



Space Family Education Inc. May 2009 Newsletter



Bluebonnets welcomed everyone to the Center during March and early April

Welcome to the SFEI Newsletter!!

Thanks for taking the time to check out the May 2009 edition of our newsletter! Inside you'll hear from all of the rooms and see some pictures of the great fun we're having at the JSC Child Care Center! If you have articles or news to contribute to future newsletters, please contact us using the information on the back page. Enjoy!!!



Ms. Nicole, Ms. Dianna, and Ms. Vanessa,

Recent Activities



The Texas Independence Trail Ride trotted right through the parking lot



Alexandra enjoys a visit from the Easter Bunny



The tree planted on Arbor Day will be a permanent and ever-growing sight at the Center



- Houston Rodeo Trail Ride: February 25th
- Easter Bunny Visit: April 9th
- Earth Day Celebration: April 22nd
- Arbor Day SFEI Plant-A-Tree: April 24th
- Muffins for Mom: May 8th
- Picture Day: May 12th

Reminders to Parents

- Summer Camp sign-up deadlines are fast approaching
- As Houston's summer weather approaches, be sure to swap out your child's clothes from their cubbies



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Kindergarten/Pre-K Graduation: June 4th
- Last Day of School: June 5th
- Donuts for Dad: June 12th

Electronic versions of newsletters can be found at:
<http://childcare.jsc.nasa.gov/newsletters.htm>



Space Family Education Inc. May 2009 Newsletter



Message from the President

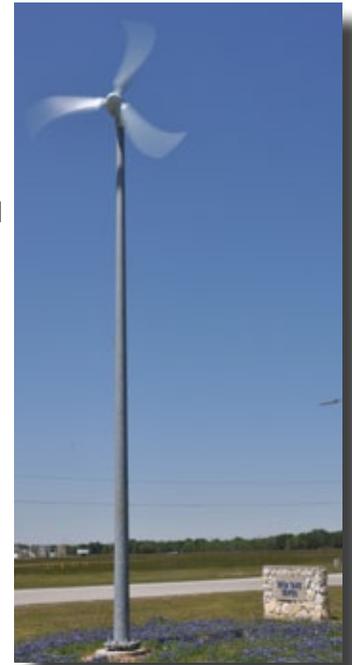
I want to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and staff for making the Child Care Center (CCC) such a wonderful place. Everything is in full bloom and the room gardens are sprouting up. The CCC is getting



some well deserved TLC. Thank you to all the families that helped put in new sand and mulch for the playground and a new shed for storage to spruce up the CCC. This past year we have been working with JSC to make the CCC more environmental friendly. Jerry Rowlands has done a tremendous job in getting us new kitchen equipment that is energy efficient. Jerry's final plan will include a



We are excited about these new ideas and will keep everyone informed as these materialize. Some very exciting news is that JSC center ops will be getting new flooring and paint for the CCC and plans are beginning to finalize. I would like to thank Linda Spuler, who is working to ensure the facility gets what it needs. JSC has been kind enough to put this in their budget at no cost to the school.



I would like to say thanks to Linda and Jerry for all that they have done to make the CCC a better place. In addition to all of this, the CCC is working to replace the playground covers, replace the playground padding, and add new playground equipment.



I would like to close with a reminder that it is our wonderful staff and parents that make the CCC a great place for our children. Without a collaborative effort nothing is successful, so thanks to all!!!

Jay Leggett

new roof and new heating and cooling system for the school (with individual room controls).



Hello from Room 1!

We have had a great year watching our little ones grow from tiny babies into toddlers. The class has come a long way. They love to sing, and do the hand movements to the song "If You're Happy and You Know It". Their favorite book to read is "Brown Bear, Brown Bear". They also like to play "Ring Around the Rosie".

We have had to say "goodbye" to some of our little ones and teachers, but we welcomed

new ones with opened arms. Our newest classmate is Jacob Castillo (5 months old). Ms. Phyllis is our new teacher. Phyllis replaced Ms. Mimi when she moved to Room 5.

We did have an exciting moment when Commander Mike Fincke called from the Space Station to say "Hello" to the teachers and the kids. We wish him a safe return home.



Room 1 Birthday Wishes !!

