Dear Families,

March is such an exciting time. It is a month filled with growth, blossoming, and new beginnings. I love this month because as the weather gets warmer, we get to spend more time outdoors and breathe some fresh air. I hope that this month you find some special time to spend outside with your little ones. Getting back to nature, especially in this tech-driven world, is so important. Children need the opportunity to move and explore in nature, and the weather this month will be perfect for that! Be sure to see the last page of this newsletter for some ideas about exploring in nature with your children.

Here at the CCD, we also enjoy being outside. It is more than just letting children get their energy out...there are so many benefits of being outside! Positive impacts include:

- Supports multiple development domains
- Supports creativity and problem solving
- Enhances cognitive abilities
- Improves academic performance
- Reduces Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) symptoms
- Increases physical activity
- Improves nutrition
- Improves eyesight
- Improves social relations improves self-discipline
- Reduces stress

(retrieved from: https://naturalearning.org/sites/default/files/Benefits%20of%20Connecting%20Children%20with%20Nature_INFOSheet.pdf)

With all of these wonderful benefits, I implore you to enjoy the beautiful weather and spend some time outside!

Best Wishes,
Stephanie Haney, Director

Happy Birthday

**Children**
- Nate B. 3/4
- Janae W. 3/4
- Violet D. 3/19
- Mary Catherine E. 3/28

**Staff**
- Mrs. Taraja 3/2
- Mrs. Sharla 3/25

Important Dates:

- CCD Closed for SECA Conference 3/10
- USM Spring Break 3/13-3/17
- Parent Advisory Board 3/21
From Mrs. Melissa’s class…

We have reached the end of February. It was a very fun and eventful month. The infants had the opportunity to meet with some community helpers from our town and we learned a lot about what they do for their community. The little ones also exchanged sweethearts gifts among their classmates. It was a very fun experience. Now that March has arrived we will start our first week off by honoring Dr. Seuss. When you have time take a look at all the creative Dr. Seuss door designs created by the teachers and assistants. This month as spring nears (March 20th) we will have lessons on things in the sky (rainbows, moon, stars, sun, clouds) outer space, and spring. I'm looking forward to a great month.

From Mrs. Sherrie’s class…

This month Ms. Sherrie’s class will be doing some exciting themes. Since we have a lot of rain during the spring, we are going to introduce rainbows. We are going to learn about baby animals and flowers that bloom during the spring. We are going to explore outer space. We have lots of fun activities planned for your little ones.

From Mrs. Sharla’s class…

In March we will be exploring Dr. Seuss, rainbows, outer space, and spring. Check out the lesson plans for exciting activities and parent involvement.

From Mrs. Myrna’s class…

February was a great month for our class. We enjoyed the different community helpers that came for a visit and our class along with other participants participated in helping those in need by giving supplies to the students from William Carey University. Our themes for the month of March will consist of Rainbows, Space and Spring. The Rainbow theme will be an introduction to colors for our class. We will explore each color in a rainbow (paint and food color) and wear the color chosen for each day of the week. Our Space theme we will be discussing the sun, moon and introducing the planets. We will also introduce some new words such as astronauts and space shuttle. Our Spring theme will be a discussion on the weather, plants, nature and animals. We will also spend some time outside getting our flower garden ready for planting.

From Mrs. Samantha’s class…

Happy March! For this month, I’m sure that we have the perfect themes and activities for the warm weather that we are sure to have. During the month of March, we will begin our learning themes by celebrating Dr. Seuss and having fun reading some of his most famous books. Following this week, we will have themes and learning activities that will focus on rainbows (colors and mixing colors), outer space (stars, moon, sun and planets), and spring (planting and flowers). This will be an awesome month!
From Mrs. Bridgitte’s class…

February was filled with so many wonderful activities such as, groundhogs shadows, friendship parties and a field trip to the post office where we mailed letters to our homes! It’s hard to believe, but we are looking for even more fun and adventures in the month of March. We will kick things off by celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday and reading many of his books. Later we will be learning all about the farm. During this week we will have a real baby goat, and a couple of real baby chicks spend the day with us at school!! We will then be looking forward out for the signs of spring! We will wrap up the month by learning all about creepy crawling bugs and insects. I am sure we will even have a few live ones in our classroom aquarium..... so look out!!!

From Mrs. Kimmy’s class…

February flew by it seems. March is upon us now. During the month of March, we will be covering the following topics: Farm, Flowers, Spring, and Creepy Crawlers. As always, we have a lot of fun activities planned for these topics. The weather will also be warming up. Soon we will change out our cubby clothes for short sleeves and shorts. Do remember that on Friday, March 10th, our center will be closed for staff development. On March 17th, we will wear green to school. We will send out and post a reminder closer to that date.

From Mrs. Zkela’s class…

This month, we will learn about the Farm, Spring, and Insects. The letters for the month are S, T, U, and V. Also, the children will listen to stories; explore; play games; create art; continue to learn how to work together; write; recognize numbers; shapes; and etc. We are going to have so much fun learning about these units.

From Mrs. Rachel’s class…

March is here! I am not sure how the weather will treat us throughout the month, but it sure has been beautiful lately! The first theme for the month is "Farm." This is one of my all time favorites! Next, we will be doing "Nursery Rhymes." We do not do enough nursery rhymes in the classroom and they are great for strengthening rhyming and pre-reading skills! Then, we will roll right along with our "Spring" theme. The 20th is the official first day of spring! Our classroom animals will finally be coming out of hibernation for our "wake up it’s spring!" party! Your children are SO excited! Lastly, we will do "Insects." Creepy crawlies are always fun to explore! Please remember to be aware of the temperature changes throughout the day so you can send your child the correct clothing to stay warm or cool. This weather is crazy and changes at the drop of a dime!!! Thank you!
Thank you!
We have had almost all children arrive before 9 this month. Thank you for helping us keep the classrooms running efficiently and making the most out of every opportunity by getting them to school on time!

Nature Activities

The mission of the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Child Development is to engage parents, teachers, and university students in developing healthy, motivated, and autonomous children in exemplary child centered and developmentally effective educational programs that promote evidence-based practice and a joyful, lifelong love of learning.

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