

# Appletree School Wednesday Letter – April 13, 2011



HAPPY EASTER



Dear Parents,

I would like to thank Pastor Campbell for taking his morning last Friday and sharing it with us as he told us the Easter Story. Once again he did beautifully with the children and the children did beautifully with him! I was setting up in the Multi-purpose room when a couple of the first graders walked into the room and were so excited that they actually burst into smiles and said “Yea, Pastor Campbell’s coming today!” I also was incredibly proud of the preschoolers’ behavior both during the story and during questions. Not one question about the Easter Bunny! One of the children even brought up a detail that Pastor Campbell had left out (the two thieves on either side of Jesus) which he wanted to make sure Pastor Campbell knew. When Pastor Campbell was leaving he was truly amazed at how well the 3s and 4s listened and were able to control themselves as well as how much the Academy students were truly engaged with every part of the story and discussion afterwards. You all should be proud of your children!

News for this week and next week because there will not be a Wednesday Letter next Wednesday:

\*The Easter Egg Hunt is this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>! All classes will walk to the Klaassen’s backyard throughout the morning to search for eggs and treats!

\*The next PTO meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm. Discussions will center on Field Day (wahoo), Dinner Nights Out (if you were able to join us last night we’re glad you came!), Budget, and the much anticipated faces of the Executive Board for the 2011-2012 School Year! Mrs. Teixeira has a great End of the Year Event in the making and if you can spend part of your day at Appletree on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> she’d be happy to have you as a volunteer for Field Day. Also, although it is hard to believe, this Executive Board is almost done with the events of 2010-2011! Perhaps you might be interested in volunteering in one of the board’s positions? Think about it and see one of them for better details of what’s involved!

\*Don’t forget to sign up for Spring Break Care Days by Thursday. Cost goes from \$50.00 per day to \$60.00 per day on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Let me know if you have any questions.

\*Please turn in the Honey Baked Hams order forms by Thursday at 10:00am if you are ordering. Delivery is next Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. Everything will be packed with an ice pack and will be fine through 6pm.

\*The 3 year olds will have a field trip on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to Wolf Trap Educational Center before you receive the next Wednesday Letter. Please read your child’s teacher’s portion to get all the details.

\*For those of you who haven’t heard yet, Mrs. Emeigh had her baby, Alexander, on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:02pm. Everyone is doing great! His picture is on the library door. Stop by and smile!

Enjoy your day and have a very Happy Easter,  
katie

## From the Teacher's Corner

### News from Mrs. Diana's and Miss Jessica's Cottontails

Well our Easter party is this Friday and the children are very excited about the arrival of the Easter Bunny on Thursday night and the egg hunt on Friday. On Monday and Tuesday all of the Cottontails decorated their Easter baskets that they will use on the hunt. You will find that all of the goodies will be left in the basket for you to check in case your child has allergies and then to dispense as you see fit. If your child is not coming to Appletree next week for spring break, we hope you have an enjoyable week. We will continue on some crafts that are planned but we will not be introducing any new letters, colors or numbers. When the children return on April 25<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting Wally Walrus and then the following week will be a review week of letters U, V and W. Please remember that Appletree is closed on Good Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Last Friday we had our visit from Pastor Campbell so he could explain the real reason we celebrate Easter. Before beginning the story of Jesus' death, Pastor Campbell always relates a true story to the children that correlates to the self-sacrifice that Jesus made for us. You could have heard a pin drop as he spoke and each and every child behaved perfectly. Even more impressive was when Pastor Campbell said he would answer questions about Jesus (since he doesn't know too much about the Easter bunny), every child either asked a question or made a statement about Jesus' death. Not one child said anything about the Easter bunny, which was amazing. You all should be very proud of your children – we definitely were!

