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## Growing Highlights

MAY 2026



May 4 - 8, 2026

# Spotlight on Staff

## STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

We're excited to invite you to stop by the back door for a fun opportunity to learn a little more about your child's amazing teacher! It's a great chance to feel even more connected to your child's day.

While you're at it, help us keep the smiles going by donating any snack sized treats for Thursday's Snack Cart. Donations can be dropped off in the office—thank you for helping make our staff appreciation week extra special!

 <p><b>MONDAY</b> Bring a flower</p>	 <p><b>TUESDAY</b> Bring a special treat</p>	 <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> Write a FLOWER note</p>
 <p><b>THURSDAY</b> Classroom Snack Cart Delivery</p>	 <p><b>FRIDAY</b> PJ or Comfy Day for All</p>	

*Thanks for all you do!*

Dear Families,

Thank you to all that were able to attend the family night. It was a fun time, even with the storms rolling in...

May brings a lot of prep for the Summer Program! All children over two will be receiving a summer calendar that has all the field trips listed on it. This calendar can also serve as a vacation notice. It will come with a page of instructions on how to fill out the calendar. You can still submit vacation requests like usual, but if you know the summer days off, this is an easy way to submit them. Please be sure to return calendars by the due date listed.

I have been asked by a few families about transportation to summer school. We unfortunately do not offer summer transportation; it takes extra staffing, the bus is used for Grandma's House field trips and in case of bad weather we cannot get the children there or back. Any questions about summer, please reach out.

I am sure the sun will be strong before summer begins! You are welcome to leave a bottle of sunscreen with your child's teacher. Grandma's House sunscreen is also available for your child.

When you come onto the playground to pick up or drop off your child, please make sure you close the gate tightly behind you. Children move fast and we have had a few instances where the gate was left wide open, and a teacher had to quickly run to close it. We appreciate you helping us keep everyone safe. Also, water bottles need to go home frequently to be washed, we just rinse and refill here.

We will be starting our gardens soon. All of the older children helped to plant seeds to start plants, and the under two children painted signs to mark what kind of plants we are growing! The children always have so much fun growing and harvesting the vegetables during the summer.

*Thanks,*

*Jane Sweet*

Director

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



- 2 Reagan S.
- 8 Ms. Ashley
- 9 Olivia S.
- 15 Evia F.
- 20 Paige-Marie S.
- 21 Aalayiah R.
- 21 Ms. Kristine
- 28 Soleil J.



*On celebrating  
anniversaries with  
Grandma's House*

- Ms. Shannon 29 Years*
- Ms. Donna 18 Years*
- Ms. Taylor 3 Years*
- Mr. Barron 1 Year*
- Ms. Annica 1 Year*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*Wednesday, June 24th*

\*Roads around Grandma's House  
will be CLOSED from *9 AM - 10 PM.*

Tour of Hartland Bike Race



*Polliwogs, Infants*

Sometimes we don't feel like ourselves or we have something weighing heavy on our hearts. As parents and caregivers, we do our best to shield little ones from our worries. However, children are preceptive. From infants on, they pick up on a change in our tone, a shift in energy, how we are carrying our bodies-it's a sign of how connected and human we are. By six months, we look for social emotional cues from babies to be comforted by voice, sight, and touch, and to be expressing feelings through facial expressions. When children are one year, we are looking for self-soothing by looking around at familiar adults or sucking on fingers or a pacifier. These comfort rituals are taught and learned by children from the adults around

*Little Ravens, 2's*

Happy May everyone! We thought we would use this month's newsletter to explain a few things that go on in our classroom. A few of you have asked some questions, so now here are some more in-depth answers. First, Group Time: We sing about "who is here today" every morning. If you hear your child sing that song, this is why! Also, we make sure to acknowledge our friends who aren't here just as much as the ones who are at school that day. Sometimes our friends are in Florida, Hawaii, or just at home for the day. The next thing is our Star Stamp. We offer a star stamp here and there when we really want to motivate everyone to clean up their toys. As long as you are helpful with putting away a whole basket of items or at

them; either directly or indirectly by the way we carry ourselves.

Remember...children are always watching!

