

March 2017

Sequoia's Treehouse



Welcome to March!

Spring is on its way here at the Treehouse. We have been outside as much as we can, jumping in puddles, digging in the dirt, and looking out for animal friends in the wetlands!

While the weather is slowly turning to milder conditions, spring in the PNW is always unpredictable, so please be sure to continue sending warm clothing and rain boots and jackets to school with your child.

See you at school!

As we continue to look for ways to build community at the Treehouse, we hope you will continue to give us feedback about what has worked or not worked in the past, and any ideas you may have. Based on some suggestions, we will be having a **Parent Interactive Information Session** on **Thursday, March 16th, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm**. Since it will begin while the center is still open, it will be held in the house. We will begin with a discussion on Reggio Emilia, its philosophies, and how we try to incorporate those into our daily rhythm at the school. We will also open the discussion to you, the parent, to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. There will also be a dinner of chili con carne and rolls; please feel free to bring additional dishes to share! Give us a call if you have any questions.

Sequoia's Treehouse will be participating in two events this month: The **Thurston County Alternative Education Fair** that we are hosting at South Bay Elementary School on **March 18th from 12 - 3 pm** and the **It Takes a Village Natural Birth & Parenting Expo** at The Woman's Club of Olympia on **March 25th from 10 am - 2 pm**. If you would like more information, we have links to both event pages on our Facebook page, or feel free to give us a call!

Featured Teacher: Peter Sanderson



Peter is an Assistant Teacher in our Sprouts room! He was born in Ballard, but was raised here in Olympia and went to Marshall Middle School and Capital High. Following high school he decided to live and work in Los Angeles for a change of scenery, but came back to Washington after a few years to go to college. He chose the Evergreen State College because his father had gone there, and he liked their interdisciplinary programs and forward thinking ideas involving education and learning. During his time there he studied educational theory, volunteered at various grade schools, and made a documentary about Evergreen Elementary, a public bilingual elementary school in Shelton. This was meant to showcase the school's best features and to draw more interest to the school. He worked on this project with our school's beloved director, Joe Beatty, and it is his proudest piece of work from college. He hopes to eventually return to school to get his Masters in teaching or social work, and to continue working and empowering kids of all ages.

Seedling Room

We've been exploring:

Music, rhythm, dancing, music
 Paint
 Glitter bottles
 Physical Expression

Looking forward to:

Edible infant paint (cereal & food coloring)
 Water bead sensory bag
 Color grouping
 Warmer outside weather!

Hello! We have had a very full and busy classroom this past month and welcomed our new friend Logan, but we are happy to say that we have still made time for lots of fun. Our babies have taken an interest in music and dancing (fancy wiggling!); we've noticed many of them starting to jive and mimic our hip dance moves and sick drum beats!

Next month we plan to get some sensory craft experiences in and will explore colors and texture.

We have a couple reminders for parents/caregivers: Please label all your child's food & bottles with their name and the date, and please take home any refrigerated food items at the end of the day, even if you plan to use it the next day.

Thank you!

-Pacé, Mullein, Jude, & Louise



Sprouts Room

We've been exploring:

Handprint art
 Animal diversity
 Letters: A, B, C, D

Looking forward to:

Animal collage group projects
 Walking/talking like animals
 Letters: D, E, F, G

We will be saying goodbye to our friend Wesley this month, but are looking forward to welcoming and getting to know new friends Jonathan and Eloise from the Seedlings room! We also have a new intern, Badriya, who will be with us on Wednesdays, and we are excited to get to know her.

This month we will continue our exploration of animals with crafts and dramatic play, and if your child didn't get the chance to make handprints, we will make sure they get that opportunity.

We have lots of "lost and found" hats, jackets, and clothes in our classroom which we will be putting in the Lost and Found bin in the entry hall. We will still have our "lost socks" bin in the classroom. Please let us know if your child is missing anything so we can keep an eye out for it; sometimes kids move things from one child's bag to another. To reduce the number of misplaced items, please try to label all your child's clothing, including socks and hats.

Thank you!

-Abigail, Tess, & Peter



Shoots Room

We are so excited to re-welcome our friend Mika back to the classroom! We missed you!

We have been exploring fine and large motor skills and spending more time outdoors as the seasons have changed. We are excited to exploring animals this month!

-Meg, Amber, & Ashley



Visitors:

3/2- Yoga

3/8- Debbie's Dance

3/16- Yoga

3/30- Yoga

We've been exploring:

Shapes & colors

Emotions/Feelings

Fine motor skills-cutting, gluing, and painting art

Animal sounds

Looking forward to:

Exploring animals on the farm and frogs in the wetlands

Exploring the life cycles of plants and animals



Family Notes:

Though the weather is beginning to warm up, we want to remind parents that children will still need lots of warm layers and rain/snow boots for our outdoor explorations!