This week we met our new friend Vicky Vulture. The words to plug into the song (if anybody is still singing it) are violin and vegetables, valentine and violets. The “v” tracing papers were/are available on Mon., Wed. and Fri. and on Tues., Thurs. and Friday the children could glue a “v” onto a small rectangle paper and then draw a flower coming out of the “v”ase. We are working on some art projects to get ready for our next theme, Mother Earth, which we will begin next week, the children are still playing with farm animals, they are sequencing farm animals in several different ways and we will be observing (hopefully today) the sprouting of a lima bean which has been kept wet inside of a small bag for a couple of days. Each child will be bringing home their bag with the lima bean inside, so you may see what the children witnessed in the classroom (gently pull back the outside shell of the lima bean to see the sprout).

Since there will not be a Wed. letter next week, we would like to remind everyone about the field trip on Wed., April 27<sup>th</sup>. Every child needs to be at school **no later than 8:45**, so we may get them all to the bathroom and collect lunches before getting on the bus at 9:30. All of the Cottontails need to wear their gray Appletree shirt, comfortable shoes for walking and to bring a disposable lunch. There will not be any show and tell next week because it is a care only week, but the week everyone returns (April 25<sup>th</sup>) please have your child bring in something that can be recycled. We also need to ask that all of the children bring in a picture of their Mom for a bulletin board we will be working on. Please bring in the pictures before April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like, we can make a color copy of the picture you send in and return the original to you. Have a wonderful Easter and if you are not at Appletree next week, a great week!

### News from Miss Kelsey's Honey Bunnies

Happy Wednesday, everyone! This week we are learning about letter “V” with Vicky Vulture. On Monday we cut out and decorated vases with our own “V’s” that are now hanging on our letter bulletin board and we have been completing two letter “V” tracing papers. A letter “V” stamp is also available to stamp onto paper cut outs of the letter. The words to enter into the song are *violin* and *vegetables*, *valentine* and *violets*. Our number for this week remains 10 and we have been sorting and counting objects into groups of 10 as well as matching tops and bottoms of plastic Easter eggs numbered 1-10. The children each pick an egg “top” labeled with a numeral and have to find the matching “bottom” with the matching number of dots. Worksheets are also available for the number 10 including “How Many is 10?” and the “Number 10 Train”. To review shapes this week, the Honey Bunnies can trace some hand drawn shape with different pastel colored fingerpaint. I have also introduced the

concept of *same* vs. *different* using a worksheet asking the children to identify an umbrella that is different from the others.

As I mentioned last week, due to when Easter and Earth Day fall this year, as well as our field trip to the farm, I have decided to combine some of the upcoming themes. For the month of April and the beginning of May you will be seeing crafts, activities, and group discussions based on the themes **Incredible Eggs, Mother Earth, and Life on the Farm**. Our values will be **courage** and **tolerance**. Today and tomorrow we will be decorating our Easter baskets to prepare for our egg hunt on Friday. Although spring has officially arrived the weather can still be cold, especially in the morning! Please continue to send your children to school with jackets and dress them in layers for the next few weeks. As the weather warms up throughout the day it is much easier to take off layers and leave unneeded items in cubbies. I appreciate your cooperation with this ☺

Please read the section below for some important dates for your calendars!

Some important reminders...

- Show and Tell for next week (**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**): please have your child bring in **something that starts with letter "W."** Don't forget to have them practice what they are going to tell the class during Show and Tell!
- Our class **Easter party/Egg hunt** is **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please check the signup sheet outside of the classroom to see if it is your turn to bring a party treat. Children **do not** need to bring their own basket/bag for the egg hunt. I will be providing each student with a basket that we will decorate this week. Please let me know if you would like to celebrate with us!
- **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** will be **Care Only Days**. Please let the front office know if you will need care for your child next week. Appletree will be **CLOSED Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** for Good Friday.
- The bunny classes will be going on a field trip to Wolftrap on **Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please have your child at school **no later than 8:45 AM**. All children need to wear their **gray Appletree t-shirt** and bring a **disposable lunch and drink**. Please avoid packing anything with peanuts due to allergies. See me with any questions!

### News from Miss Jennifer's Jack Rabbits

Happy Wednesday!!

