

May 2017

Sequoia's Treehouse



Welcome to May!

May has already given us a few gorgeous, sunny days, and we are outside as much as possible enjoying the blue sky, all the flowers, and, a favorite at the Treehouse, bugs! Also, in honor of May being our Transportation Month, a **recycling truck will be visiting the school** on Monday, May 15th at 9:30 AM for the children to take a tour and learn about.

Also, check out our Instagram

@sequoiatreehouse.

See you at school!



Featured Teacher: Joe Beatty



Joe is excited to be the Director of Sequoia's Treehouse Childcare & Preschool. He has spent the past 10 summers working at an outdoor and arts summer camp, first as a counselor and then as part of the administrative staff. He worked at a childcare center for 4 years, the first two in an infant room, and the last two in different classrooms from ages 2-6. He also spent a year working as a teaching assistant and mentor at a high school. Joe has a Bachelor's Degree in Education from The Evergreen State College.

Joe believes that education which honors the rich inner world of each child, and offers examples of community, can make a profound impact on growing people's lives. He cannot imagine a more fulfilling job than providing meaningful early childhood education in a nature based setting. Joe is especially drawn to creating learning environments that allow for creativity, discovery, ease, and inclusion.

Joe enjoys playing string instrumentals, cooking soup, having meaningful conversations, and learning about plants in the wild.

Seedling Room

We've been exploring:	Looking forward to:	
<p>Paint</p> <p>Stacking cups</p> <p>Fabrics, wool</p>	<p>Being outside more!</p> <p>Exploring transportation- cars, trucks, train toys</p> <p>Assisted movement- fabric swings, bouncing, being pulled in a cart.</p>	<p>It's been a rainy April! Let's hope May brings us lots of sunshine and flowers. Unfortunately, because of the rain, our outdoor time with the infants has been quite limited. We've been keeping things alive and cozy with lots of drumming, music, some new toys, and painting. With many of our infants being the same age (in months), our classroom littles are becoming very interested in practicing their vocals.</p> <p>Congratulations to Talia, who graduated to the Sprouts room. We will miss you!</p> <p>-Pace, Louise, Jude, Mullein</p> <p>A quick note to parents: The weather will be getting sunnier, so please bring in sun hats (for all ages) and sunscreen for those over six months. We have a sunscreen permission slip for you to fill out, and if you prefer, Sequoia's Treehouse supplies an infant sunscreen we can apply with permission as well.</p>



Sprouts Room

We've been exploring:	Looking forward to:	
<p>Playdough with natural materials</p> <p>Watching our plants and lady bugs grow</p> <p>Letters- H, I, J, K</p>	<p>Painting with cars</p> <p>Talking about what different vehicles do</p> <p>Pretending to be cars, trains, and airplanes</p> <p>Releasing our lady bugs into the wetlands!</p>	<p>This month we will be focusing on transportation! The kids love cars, wheels, and wagon rides, so we are looking forward to exploring other forms of transportation. We have a few changes happening this month: Talia is joining us from the Seedlings room, Anya is moving up to the Shoots room, and Boaz is moving on. We are excited to say hello to our new friends and wish our departing friends good luck. Abby moved to the Sequoia's room this month. She is sad to leave, but she will come say hi as often as possible! Chylee will be taking Abby's place. Chylee, a recent Evergreen graduate, comes to us from The Evergreen State College Campus Children's Center, where Joe, Eli, and Louise also previously worked.</p> <p>We are hoping for more and more sunny days this month and want the kids to stay protected. We will have sunscreen forms for parents to fill out, and will be collecting and labeling sunscreen to apply to the kids. Please let Tess, Sam, Chylee, or Joe know if you have any questions or concerns!</p> <p>-Tess, Sam, & Chylee</p>



Shoots Room

We would like to welcome Timothy and Ainsley into the classroom. We continue to watch our seeds sprout and water them. We have also been visiting the wetlands often, and are monitoring our praying mantis egg (which Ashley says UGH to!).

See you in May!

-Amber, Ashley, and Paul

Visitors:

Yoga 11th, 25th

Debbie's Dance
10th

Recycling Truck
15th

We've been exploring:

Plant life cycles, praying mantis life cycles, and even the frog life cycle. We have also been exploring the wetlands

Looking forward to:

Learning about different modes of transportation, watching our plants grow more, and waiting for our praying mantis egg to hatch.



Family Notes:

It's all about safety! Please keep our friends with allergies safe by keeping all peanut products at home. Keep all of our friends safe by helping your little ones wash their hands every morning at drop-off. The sun is also coming out more, so please bring your child sunscreen to keep their body safe!

Sapling Room

We are so happy to have our caterpillars! We have learned about caring for our pea plants, and look forward to watching them change and grow.

We also welcome Korra, our new assistant teacher, who will be here Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Some of you may know her as Peter; she has worked in many classrooms at the Treehouse both regularly and as a substitute. Korra and I look forward to broadening our children's methods as they prepare for kindergarten.

-Noelle and Korra

Visitors:

Yoga 11th, 25th

Debbie's Dance
10th

Recycling Truck
15th



We've been exploring:

Making plans and taking turns. Our Saplings use creative problem solving to make a safe and kind classroom community. Caring for our plants and bugs help us better understand the outcomes of our actions and choices

Making observations and predictions as our caterpillars grow and change with us, which we will continue to explore in May.

Looking forward to:

The theme for May at the Treehouse is transportation! We hope to have visits with the people who drive both fire and garbage trucks.

As always, we look forward to dance and yoga. We enjoy taking turns teaching ourselves these activities on days without visiting teachers. Saplings love the opportunity to share what they know and teach with others.

Family Notes

We have cleared out our Lost & Found. Please label all items your child brings to school!

We are practicing conflict resolution as well as nonviolence. Support our Saplings by reminding them that we never "shoot" at school.

Sequoia Room

We are moving forward with our exploration of machinery and construction. The kids have loved building with our big blocks and making structures from sticks in the wetlands, building train tracks and roads, and pulling friends and materials in our cars (wagons). We will look at the machinery involved in transporting materials and constructing large buildings, such as cranes, trucks, trains, while also looking through history at simple machines and how they have evolved over time.

There is also lots of themes carrying over from spring and the outdoors. We'll look further at growth and how the plants and weather change with the seasons, while beginning to explore sustainability and positive ways to care for the environment.

-Eli and Abby

Trips & Visitors:

Yoga 11th, 25th

Debbie's Dance 10th

Recycling Truck 15th

Note to Parents

In May we officially welcome Abby to the Sequoia classroom! She has lots of ideas and experience from her time working at the Hands On Children's Museum and in the Sprouts room here at Sequoia's Treehouse, and we look forward to what she will bring to the Sequoia room!

We will also be continuing our adventures on the bus, if your child is under 40 lbs please be sure to leave a carseat on adventure days. You can check in with Joe or Eli about dates, or see the calendar attached to the newsletter. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask!



We've been exploring:

The kids are having lots of fun digging and playing with natural materials. Activities have included making mud pies, building small villages in the dirt, planting seeds and incorporating natural materials into art projects.

We've also been taking a scientific look at some natural phenomena, such as what makes it rain, how volcanoes are made and work, and the different cycles of nature.

Looking forward to:

In our exploration of machinery and construction we will be making simple machines and understanding their functions. We'll also be looking at how machines have evolved and what methods have been used throughout history to transport materials and create buildings. There will also be a variety of science projects looking at load-bearing structures and the evolution of transportation.

As we continue to work on our garden beds we will also look further at sustainability. How do we care for the environment? Why do we recycle and compost? We will explore this through readings, discussion, and our compost observation station, comparing how different materials decompose.