



Busy Bees – April 2018



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

Welcome Spring! We look forward to watching for signs of spring and exploring the changes that take place during this glorious season. This month, our themes are Signs of Spring, Music, and Safety. During our safety unit we will have a visit from the East Longmeadow Police and Fire Departments. We will have caterpillars delivered after vacation and look forward to watching them grow and go through their life cycle right in our own classroom!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDER:

Scholastic book orders are due on April 10th. Please order online www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. (our code is HBMN4).

APRIL THEME:

Signs of Spring

Music

Safety

(we are also doing some crafts throughout the month to get ready for the end of the year picnic/art display)

RECIPE: Peanut Butter Banana Delight (Or Sunbutter)

Ingredients for one serving:

- Sliced banana,
- 3 tablespoons whipped topping
- 2 teaspoons peanut butter
- Crushed graham crackers

Directions:

- Stir together whipped topping and peanut butter.
- Put a graham cracker in a ziploc bag for children to crush
- Layer the graham cracker in the bottom of a punch cup.
- Add peanut butter whipped cream and sliced bananas.
- Optional: Drizzle chocolate syrup on top.
- Use sun butter for children with peanut allergies.

A VISIT FROM ARBORTECH TREE SERVICE TO CELEBRATE (a belated) ARBOR DAY: April 30th and May 1st

Arbor Day has been celebrated in the United States for almost 150 years, dating back to its humble beginnings in 1870. Historically, Arbor Day was focused on public tree planting but it has evolved into a celebration of All Things Trees. This movement is supported by organizations such as the Arbor Day Foundation, TreesAreGood.com and the Massachusetts Arborist Association. Professional tree services typically offer their services to the community, through a nationwide program known as an "Arbor Day of Service". ArborTech

has donated tree work in the past at Heritage Park, Town Hall, as well as a planting near Longmeadow high school.

Arbor Tech will visit both classes with a brief presentation on Arbor Day and will hand out small tree seedlings for the children to take home and plant (with instructions of course!) Thank you ArborTech, we are looking forward to your visit!

SAVE THE DATE:

Our year-end family picnic is Thursday, June 7th (TTH class) and Friday, June 8th (MWF Class). It will be at 9:30 AM at Pine Knoll Park, located at Allen Street in East Longmeadow. **This will be rain or shine!** More information about this great event will be in the May/June newsletter.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- **If your child is returning to our program** for the 2018-2019 school year beginning this fall, your tuition deposit is due on April 15th.
- **If you have a child coming to Busy Bees for the first time** beginning this fall, your tuition deposit is due April 15th. You will receive a Busy Bees Spring / Summer Newsletter, Parent Handbook, and EEC forms before school ends. In order for your child to begin our program, we need to have these completed forms in hand at the beginning of August.

A MESSAGE ABOUT SECOND STEP FOR OUR MWF CLASS

Jeanie Hooper has been working with our MWF class this year most Wednesday's on a program called Second Step. This program helps develop children's self-regulation skills and social-emotional competence. Here is a message from her on what she has been teaching them.

“Recently, our Second Step lessons have extended beyond recognizing and empathizing with feelings in others to managing strong feelings within ourselves. Using modeling with puppets, Gus and Ava, the children have learned several ways to calm down when feeling angry or frustrated. These include naming the feeling, putting your hand on your tummy and taking deep breaths (you'll feel your tummy grow bigger and smaller). We've discussed how some people can further calm down by doing something active, like running or playing ball, while others prefer to do something quiet, like looking at books. Once calm, you are able to focus more clearly on solving the problem that caused the negative feelings.

Lessons between now and the end of our school year will focus on problem solving skills and fair ways to play. In problem solving we learn to name the problem and think of solutions. When playing fairly we can trade, take turns or play together with a toy. These are the skills needed for making and keeping friends.”

A LITTLE SUMMER BEES INFORMATION:

The Busy Bees summer program will be running for three, one-week sessions in June. The registration forms are out and session 1 and 2 are full. If you would like to enroll your child in session 3, please return the paperwork ASAP so we can get our plans under way! This program is open to anyone 2.9 years to age 5. They do not need to be enrolled at Busy Bees Pre-School to attend. We have plenty of room in session 3, so feel free to spread the word!

Sincerely,

Marna Shields