everyone is making! As we head into May, we're excited to continue learning and growing together. Warmer days mean more time outside, new discoveries in nature, and lots of opportunities for fun. Next month we will be doing a unit on Community Helpers and Dinosaurs. Thank you for your continued support and for sharing your amazing little ones with us each day! Same as always, any questions feel free to ask!

Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Zoe

Older Toddlers

emotional development. While learning about feelings, we are also exploring new ways to help regulate those emotions and self-calm. So, please allow your child a "calm down" space in the house where they know they can express big emotions without hurting themselves or others. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to stop one of us!

Ms. Amy R. and Teacher Ty

3's

April Showers bring pretty flowers! Hard not to argue, have you seen all the GORGEOUS flowers in our classroom?? The weather may be a bit of a drag, but not in the three-year-old room! We welcomed Spring this year with open arms. This past month we started to grow our own caterpillars and boy have we been keeping track of their growth! Soon we'll have pretty butterflies to release in May. You may have noticed all of our scientists learning about the magic of Spring, from experimenting with eggs submerged in water and vinegar, to learning about plant life. We've really been asking the big WHY questions. As we wrap up the month, we hope you stop and check out all the ways the three-year-olds have really welcomed Spring into our classroom. Check out the different types of bird feeders we've set out along the playground outside, and our brand-new bird feeder on our classroom window. The three-year-olds have learned so much about taking care of wildlife. We hope they don't bring any stray pets

Hello families! We have been loving the warmer weather and have been spending a lot of time outside and we think it's finally safe to say that snow pants and boots can go home!

Last month we spent a lot of time focusing on our portfolio goals of matching colors and similar objects and stacking blocks. We used flannel stories, puzzles, and blocks. If you have these items at home, they can have lots more practice! One of our favorite things to do in the classroom is dance and listen to interactive dance songs. A few include: 'Shake Your Sillies Out', 'Freeze Dance', and 'Baby Shark'. In April, we introduced a new song called 'Hop Little Bunnies' which has quickly become a new favorite! We look forward to the fun and exciting things that May has in store for us!

Ms. Emily and Ms. Karen

Almost 2's

Greetings, friends! This last month has been positively amazing! We had the first few weeks of April fly by with our unit on bugs that had our antsy children buzzing with excitement as they learned about some new un-bee-lievable little critters. Then we got to 'turnip the beet' with our fern-tastic flowers unit, where we learned about things that grow and plant through some fun activities and thyme-ly songs. To finish up the month, we explored our feelings and ways to recognize and handle them with our Emotions unit. This one was a big dill

home! Happy Spring everyone!

Ms. Abi and Ms. Emily S.

3-4's

The Preschool Allstars started out in April learning about Spring and Bugs! We planted tomato and daisy seeds which have been growing well. We did lima bean experiments and watched the seeds grow into sprouts over the course of 3 days. We also did another sprout experiment in a mason jar and compared the two each day. We learned about different types of bugs, their names, and what their purpose is here on Earth. We learned about different types of seeds and played with chia seed slime with plastic bugs in the sensory bin. We practiced identifying letters and spelling our names, piecing together lettered flower petals, and gluing them in order to spell our name into a flower. We learned a new song, "La Cucaracha" and danced and sang. We read many different bug books such as, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Because the Little Bug Went Kachoo*. We practiced sorting and counting bugs and tracing numbers. We learned about life cycles and will soon see the lifecycle firsthand with live caterpillars in our room. "Reduce, reuse, and recycle". Hope you start to hear our catchy little tune around your house soon! As our children have been very perceptive and engaged, we have decided to make a whole Earth Day and Recycling unit. We feel passionate about investing time in talking about the importance of taking

because our children sprouted up. They tend to experience a bigger range of feelings and self-regulation can be one of the hardest things to manage so it is a big focus for us. We work a lot on concepts of taking turns, sharing and helping them calm their bodies, which can be helpful to practice at home, too. Ways to help would be identifying emotions in the moment (happy, sad, grumpy), deep breaths, counting 1-2-3, and grabbing a stuffed animal to hug or lying on a pillow to rest/calm. Big body movements and exercise are always a great way to redirect as well so don't forget to take advantage of the warm weather!

Ms. Elise & Ms. Kailie

care of the earth. We're finding ways to make our activities full of math, literacy, science, and fine motor skills. We're learning new vocabulary, making Play-Doh recycling shapes, coloring recycled egg cartons into "trees", matching letters to feed recycling bins, sorting recyclables into bins, and making artistic representations of the earth. We're also discussing our growing classroom and being patient and kind with one another. Please ensure your child has hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots at the center every day, as we never know what the weather will do, and we'll be going outside twice a day, temperatures permitting. Whenever possible, encourage your child to practice dressing skills and putting on full winter gear at home, including zipping coats if they are still working on that skill.

Ms. Lizzie and Ms. Allie