Greetings from Room 2!

We have been very busy learning and doing new activities! Our kids have all fully made the transition from sippy cups to regular cups around Christmas time. We have all mastered using our spoons, though the hands are still much quicker to use!

We have worked a great deal on learning our colors and counting. We practice both daily, and also sing our ABC's.

The kids have made so much progress from the beginning of the school year and we are very proud of their accomplishments! We only strive to work harder to prepare them for migration to their next room.



Our kids are starting to turn the big "2"!

Happy birthdays to:

- Reagan – March 18th
- Lauryn – April 1st
- Taylor – April 11th
- Ewan – April 16th

The rest of our kids will be celebrating the big "2" over the summer.

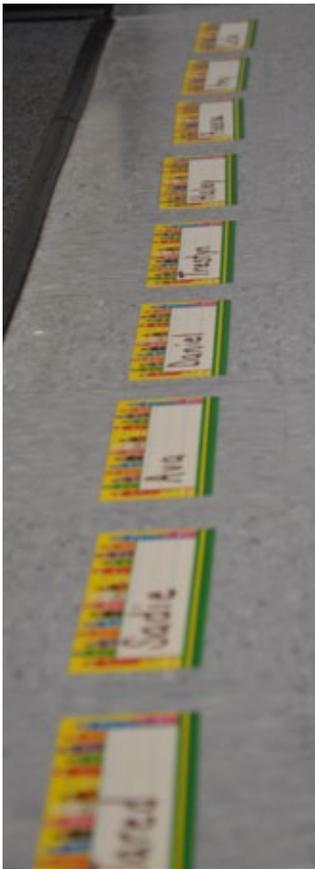
We also would like to welcome the newest addition to Room 2, Ms. Karla. We are excited to have her join us!

Happy Birthday to Ms. Linda

On April 8th, everyone at the CCC wished Ms. Linda a Happy 60th birthday with decorations and cake for all. When we asked her about the party she was very grateful for the gesture and said, "The party was a blast and I had the greatest time with all of the children. We danced to the Line Dance, Hip-Hop and Old School Music at lunchtime. It was a great surprise. Thanks to everybody - the kids made it a joy for me!"



Room 3 News



Welcome to Room Three. We are big kids in here. We have learned to sit in our chairs. We don't play in our food anymore and we eat with a spoon. Wow! No more sippy cups. We can use regular cups. To keep safe, we have learned to keep our feet on the floor. We are now brushing our teeth after lunch and cleaning up after ourselves after snack.

We are all friends in here. We have learned to share, take turns and use our words or gentle touch with our friends. During circle time we sit on our names and put our hands in our laps so we don't bother our friends during learning time.

We are happy to announce our potty trained friends. They are Ava Hu, Haley Nabizaden, Trestyn McElroy, Jonah Arnold, Elijah Bush, Daniel Jensen and Reese

McIntyre. We are very proud of ourselves!

So far this year, we have learned thirteen colors, fifteen shapes, how to trace our name and how to count to thirteen. Some of us have learned to even spell our own name.

Now we are learning to recognize the letters and their sounds. We have also begun to practice cutting with scissors. Also we only have five months before we move to an older classroom, so we are learning to stay in centers and pick up our toys before we go to explore another center. Picking up our toys keeps us safe too. We are most likely not going to trip over toys if we pick them up off the floor.

We have learned lots and lots of neat stuff this year. We have learned to identify letters and numbers, our names and all kinds of shapes. We have learned all about penguins. We can now identify them and tell you where they live, what they



like to do and what they eat. We even took our first field trip to Moody Gardens to see the penguins that we studied. We rode the big yellow school bus to get there. We will be riding the school bus again to see the beautiful butterflies we have been learning about.

Guess what I

Welcome to Room 4

wear: Big girl and big boy underwear. We also go potty. There are only 5 of us that have not made it to underwear.



There are now 6 of us that are the "Big 3" and our other friends are almost there. We would like to welcome our new teacher Ms. Terra to the classroom, along with all the new baby brothers and sisters.

Hello Once Again from Room 5!