They did it!! They had their ABC party!!! We had a great time singing, dancing, eating popsicles, and winning jelly beans for alphabet bingo! During circle time, they all picked two letters at random to teach the class. So, now with one party finished this week... we are on to the Easter Party on Friday!!! In between the two parties, we are learning about pastel colors, eggs, chicks, the meaning of Easter, and continuing to observe all of the happenings of spring! For chicks and eggs, we are learning that sometimes eggs have baby chicks inside and sometimes they don't and we can eat them. When there is no chick inside, there are two parts to the egg, the yolk and the whites. We are playing in the kitchen and pretending to serve lots of different kinds of eggs: scrambled, sunny side up, over easy, poached, and hard-boiled. Yum!! When there is a chick inside the egg, we are learning how the chick grows inside the egg and then when it's ready, it will peck its way out and hatch. We made beautiful eggs drawing a crack with one half in one color and one half in another. This was a great exercise in following directions! We will also make our own hatching chicks and eggs as well as decorating our bags for our Easter Egg Hunt on Friday. In addition to our Easter Egg Hunt, we will also have a visit from the Easter Bunny! What a fun day!! Please check out the sign-up sheet outside the classroom to see whether or not you need to bring something for the party.

**\*\*Field Trip:** We will have a field trip the week after Spring Break. On Wednesday April 27th, we will have a field trip to Wolf Trap. Please make sure to bring you child to school **no later than 8:45** with their gray Appletree tee-shirt and a disposable lunch and drink.\*\*

Reminders:

Show and Share Thursday: Anything Pastel.

Easter Party: THIS Friday, April 15th. Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bunny visit!

Spring Break April 18-21: Please sign up by Friday with the front office if your child is planning on coming to school during Spring Break.

**No School April 22nd for Good Friday.**

Field Trip: Wednesday, April 27th.

Have a great week and a very Happy Easter!!!

### **News from Mrs. Momm's Bluebirds - From the Reading Readiness Department**

Last Friday the Birds had wonderful manners when Pastor Campbell came to Appletree School to tell the Easter Story to the children. Next week is Appletree's Spring Break, so this week is really special preparing for Easter. We are having fun with our theme, Incredible Eggs. This Friday the Bluebirds can hardly wait for the special Easter Egg Hunt and our class party. Miss Alise will be at Appletree during Spring Break and I'm looking forward to being with the Birds on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget we are closed on Good Friday. If you are away, I wish you a very Happy Easter!

This week we started our new letter which is "F,f" and we will complete it after spring break. Our special project will be Friendly Frog. We will enjoy listening to a folk tale entitled "Fox and the Hen". Activities will include: 1. Follow the footprints, 2. Finger Fish, and 3. Fish Pond. Enjoy our nice weather!

### **News from Miss Becca's Hummingbirds - From the Values Department**

#### **To Values Class Parents:**

Our lessons on forgiveness, disappointment, and listening/attending skills are going well. Majority of the birds have learned what it means *to LET GO and LOVE* – almost all can show me the hands motions, most are able to explain this idea of forgiveness to me and some are even able to express forgiveness to someone else without prompting from a teacher. I am just as pleased with the quickness with which the children are picking up the new emotions this spring. They are learning emotion recognition, imitation, and coping skills with a much greater ease than in fall. Attention skills have also been increasing. We did one version of a "Listen and Remember" worksheet last week and another version again this week. I was pleased to see improvement in most children over the course of just one week. This review of focusing skills seems to have been worth it! Next week is care only and we will not be having Values class. I hope you all have a wonderful break and enjoy your Easter!

**Reminder:** Our next show and tell is the last week of April, on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a craft your child made using something that would otherwise be put in the trash or recycling. Several ideas exist online if you google 'preschool' and 'recycled art.'

#### **To Hummingbird Parents:**

The **Easter Party** is this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. between 10:00am -11:45pm. However, we have Health class at **9:30am** - please, try to drop your children off by then. The sign-up sheet for the Easter party snack is outside the door to the Hummingbird classroom for the few parents who have not yet signed up. Thanks in advance for all your help making this party a success!

### **News from Miss Kristen's Orange Birds - From the Math & Technology Department**

I hope everyone enjoyed the warm weather on Monday. I know the students sure did!