Sapling Room

Greetings parents & caregivers!

This past month we have been noticing buds on trees and plants beginning to bloom in our raised garden beds in the wetlands. Spring is on its way! We have been exploring and talking about dirt, soil, and mud, and have been practicing “tilling” the soil in our classroom sensory bin. We are also in the beginning stages of exploring food and where it comes from, and this coming month we will be moving into seeds and what goes into sprouting them: soil, water, and the sun.

As the world becomes alive around us, we will also begin exploring animals: what they eat, how they behave, what sounds they make, and we will be searching for animal friends in the wetlands! The kids are already in conversation about the bald eagle that appears to be building a nest behind our building. So much growth this time of year!

We also welcomed our new assistant teacher Noelle, and we are looking forward to continue getting to know her.

-Dominique

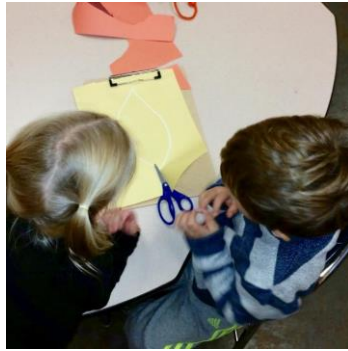
Visitors:

3/2- Yoga

3/8- Debbie's Dance

3/16- Yoga

3/30- Yoga



We've been exploring:

Exploring the wetlands and watching the first signs of spring arrive

Dirt, soil, mud, and practicing “tilling” soil in our sensory bin

Looking forward to:

Seeds and what makes them sprout and grow

Growing food

Animals

Family Notes

Please continue to bring warm clothing and clothing for wet weather.

Sequoia Room

Our theme for March will be animals of all kinds: our favorite pets, different animals from all over the world, and even worms and germs! We are expanding our vocabulary and will start learning how to recognize, spell, and write the names of different animals.

The Sequoias are currently most interested in pandas and worms. This month we will be using this excitement to springboard some investigations about what a worm eats, and what the word *decompose* means. We will be collecting some worms, dirt, and other materials from the wetlands to track the progress of how worms can decompose things at different speeds in our compost viewer!

We would also like to remind parents and caregivers to check their child's art cubby when picking up or dropping them off. We do our best to send children home with their artwork, but we have gotten behind. Some things also don't do very well in full backpacks. Each child has an art cubby with their name on it in the art center. We need more room new projects!

-Eli & Beryl



Family Notes

We will be going to swimming lessons at Discover Aquatics on the 9th. If you would like your child to attend let us know and we will tell you what time to have your child at school by. And don't forget to leave a car seat if your child is under 40 pounds!

Trips & Visitors:

3/2- Yoga

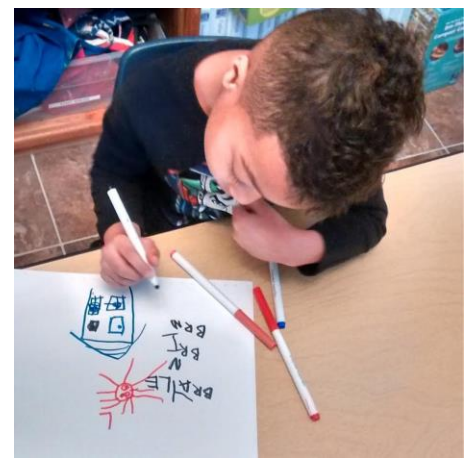
3/8- Debbie's Dance

3/9- Swimming at Discover Aquatics

3/16- Yoga

3/30- Yoga

Every Tuesday- Lunch Buddies



We've been exploring:

Children have been taking advantage of our drums outside and have been performing for each other in the tent out in the wetlands. Favorite titles include "You Really Got A Hold On Me" and "I Have A Headache."

As the weather is getting a little warmer, the children have been digging up lots of worms- we have a big hole in the wetlands where they have been digging to find them. We are excited to find more critters outside, like the frogs we have been hearing in the afternoon, and maybe even some animal tracks!

Looking forward to:

We are looking forward to talking about animal habitats, adaptation, and how different animals camouflage themselves to survive.

We will be reading *Worm Loves Worm*, *A Summertime Song*, and *Incredible Fish* to support our investigations of the animal world. If your child has any favorite books about at home that they would like to share, we are encouraging families to bring them in for story time!