We're very proud of our 3 girls and 12 boys, but not to worry, the girls can hold their own! The boys may be boys but "watch out"! Kelsey may be little but she's "tough"! Miki can give the boys one look and they're gone! Daisy can bat her eyes and say "leave me alone" and the boys go the other direction. So don't pick on our girls!

Our boys are "tough"! Alex, Jack, Donovan, and Joshua are four years old now. Joshua just turned four on April 13th. Everyone had a great time at his party! Oh, yes, he is also a big brother "times 2" as a proud brother of twin boys: Caleb and Zachary. Luke will be a big brother soon. He loves the guitar and Metallica. Dad taught him that. Jack will be a big brother soon too. He was to name his new sister "Acunamata-ta" from the Lion King movie. We'll see!

Seth says he wants to be a big brother, but mom says "No way".

Sam wants a sister or "sissy". Mom says "OK". Donovan and Alex are "bestest" friends! Sam and Ethan hang out together. They're "best buds"! Max and Aiden are little but they're tough in more ways than one! Max says his mom was married to George Washington. Aiden says his mom knows how to fish, but that he and Dad can catch more fish. Elias & Reme may be "quiet" but they're tough too! Elias can give you a look and make your heart melt!

Ms. Margie left us in January, and Ms. Mimi joined us from the infant room. What was on her mind? She's been a real trooper! Ms. Mimi is expecting in September! Our kids want to name the



baby! Ms. Georgia is doing well and in high spirits again, despite the gray hair. The blonde is just a cover up!

Summer is coming up and we've got a lot planned! Just sit back and watch us grow! Thanks to Ailene Farrar for being a great room captain, Kate Surrat for being an alternate and Deanna being our coordinator. Thanks to Vanessa Bristol for coordinating our "reader of the week"!

The Space Family Butterfly Garden

For the last three years Room 6 has worked on a garden for the purpose of creating a butterfly habitat. We have raised and released a couple hundred butterflies. Room 4 also joined in by creating a garden on the opposite side of the building. This dual garden approach works great. There are enough host and nectar plants to support both Monarch butterflies and Gulf Fritillary butterflies. We have a few host plants for Clouded Sulfur butterflies and a few for Swallowtails as well. Our school is a great area to create an outdoor class project such as a butterfly habitat because of the wild flower fields on-site and the "forest", as the kids call it, behind the playground. In the forest butterflies roost over night or during rains and



heavy winds. It also provides them shelter from predators. We meet several of the requirements for becoming a "Monarch Way Station" and hope to one day apply for certification.

Room 6 says "Good Day"

We love all the seasons but Spring is our favorite! We are ready to get our hands dirty in the garden and begin raising our Monarch caterpillars and then releasing our beautiful Monarch butterflies. We begin with the first day of Spring and Easter activities and then we really get serious about Earth and Arbor Day. We have been learning about birds and identifying the ones we see in our play yard. We feed them every day and get to see the difference between scavengers (or ground feeders) and those who prefer to eat from a feeder. We even found a nest to display safely in our classroom. We also found a Mourning Dove nest in our field of Blue Bonnets out in front of the building. This is one of the very birds we feed!

This year, our Earth Day celebration on April 22nd features a cake, a display of art projects made by the children and lessons on recycling, conservation, and caring for our Earth. On April 24th we celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree and then starting a lesson on the importance of trees to our earth and ourselves.

When we move to our Butterfly unit we will cover their life cycle, habitat and food sources. We get hands on experience holding caterpillars, and butterflies, tagging and releasing them and recording their time with us. We learn their body parts and even get to see through the eye of a butterfly - it's very different than

how we see!

The Butterfly Garden will begin to flourish as we learn about soil and plant nutrients or amendments. We use clean egg shells and coffee grounds brought in by students to continually freshen our soil. The children plant the plants and even learn to pull weeds. Any food we harvest is

tasted in the classroom and flowers are routinely brought into class to brighten our environment.

These activities help our students gain basic exposure to nature and help them to become responsible stewards to our planet.

We have been working very hard to become

good citizens in our classroom, to treat our friends well and be willing to take responsibility and aid friends in need. The children also have really gotten the concept of problem solving issues between themselves and utilizing teacher

Did you know?

Rosemary is extremely high in iron, calcium, and Vitamin B6.

