



Newsletter  
2021





# April News

Dear Parents:

April looks to be a fun and busy month at Sandcastle! We have many exciting activities planned for our children and our families!

April 12<sup>th</sup> - April 16<sup>th</sup> is The Week of the Young Child and Sandcastle Spirit Week is April 26<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flyers in this newsletter detailing all the fun things that we have planned.

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 60,000 members and a network of over 51 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child™ in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families. Never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

The Week of the Young Child® is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at childcare, at school, and in the community—that will promote their early learning.

**SAVE THE DATE.** Sandcastle's (first ever) Heat and Serve Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser is Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 -6. This is a great way to support our program. Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for details. We hope you all can attend!

In honor of your children, we've included the lyrics to the song "Find Your Wings" on the following page. We hope that you enjoy it.

Jennifer, Lisa, Wendy, and Rachael



## “Find Your Wings”

By Mark Harris and Tony Wood

It's only for a moment you are mine to hold.  
The plans that heaven has for you will all too soon unfold.  
So many different prayers I'll pray for all that you might do,  
But most of all I'll want to know you're walking in the truth.

And if I've never told you,  
I want you to know...

I pray that God will fill your heart with dreams;  
And that faith gives you the courage to dare to do great things.  
I'm here for you whatever this life brings,  
So let my love give you roots...  
And help you find your wings.

May passion be the wind that leads you through your days;  
And may conviction keep you strong,  
Guide you on your way.  
May there be many moments that make your life so sweet;  
But more that memories...

I pray that God will fill your heart with dreams;  
And that faith gives you the courage to dare to do great things.  
I'm here for you whatever this life brings,  
So let my love give you roots...  
And help you find your wings.

It's not living if you don't reach for the sky.  
I'll have tears as you take off,  
But I'll cheer as you fly.

I pray that God will fill your heart with dreams;  
And that faith gives you the courage to dare to do great things.  
I'm here for you whatever this life brings,  
So let my love give you roots...  
And help you find your wings.



## A Message from Father Adams:

Hello Sandcastle staff, students, and families.

There was a saying in Venezuela during my time there: "to plan is to ruin something". I don't think they totally meant what they said but they did have a sense that spontaneity and just living in the moment was the best way to go. However, I always would ask them, while in their homes, when I saw stacks of beer cases for the upcoming birthday party on the weekend: "You had a plan to buy that beer, correct?"

All of us make choices about what is important and what is not. The best plan and choice is to praise God who chose to forgive us and send his only Son to save us. Every Sunday is a mini-Easter. In the heart of Jesus, we find the answers to all of our problems. Our Holy Father said: "It is in looking at Christ and following Him with patient trust that we are able to understand how every human form of pain has within it the divine promise of salvation and joy."

I was so impressed by the children at Sandcastle as we looked at Jesus greatest gift of himself on the cross for all of us. I read to them the Easter story and their wonderful hearts were so open to look at Jesus. How about you? How about me? We need to be so careful not just of the 'Rona', but the spiritual sickness of sin that distracts us from keeping our eyes on the prize of everlasting life.

May you all have a most blessed Easter season (of 50 days!). Let's keep that heart of a child, ready to learn and follow our Lord and love as he loves. Let's make the best plans for Spring and Summer by putting God first.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Adams



# Happy Birthday

Camille Lundeen - 04/15/2020  
Bernard Rasmussen - 04/17/2020  
Lily Buzicky - 04/04/2019  
Raziyah Robinson - 04/09/2019  
Bentley Hallman - 04/18/2019  
Liam Hutchinson - 04/19/2019  
Hazel Glowacki - 04/26/2019  
Mia Josephson - 04/08/2018  
Wendell Webster - 04/02/2017  
Archer Slettedahl - 04/07/2017  
Fallon Morris - 04/08/2017  
Elliot Gil - 04/15/2017  
Travon Nixon Jr. - 04/19/2017  
Kovelynd Jackson - 04/23/2017  
Rawley Rasmussen - 04/04/2016  
Camille Erickson - 04/26/2016

# Happy Anniversary

Brianna Rivet - 04/13/2015  
Giovanna de Roberto - 04/29/2015



# Week of the Young Child

April 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Each year NAEYC Accredited Child Care Centers host a week devoted to celebrating the youngest members of our community!

Monday (12<sup>th</sup>): **Music Monday!** Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills – all while having fun and being active! To celebrate “Music Monday”, each classroom will have a dance party in their room using musical instruments that were made by the children and a new Ella Jenkins CD that they were given.

Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>): **Tasty (Taco) Tuesday** Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. With the rise in childhood obesity, it’s important to encourage healthy nutrition at home and in the classroom. Sandcastle will serve tacos for lunch! We will also be creating a Sandcastle Family recipe book with your favorite taco or salsa recipes!

Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup>): **Work Together Wednesday:** When children build together, they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. The children in each classroom will work together to design a boxcar that will be displayed in the preschool hallway.

Thursday (15<sup>th</sup>): **Artsy Thursday:** Children develop creativity, social skills, and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. The children in each classroom will use a variety of materials to create their own, special collages.

Friday (16<sup>th</sup>): **Family Friday:** Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. We applaud family members’ role as young children’s first and most important teachers. We will be sending home a ‘blank’ book with each child and we would like you, as a family, to create a family book and return to Sandcastle for your child to share with his / her class.

# “Sandcastle Spirit Week”

April 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The following special days will be celebrated center-wide:

Monday (26<sup>th</sup>): **Crazy Hair / Hat Day**

Tuesday (27<sup>th</sup>): **Crazy Outfit Day**

Wednesday (28<sup>th</sup>): **Jersey Day**

Thursday (29<sup>th</sup>): **Superhero Day**

Friday (30<sup>th</sup>): **Pajama Day**

## Did You Know:

How long common items take to “break down” in the environment:

*(Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>)*

Glass bottle: 1 million years  
Plastic beverage bottles: 450 years  
Aluminum can: 100-200 years  
Styrofoam cup: 50 years  
Leather: 50 years  
Plastic bag: 500 - 1000 years  
Waxed milk carton: 3 months  
Newspaper: 6 weeks  
Plastic coated paper milk cartons: 5 years  
Ink cartridges: 450-1000 years

Fishing line: 600 years  
Disposable diapers: 500-800 years  
Leather shoes: 25-40 years  
Tin can: 50-100 years  
Nylon Fabric: 30-40 years  
Straws: 200 years  
Plywood: 1-3 years  
Paper towel: 2-4 weeks  
Rubber boot soles: 50-80 years  
Aluminum Foil: never



**Sandcastle**

Child Care

# **Heat and Serve Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**

**One Day Drive Through Event**

**Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 – 6:00**

**749 Juno Ave, St Paul**

**(main parking lot)**

**\$15.00 per Meal**

**Cash or Check (made payable to Sandcastle) Only**

**Includes:**

**1 quart of awesome homemade sauce**

**16 oz box of uncooked noodles**

**1 loaf of bread**

**6 cookies**

**(Serves Approximately 4)**

**Preorders Recommended:**

**Call Lisa @ 293-3945 by April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Pay at Pick-up**

**Drive-up Available While Supplies Last**

# "Infant Information"

Dolphins: (Ms. Danette and Ms. Jackie)



During a recent visit from our health nurse, information was shared about teething. She said it is possible that children will run low-grade fevers, but if they have a temp over 100 degrees, it is probably more than teething.

The symptoms of teething aren't the same for every baby, but they may include:

- swollen, tender gums
- fussiness and crying
- gnawing or wanting to chew on hard things
- excessive drooling
- rubbing their cheek or pulling their ear
- bring their hands to their mouth
- changes in eating or sleep patterns

These are some tried and true and, most importantly, safe ways to provide some relief for your little one:

- use plastic or rubber toys that are chilled – never frozen solid
- hold a cold washcloth, spoon, or chilled teething ring on your baby's gums
- gently massage your baby's gums with a clean finger, knuckle, or moistened gauze pad
- serve cold foods such as applesauce and refrigerated or frozen fruit (for babies who eat solid foods)

Avoid using homeopathic teething tablets and medicated topical gels. The Food and Drug Administration has issued warnings against using both of these products. Also avoid teething necklaces or bracelets. These can quickly turn into choking hazards.

Seahorses: (Ms. Jody, Ms. Molly, Ms. Angie, and Ms. Sonya)



Is it spring yet? April is a busy month for us at Sandcastle. Keep checking out our dry erase board for any updates. We can't wait to get the kids out more on stroller rides and to play in the courtyard. Please bring in a sweatshirt or jacket and socks to have in the baskets incase it is a little chilly.

We are excited to start reading books about spring and spring colors to the kids. We are also going to be having the kids use their fingers to paint with spring colors! (Can you tell that we're excited about the changing season 😊)

Game of the Month- "Play with real things"

Provide various (safe) things for me to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell. I learn a lot when I get to use all of my senses. Learning happens when playing with real things and interacting with people. Television and DVD's do not provide the best way for my brain to learn.