This week in Math and Technology the students were introduced to simple addition. They used counting caps to add the two numbers together. The students also were able to use the computers this week. They went to Stationary Studio to practice typing their names and the letters F, K, and C. We will end the week with reviewing numbers with counting mats and patterns with the pattern match ups.

Next week is a care-only week. During that week the students will discuss Earth Day and be able to play an Earth Day game on the computer.

Orange Bird Parents: The Easter party is this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The following students are signed up to bring in a yummy treat: Jordan, Sydney, and Seinosuke. Thank you parents in advance for these treats!

Have a great week!

### **News from Mrs. Chantal's Redbirds - From the Science & Social Studies Department**

The children are anxiously looking forward to the Easter egg hunt and party this Friday.

This week, in Science we will begin a unit on seeds. The children will learn that a seed is a tiny capsule with a baby plant inside it and that most fruits, vegetables, and flowers being as seeds. We will be looking at various fruit and vegetable seeds so that the children can learn to differentiate among them. We will soak lima bean seeds and the next day, break the seed open to find out what is inside it. Discussions will be held on how a seed needs water in order to begin to grow and become a plant.

### **News from Miss Rachel's Yellowbirds - From the Art Department**

The next few weeks in art we will be working on making an ocean art exhibit. Each student will make several individual projects and will be working on collaborative group projects as well. Some examples are rays, starfish, hermit crabs and seahorses. We will enjoy stories and learn facts based on these animals. We will also discuss the importance of conservation and taking care of our oceans.

Speaking of conservation, Earth Day is right around the corner. I wanted to tie this into our ocean projects, and am trying to use many recycled items. If you have any items such as paper towel rolls, cans, oatmeal canisters, baby food jars, corks, egg cartons, Xerox paper box lids, corrugated cardboard (any surface that has texture) and 2 liter plastic bottles, please bring them in. If there is anything else you think we could use please bring in to the art room. Thank you!

### **News from Miss Leahey's Kindergarten**

It's party week again! We will have the Easter celebrations this Friday afternoon, with our class party and Easter egg hunt too. Yesterday we began to make very cute Easter bags in anticipation of finding treats galore! Thanks to you in advance if you have signed up to bring supplies, and thanks to Kara Vacaflor for organizing the activity that will follow! It will be a fun afternoon and a nice end to our week before Spring Break begins! Don't forget that Appletree is open Monday through Thursday next week for care only, meaning that I will not be here and there will be no academics taught. If you do plan on attending, your child will need to bring their own lunch each day. The following week we will be back in school as normal and we will be reviewing before testing week, May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. Please try not to schedule any appointments during testing week!! We will test in the mornings and then have fun activities in the afternoons! I will put all the details in the Wednesday letter

after Spring Break. One other reminder, please return your child's report card to me in its envelope if you haven't already, thanks!

In class we are doing lots of addition practice using coin values and also counting in twos. In phonics we are reviewing the special sounds that we have already learned and we will look at words that contain the sound "ou" as in "out". With testing week approaching our new sight words are "what"/"why", along with "some"/"come" from last week. I will send homework home tomorrow due to Friday being a party day, and all children will benefit from hearing addition/ subtraction questions that they have to work out in their head, and ask them to tell the time to the half and quarter hour. Most of the tests require the children to listen to me read the questions aloud, so listening practice will be very helpful ☺.

As I will not be here next week I would like to wish you a very Happy Easter and enjoy any break that you may have! Safe travels and I will see you back at school on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>!

### **News from Mrs. Knox's First Grade**

Everyone is excited and talking about where they are going for SPRING BREAK!

Hopefully we can accomplish all of our goals for the week! Happy Easter and I hope you enjoy your time free of homework and studies!

This week is an especially busy one since we will be on break next week. The children are doing some amazing Easter drawings which will be hung in the entrance to our class when they are completed. We also need to make our baskets or carry all for the Egg-citing Easter Egg Hunt on Friday! Last Friday Pastor Campbell spoke to our group about the Easter Story. The Pastor is always amazed by how much our young students know. The children listened so intently to his presentation.

Party plans for Friday are under way. We could still use some help so please check the party list hanging outside the class. Thank you!

*Happy Easter!*

