



TUCKAWAY TIDBITS

Newsletter for TUCKAWAY-INNSBROOK



MAY
2012

MUFFINS FOR MOM (MOTHER'S DAY) BREAKFAST:

Come celebrate Mother's Day at Tuckaway on Friday, May 11th from 7:30am-9:30am and 4:00 to 5:30. We will provide mini muffins and juice. It's going to be a great way to get fueled and fed to start your day!

GLAD TO BE A GRAD!: (YELLOWBIRD GRADUATES 2012)

Congratulations to our rising kindergarten students, graduating class of 2012! Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for all graduating Yellowbirds! The whole family is invited to join your little graduates on Thursday, June 7, 2012 from 6:15 to 7:00 PM. Immediately following our graduation ceremony, please join us for a small reception with teachers and students.

TIME TO GET SLIMED!

Warmer weather is coming! That means short sleeve shirts, skirts and short pants. With all that exposed skin it's time for sunscreen! We must have an updated authorization from to apply **any** sunscreen to your child during the spring and summer months. Tuckaway uses Rocky Mountain Sunscreen for kids 30 SPF. If you prefer a different type of sunscreen, please bring it to the center labeled with your child's first and last name and make sure to fill out an authorization form. If you need a blank form, you can pick one up at the front desk.

TUCKAWAY at SPRINGFIELD PARK CARNIVAL

Tuckaway-Innsbrook had games and Howill made an appearance at Springfield Park Elementary's Spring Carnival. Here are some pics, and check out our Facebook page for more!



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: MAY

Please join us as we observe Staff Appreciation Week May 7th-11th. We will celebrate the outstanding group of teachers and support staff we have here at Tuckaway Innsbrook. Our foyer door in the front lobby will be posted with pictures of our staff; there will be space available for you to post why they are special. This is a great time to give the staff a complement by giving them a "Catch and Recognize."

PARTY TIME!!!

Mark your calendar now for our **annual kickoff summer cookout on Friday June 29th**. The party will start at 6:00pm and end at 7:30pm. Come out and join us for a night of dancing, swimming, moon bouncing, and of course great food and fun! We'll be serving all the summer favorites: hotdogs, chips, punch. Mr. KG will be our DJ. It's a perfect time to play with your kids and get to meet all the other parents and kids in your child's class. Please come ready to explore and find the hidden treasure.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

Charlotte F. 5/19
Trinity H. 5/16
Riley L. 5/23
Katie M 5/29
Matthew M. 5/29
Christopher S. 5/26
Payce Y. 5/19

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2012

Please mark your calendars now for upcoming closings from May-September 2012. The are as follows:
Monday, May 28, 2012—Memorial Day: CLOSED
Wednesday, July 4, 2012—Observance of Independence Day: CLOSED
Friday, August 31st, 2012—Re-Organization Day: CLOSED (Teacher Work Day)
Monday, September 3, 2012—Labor Day: CLOSED

HOME SCHOOL CONNECTION

Bon Appetite!

We all know that cooking can seem like a chore sometimes and we would all rather just grab something that is quick and easy for our meals. But cooking is a great activity to get the whole family involved because there is always a job for everyone no matter how big or small they are. Whether its having a friendly spectator watching you cook when they are a baby, someone to help pour ingredients together when they are a toddler, or even cutting (with a dull or plastic knife) ingredients and measuring them when they are in preschool, the possibilities are endless. While they are hard at work at whatever job you give them, they will have no idea that they are working on various developmental skills while completing their task. For example, if they are helping you to measure items, then they are working on their math skills or helping you to crack an egg is improving and developing their fine motor skills.

During the month of May, most of the preschoolers will be conducting two cooking projects: making salsa and ants on a log. Listed below are the recipes that we will be using for these activities, but as with every recipe there will be variations based on families' preferences.

Fresh Tomato Salsa

Ingredients

½ of a small onion

¼ cup of cilantro leaves (or parsley)

1 minced garlic clove

3-4 ripe tomatoes, ripe

1 tablespoon of lime juice

¼ teaspoon of salt

Instructions

Finely chop one half of a small onion.

Mince ¼ cup of cilantro leaves (or parsley)

In a mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients. Makes

2 ½ cups.

Ants on a log

Ingredients

Fresh celery

Soy butter (or cream cheese)

Raisins

Instructions

Spread the soy butter onto the celery.

Place the raisins on the soy butter.

ENJOY!

SCHOOLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

With April over and summer approaching fast we've asked the Cardinals to illustrate their visions of a summer vacation. The Cardinals will also grow grass heads to take home! The Falcons will use their architectural skills when planning and constructing popsicle stick boxes. They will also be using the wind to see if their homemade kites will fly and maybe their paper helicopters will too! The ants will be crawling in Sparrows when they make their ants on a log cooking project and take a nature walk. The Hawks will be looking at patterns and will try to come up with a human pattern of their own. They will also have a contest for who can build the sturdiest book shelf with blocks! The Eagles are Kool-aid painting and are also learning about and demonstrating Virginia's Watershed. We are looking forward to wrapping up this last full month of school before summer starts, so make sure to soak it all up!

PRESCHOOLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Once again, there was no short of exciting but full of knowledgeable events happening at Tuckaway during the entire month of April. While the preschoolers had an Easter Egg Hunt on their playgrounds, they also had Easter Egg Relay Races. They took various kitchen objects (spoons, spatulas, and forks) and tried to balance plastic Easter Eggs on them while racing across the hardtop. The Greenbirds really enjoyed the races and when asked what the hardest object to balance was, most of them exclaimed "the fork!"

After Easter was over, the preschoolers started to learn about the weather and more specifically, rain. To demonstrate how rain collects in the clouds and then falls to produce precipitation, they filled a cup with water and put some shaving cream on top to represent clouds, they teachers used blue food coloring to represent the rain. They dripped several drops onto the "clouds" and the children watched as the "rain" started to come down beneath the clouds. The classes really seemed to enjoy the project, but the Orangebird II really enjoyed it. They repeated the project several times throughout the week and they went to the Orangebird I classroom to show all of them as well.

After talking about weather, the preschools discussions and activities turned to focus on our planet. Not only did we do many "green" activities to show the children that we need to take care of our planet in honor of Earth Day, they also did various activities to discuss communities. All the classes made their own Earths in the art center. While all of the Earths had their own unique style based on their classroom, there is no doubt that the most delicious one was made by the Babybirds. The children really seemed to enjoy using green icing on blue paper to make their earths, which you could see on their faces as some of them couldn't resist eating some of the icing off their fingers. Another way the preschool classrooms expressed their unique styles was when they made their classroom flags, which all turned out great!

Since April showers will be behind us that will allow for May flowers to start! During the entire month of May, we will be focusing on both plant and animal life that are correlates with the month. The month is going to start out with a week dedicated to the Mexican Culture in honor of Cinco de Mayo that will be filled with plenty of diversión (fun). Since the expression does talk about May Flower, we will be examining everything about flowers and plants from their seeds to the actual flower and some classes will even grow their own plants. The final weeks of May will be all about animals. The classes will be doing a lot of activities which will show both animals that live in our habitat, including insects and frogs, and even the ones that don't live in our habitat.