The Periwinkle is a genus of five species in the family Apocynaceae, native to Europe, northwest Africa and southwest Asia.



intervention only when they can't resolve an issue on their own. Ms. Lois and Ms. Norma are very proud of how well our class behaves and handles themselves at school functions. We have to thank our parents for supporting these types of classroom goals.

We have enjoyed all of our holiday and school events but the #1 favorite among the children has to have been our Tea Party! It was wonderful and will be a great memory of this year for us as teachers. Thanks to all who have made our events a success! Ms. Lois and Ms. Norma are having a great time teaching together and are enjoying the children and their unique personalities.



Room 7's Adventures

Well, it's hard to believe we are almost at the end of the school year. The children have learned so much this year: from learning their letters and vowels, to the unique way Miss Ricki has taught Rooms 7 and 8 their blends.

Our children in room 7 are so smart and really doing great in their reading groups. They are actually reading short sentences all before going to Kindergarten. We've also been studying different countries every month and on May 29th we will host a Multicultural Day and our class will feature Columbia.



And let's not forget our second annual Field Day that was on May 22nd. Thanks to all of the parents that were able to come and enjoy some fun with your child's class. Last but not least our Graduation

will be on June 4th, so clear the digital cameras and video cameras to make space to capture your little one's walk down the academic aisle.

Pre-K Happenings from Room 8

Parents, the children have learned much this year, and I'm sure you're proud of their progress. They have learned the sounds of the letters and enjoyed sounding out blends and words.

In May they will be graduating, and we wish to extend a special invitation to you to come and see them graduate.



We have been on a lot of field trips this year and plan on having a great summer with more fun filled trips.

We have had many birthdays so far this year, and a lot of others will have them over the summer:

- Jan 8th – John Stambaugh
- Jan 28th – Eliana Streeter
- Feb 27th – Ian Lansdowne
- Mar 22nd – Sarah Bauer
- Apr 13th – Arthur Koerner
- Apr 21st – William Blok
- May 18th – Brooke Morgan
- May 21st – Sara Tomlinson
- Jun 18th – Tarali Fincke
- Jul 6th – Peter Horthon
- Jul 10th – Johnny Gonzalez
- Jul 21st – Kyle Finkel
- Jul 29th – Katie Cloves
- Aug 8th – Brayden Fredrickson
- Nov 16th – Alysa Pham
- Dec 9th – Tatiana Vassiliev
- Dec 12th – Danielle Truong
- Dec 23rd – Sara Nabizadeh



We want to thank all the parents for their support and cooperation this year. We couldn't have had such a great year without you. Also we want to thank our Room Captain Carrie Nabizadeh for doing such a great job. Thank you and we hope to see you during the summer!

- Ms. Joy and Ms. Kim

Kinder News

We are busy bees in Room 9! We are having fun learning about the

the fastest (raw or hard-boiled), and try to figure out which object

displaces the most water in a cup, to name a few.



During our studies of different countries and their cultures, we have made Chinese lanterns, read Shamrock poetry and made Japanese fans.

We are continuing to work on phonics and reading skills. Phonetic games, small group 'Reading Circles' and 'Buddy Reading' are just a few of the activities we use to enhance our skills.

Spring over to Room 9 and ask one of the students to read a story to you! Most are reading above level and love to read!

spring season by predicting and graphing the weather, growing and observing plants, and discussing the temperature.

Our Math skills are really improving and we have started simple subtraction. We also compare and contrast objects, work on sequencing and ordinal numbers, and measure items in standard ways (inches) as well as non-standard ones (paper clips, noodles, etc.) We have learned about time and to count money for our 'Class Bank.'

In our classroom Science Center we perform many hands-on experiments. We sort and count seeds, predict which egg will spin



Looking forward to June

We're looking forward to next month's activities as we stay cool, keep safe, have fun, learn lots, and kick off the summer!!! Bye-bye!

Space Family Education Inc.

Johnson Space Center

Main Office: 281.483.4734

[HTTP://CHILD CARE.JSC.NASA.GOV/](http://childcare.jsc.nasa.gov/)

Please e-mail newsletter content to:

CHRISTOPHER.E.GERTY@NASA.GOV