Clownfish: (Ms. Katie, Ms. Emily, and Ms. Taylor)

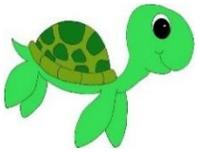
Happy spring! We are so excited to have 3 new friends join our class from Infant 2 this month. They will begin to have a more structured schedule in our room – how exciting! We are sad to see 4 of our friends move up to toddlers; we will miss them so, but are we know they are ready and that they will do great!



Our theme for March was 'Spring Fling'. We focused a lot on nature through art projects, music, and just being outside or on walks. Our theme for April will be 'Splish, Splash, Rain'. Our focus will be on weather, nature, and the outdoors. We can't wait to see what this month holds!

Activities to do at home with your child:

- Go on a walk. (You can even make it a litter walk!)
- Explore playing in water / puddles.
- Do some nature-based arts and craft activities.



## "Totally Toddlers"

Sea Turtles: (Ms. Debbie, Ms. Dayna, and Ms. Melissa)

Well, March came in like a lion and is going out like a lamb! We had a lot of fun last month wearing all the colors of the rainbow and doing different art projects using the different colors.

In the month of April, we will be having Spirit Week, celebrating Week of the Young Child, and having our Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner!

Our theme for the month is 'April Showers"! We will learn about the rain and how it helps grow our plants and food!

Activities you can do with your child:

- Go on a litter walk. Talk with your child about keeping our earth beautiful!
- Visit Como Conservatory.
- Plant a flower garden.

Sea Lions: (Ms. Mia, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Janna)

Last month our theme was "Feelin' Lucky". We enjoyed making a friendship 'quilt', tasting cinnamon rolls, and trying pickles!



For April, we will be exploring the outdoors with our "Spring has Sprung" theme. We will be making handprint suns, doing cloud science, and taking a litter walk for Earth Day!

Things you can do at home:

- Find and pick up litter in your neighborhood.
- Plant flowers
- Go on a spring nature walk and talk about what you see in spring.

Reminder: We would love to see you all participate for Spirit Week, so please check your calendars so we can take CUTE pictures of your toddler to send home with you!

Sea Crabs: (Ms. Laura, Ms. Myesha, and Ms. Janai)



Spring is finally here and we have a month of fun planned. We can't wait to spend some time outside! Last month we learned all about the farmer's market. We made eggplants, dressed like farmers, and brought in our favorite veggies to share. We learned all about different types of vegetables and fruit! This month we will be learning all about our community helpers. We will also be celebrating Week of the Young Child and Spirit Week. We will be going on a litter walk, learning about the dentist office, and making mini personal pizzas for Kids in the Kitchen. Our color of the month is orange and our shape is rectangle.

3 Things to do at Home:

- Visit your local fire station.
- Order food from a local restaurant.
- Help your child practice brushing his / her teeth for 2 minutes, 2 times per day.

# "Preschool Players"

Whales: (Ms. Patti, Ms. Sreymao, and Ms. Lulu)



The whale class is going to transition from a flower shop to "Gardening" for the month of April. In dramatic play, the class will be able to experiment with the process of planting and growing flowers and veggies. The class will also continue to grow the flowers we planted in March. After the flowers have grown some, your child will be able to take it home! The whales are also going to be starting to have bike days again this month. Please bring a bike / scooter / etc. and a helmet! We will be very busy this month with Spirit Week and Week of the Young Child. Be on the lookout for fun events!

At Home:

- When your child brings home the flower they planted in class, continue to grow it at home. This is a fun way to talk about the life cycle of a plant.
- As a family, go on a garden walk and look at all the new plants being planted into fresh, spring gardens.
- We will be reading many books about gardening, so extending this reading at home is a perfect way to bring our classroom's theme to your home.

Penguins: (Ms. Allison, Ms. Tiffany, and Ms. Sarah)



This month our focus is going to be sports! We are going to explore different types of sports and the equipment used. Sports use a lot of different skills from fine and gross motor to math and practicing good sportsmanship. It will be a fun time to learn new games and ideas while supporting our friends!

Some of the things you can practice at home include playing a game of catch or having a family game night. That can help teach your child how to take turns as well as being patient and getting excited about other's accomplishments. It could also be a nice time to discuss your child's favorite sport and compare to how it can be played professionally.