Dr. Cassidy Freitas, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, mom and author of the upcoming book *Mom Needs A Moment* (coming June 2026), shares calming activities for children of all ages to help little ones feel grounded and supported. Before words, babies are in tune with our body language. If our body feels hurried or tight, their body mirrors that. Dr. Freitas suggests starting with our own body. Slow down your breathing, make an intention to be at their level, lower your voice. Doing this can shift the energy for both of you.

Talking through what you are feeling also helps. Even though they don't understand words yet, you are modeling a regulation behavior and habit for your children. Give feelings a meaning with your words.

Everyone has feelings and that's okay! Establishing comfort rituals helps regulate both of you at the same time. Rocking slowly, gentle humming, singing and consistent bedtime routines are just some simple rituals to try. (*A Little Sleepies Blog The Cozy Corner March 2026*)

Fingers crossed; Spring is around the corner! Please bring a lightweight jacket to Grandma's House for your little one to wear while we are outside or on a walk.

Thank you!

*Ms. Kristine and Ms. Shannon*

### ***Forest Friends, Older Infants***

least help with a few toys in a timely manner, you get a green star stamp on your arm. This is something everyone is capable of doing! The last thing is flannel stories. This might be familiar to some of you, but to some, not so much. We take songs and rhymes and use laminated pictures with Velcro (not flannel material) to help tell the story. We stick them on to our carpet walls or on the back of our toy shelves while we sing the songs. Some of them are more interactive and our friends get to hold the pictures during that song/rhyme; which is a big deal! We hope this helps give you a better idea of what our days look like here!

*Ms. Kelly and Ms. Mo*

### ***Leopards, 2.5's***

Those April showers sure did bring us some May flowers! I cannot get enough of this beautiful weather! We have been spending so much time playing outside and soaking up the sunshine! We finished up April with our Rain and Clouds lesson and started our Colors lesson! The children really enjoy lacing fruit loops onto pipe cleaners. I'm not sure if it's the activity they enjoy, so much as being able to sneak a couple fruit loops into their mouths during the process! It is so cheap and easy, and I think they would love to do it at home! Another fun activity you could do at home is "Rain Cloud in a Jar". You need a clear jar, shaving cream, food coloring and water. Fill your jar up about 3/4 of the way with water. Next, add a thin layer of

Happy May! We hope you all had a Happy Easter! We started April off with a Bunnies & Eggs unit focusing on our Springtime sensory bin containing Easter grass, pom-poms, bunnies, eggs, gardening tools, and carrots. During art time, we used those eggs to paint on pink paper using blue and white paint. We also used our leftover Easter grass to create our beautiful pictures by gluing the paper while our friends patted the grass down with their hands. At the end of April, we switched over to our Nature unit. Any chance we were able to be outside, we took it! We explored the playground finding leaves, bugs, worms, sticks, pinecones, and acorns. During art time, we used flyswatters and pinecones to paint our wonderful pictures. Now that the weather is finally warm, it's time to take home any winter gear your child may have and update extra clothing in your child's cubby for weather appropriate clothing. Also, please make sure your child has the appropriate closed toe footwear since many of our friends are starting to pull up, cruise, and walk around the playground. We hope you all have a great May, and we look forward to seeing your child's growth over the next few weeks!

*Ms. Ruth and Ms. Kayla*

### ***Mini Meerkats, Toddlers***

April showers and cold spells were extra eventful this year and we made sure to explore the very messy theme of mud. We had so much fun making dirt cake, mud/

shaving cream to the top of the water (this is your cloud), the thicker the shaving cream the longer it will take for the food coloring to pass through. The final step is to drip some drops of blue food coloring (your rain) on top of the shaving cream. Then watch the cloud rain! We also played with blue foam soap on the tables, glued blue tissue paper and weather themed pieces of paper onto paper and so much more! I'm looking forward to having the children "taste the rainbow" during our Colors lesson plan and even more excited for our room to be full of color! Lastly, we are still having some pretty chilly mornings so please make sure your child has a sweatshirt or light jacket here for those outside times! As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns!

*Ms. Desi and Ms. Donna*

### ***Stallions, 3's***

We are so happy that Spring is finally here! It is finally starting to get warmer outside and the Summer Program is right around the corner.

In April, we had a Spring lesson plan where we made flowers with tissue paper, talked about different things that happen in the Spring, and measured ourselves with flowers. We also had a Plant lesson plan where we painted with real flowers to make a natural print. We tasted some different veggies and we made some fizzy flowers. We also celebrated Week of the Young Child where we sang karaoke on the playground, made a center wide snack,

worm art, and rain drop mosaics. We counted worms, and got messy in a huge mud pile in the classroom. We all had so much fun exploring and experiencing the theme of mud.