Jellyfish: (Ms. Val, Ms. Brandye, and Ms. Jocelyn)



March was so much fun! We believe it was a huge success. The kids learned many different ways to stay healthy – from exercising, choosing healthy meals and hand washing. They learned, firsthand, in dramatic play how to be doctors and patients. We also had a blast celebrating St. Patrick's Day! We even had a visit from a leprechaun!

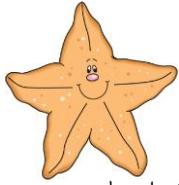
In April, we will transform the Jellyfish room into a construction site. The theme will be called "Build it Big". Our class will get to learn all about working together! We will go on walks to explore different buildings, read books, and build with different materials and tools!

At home:

- Search for construction sites in your neighborhood.
- Talk about tools you have around your house and what they are used for.
- Build with blocks, cans, or Legos, as a family.

## Preschool Players" (page 2)

Sea Stars: (Ms. Giovanna, Ms. Brianna, and Mr. Jonathen)



During the month of March, the Sea Stars had tons of fun learning how to be healthy and take care of our bodies. They loved pretending to be doctors in the dramatic play area, giving baby dolls and each other checkups. We also had a blast on St. Patrick's Day! We sprinkled Leprechaun wishes on the floor in front of our classroom door and put green paint on a piece of paper and place it on the floor inside the door. We hoped we would catch a Leprechaun! We went outside to play and when we came back there were green footprints on the paper, tiny cauldrons on the table, green and gold coins hidden all over our room and a note from Lucky the Leprechaun! The note said we couldn't trap him, but that he left a cauldron for each Sea Star and hid his gold all around the room. Each Sea Star could keep 9 coins. We also enjoyed yummy donuts for Lincoln's birthday, read St. Patty's day books, and painted a rainbow with a pot of gold at the end. It was a day full of magic and fun.

Our theme for the month of April is "Discovery Street", in which we will be learning about community helpers, what their jobs are, what equipment they use, and how they help us.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Easter...maybe the Easter Bunny will visit us 😊

To extend this theme at home:

- Take your child for a tour of a fire station or police station, or visit your doctor, and ask the community helpers about what they do.
- Talk to your child about what you do for your job and ask him / her what they might want to be when they grow up.

Stingrays: (Ms. Molly, and Mr. Brian)



Hello Stingray parents. This past month we really worked on our calendar and on writing our names. Because the weather has been so nice, we also tried to get outside as much as possible. Our plan is to go on more adventure walks, play on the playground, and ride bikes.

We have seen a lot of excitement and growth in the Stingrays over the last couple of months. We love seeing the kids get excited about our activities each day.

We have been doing a lot of independent activities to let each child express him / herself through the activity. We can't wait to continue this in April and the coming months. Thank you so much for trusting us to help your children grow and learn.

## Pre-K Performers"

Puffer Fish: (Ms. Margaret, Ms. Tracy, and Mr. Tim)



March was all about the people in our community. We learned that it's the everyday heroes that keep our communities a safe and happy place to be. We even got to pretend to be on those heroes in our dramatic play area! The start of spring also meant more outside time! It's a lot easier to run around without all our snow gear on. At the end of the month we planted jelly beans. We are excited to see what happens when we come back after Easter!

The theme for the month of April is "Down on the Farm". We rely on farmers for so many things and we are going to learn how important they are. You can start the conversation at home! It's a great opportunity to let your child help in the garden or talk about where their food comes from.

## "Pre-K Performers" (page 2)

Manatees: (Ms. Sara and Ms. Jenna)



It's April! First of all, thank you to those of you who participated in donating items for our silent auction. It was a huge success!

### THE NITTY-GRITTY STUFF:

- We'd like to remind you to check the monthly calendar for special days and activities. Thank you to all of you who do this each day.
- Please make sure you have extra, weather-appropriate clothing in your child's basket, labeled with your child's name.
- Please make sure you are washing your child's hands before coming into the classroom

### NOW, THE GOOD STUFF:

Wow, March went by fast and we sure had a blast! We learned about our solar system, rocket ships, and even created planets of our own. We dressed up like astronauts and pretended to travel to outer space; we fought aliens, avoided meteor showers, and landed on the moon.

Our theme for April, is 'Spring Fling'. When you think all about spring, the things that come to your mind are sunshine mixed with rain, perfect picnic days, thawing snow, and trips back to the park. When thinking all about spring it is not hard to imagine butterflies and ladybugs, trees growing back their leaves, flowers blooming, longer days, and shorter nights.

Below is a spring bucket list, how many do you think you can cross of this Spring?