In addition to mud, we also explored Easter bunny, eggs, and Spring activities. We really enjoyed the bunny sensory bin activities. Sensory bin activities have many textures, smells, colors, and fun ways to practice fine motor skills. The children scoop and dump, stack, fill up and empty small containers. These skills work the finger muscles and strengthen the fingers for future fine motor skills like cutting with scissors and holding a pencil. We hope you enjoy all the photos and it gives you a glimpse of our busy days.

*Ms. Andrea & Ms. Bree*

### ***Muddy Piggies, 2's***

Yay for Spring! While it's still a little chilly, we're enjoying every warm moment we can. On cooler days, children are still wearing hats and mittens, so please continue to leave them here for now. Hopefully, we won't need them much longer!

We've been busy learning about Spring by reading books all about bugs. One favorite has been *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children loved pretending to crawl like bugs and fly like butterflies and birds. We also explored our sensory table, digging for mini bugs in dirt and sand using shovels. Next, we dove into learning about the ocean! The children enjoyed looking at Ms.

planted some seeds, painted our tree cookie, had a pajama day, and of course our family party where we all Tie Dyed t-shirts.

As the weather starts to warm up and we gear up for Summer, please take a moment to clean out your child's cubby and make sure that you switch over their extra clothes to more weather appropriate clothing.

*Ms. Emily and Ms. Bry*

### ***Highland Cows, 4's***

What a crazy start to Spring we've had! The changing weather tied in perfectly with our recent Weather and Earth Day units.

During our Weather unit, the children enjoyed hands-on activities like creating rainbows with paper and cotton balls, making a fun cloud-in-a-jar experiment, and enjoying a special snack made of blue Jello "sky," whipped topping clouds, and rainbow candy. These activities were a big hit!

For Earth Day, we talked about ways to help protect our planet. The children made sun catchers from recycled milk jugs and bowls from old newspapers while learning about reusing and recycling.

In the coming weeks, we'll begin our Spring unit, which will include planting seeds outside and spending more time enjoying the beautiful Spring weather.

*Reminder:* Please keep a lightweight sweatshirt at school, as it can still be chilly in the basement and during outdoor

Tricia's scuba and underwater ocean pictures of tropical fish. We explored which objects sink or float, painted using ocean colors, and had fun sorting (and eating!) different colors of goldfish crackers.

It's been a wonderful time of learning, movement, and exploration-thank you for sharing your children with us!

*Ms. Tricia and Ms. Keurstyn*

morning play.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your continued support!

*Ms. Chantel*

### ***Highland Cows, School Age***

Spring is finally here and we're so excited for all the learning and fun that comes with it!

During the past month, our school-age group explored nature and caring for our planet. We talked about ways to keep the Earth clean and healthy and learned about changes in the weather as winter transitioned into Spring. The children enjoyed discussions, activities, and hands-on learning connected to these important topics.

This month, we'll be spending lots of time outdoors enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. Our focus will include:

\*Learning about the sun and how it helps living things grow.

\*Exploring plants and bugs through observation and discovery.

\*Using natural materials such as leaves, sticks, and stones for creative art projects. Outdoor exploration helps build curiosity, teamwork, and an appreciation for nature and we can't wait to see where our discoveries take us!

We'll be incorporating items found in nature into our crafts, allowing children to express their creativity while connecting art to the environment.

Thank you for your continued support and

partnership. Please remember to dress your child for outdoor play and Spring weather changes.

*Ms. Lindsey*

## 2026 Grandma's House

will be **CLOSED** the following holidays:

### **New Year's**

Thursday, January 1

### **Memorial Day**

Monday, May 25

### **4th of July**

Friday, July 3

### **Labor Day**

Monday, September 7

### **Thanksgiving**

Thursday & Friday,  
November 26 & 27

### **Christmas**

Thursday & Friday,  
December 24 & 25

## Grandma's House

will be **CLOSING EARLY**

the following days for  
**Staff Development &  
Classroom Changeover:**

**Fridays,  
June 12, 2026  
August 28, 2026**

**Hours:  
6:00 am - 3:00 pm**