

APRIL 2017

GBC NEWS

“Nurture wonder and curiosity. Don’t answer every question with an answer. Push the wonder further.”
– Dr. Scott Sampson

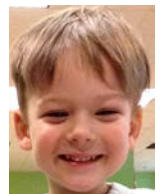
A Note From Katie & Krissy:

What a busy month we’ve had! A big thank you goes out to all of the families who were able to join us for our annual **Egg Hunt**, and to our Buds families who attended our first **Preschool Open House!**

GB Gives Back March was also a success- your clothing donations are much appreciated!

Lastly, thank you to our Blossoms families for attending our family breakfast on the 11th! Great turn out! The **Seedlings Family Breakfast** will be **May 31st**, *weather dependent*.

GB’s New Faces: Look who joined us in



Bud



Thank you to our special visitor last month!

Thank you to Frannie’s Dad, Dave, for teaching our kids all about making pizza! Dave brought in healthy ingredients such as tomato sauce and basil from his restaurant **Coalfire** for the kids to experience. Each child had a mini dough ball to explore while Dave demonstrated the process of

GB will be **CLOSED** on the following dates:



How to Ease Your Child’s Separation Anxiety

HealthyChildren.org says:

The trick for surviving separation anxiety demands preparation, brisk transitions, and the evolution of time.

How to Survive Separation Anxiety

- **Create quick good-bye rituals.** Even if you have to do major-league- baseball-style hand movements, give triple kisses at the cubby, or provide a special blanket or toy as you leave, keep the good-bye short and sweet. If you linger, the transition time does too. So will the anxiety.
- **Be consistent.** Try to do the same drop-off with the same ritual at the same time each day you separate to avoid unexpected factors whenever you can. A routine can diminish the heartache and will allow your child to simultaneously build trust in her independence and in you.
- **Attention:** When separating, give your child full attention, be loving, and provide affection. Then say good-bye quickly despite her antics or cries for you to stay.
- **Keep your promise.** You’ll build trust and independence as your child becomes confident in her ability to be without you when you stick to your promise of return. The biggest mistake I ever made in this regard was returning to class to “visit” my son about an hour after a terrible transition. I was missing him, and although the return was well intended, I not only extended the separation anxiety, we started all over again in the process. When I left the second time (and subsequent days) it was near nuclear.
- **Be specific, child style.** When you discuss your return, provide specifics that your child understands. If you know you’ll be back by 3:00 pm, tell it to your child on his terms; for example, say, “*I’ll be back after nap time and before afternoon snack.*” Define time he can understand. Talk about your return from a business trip in terms of “*sleeps.*” Instead of saying, “I’ll be home in 3 days,” say, “*I’ll be home after 3 sleeps.*”
- **Practice being apart.** Ship the children off to grandma’s home, schedule playdates, allow friends and family to provide child care for you (even for an hour) on the weekend. Give your child a chance to prepare, experience, and thrive in your absence!



April Birthdays

4/8- Harper’s 4th birthday

4/10- Ms. Deb’s birthday

4/12- Will’s 1st birthday

4/15- Louise’s 5th birthday

4/25- Brayden’s 2nd birthday



Seedlings

Ms. Larrita, Ms. Juliet, Ms. Camiah, Ms. Crystal

Seedlings were very busy and active during the month of March!

For language development, we focused on action words as teachers explained to Seedlings what they were going to do before they did it. Teachers also shined a flashlight on items in the room and described to Seedlings what they were seeing. Seedlings were also shown different sized objects as teachers described which items were big and small. Teachers then encouraged Seedlings to search for specific items (i.e. the *small* block, the *big* ball).

Seedlings used their fine motor skills this month to mix paint in plastic bags taped to the floor, explore sensory strings attached to a box, and to touch yarn covered under contact paper on the floor.

Seedlings continued their fine motor work at the table through art and food experiences. Seedlings explored bell peppers and celery sticks as they made flower prints and shamrocks. Seedlings also created dandelions using their fingerprints, and flower pom-pom paintings using pom-poms, paint, and a cloth.

For dramatic play, Seedlings enjoyed playing with shapes inside a sensory box and had fun playing with puppets while listening to nursery rhymes.

Seedlings were busy during tummy time reaching for toys, and enjoyed morning movement by crawling through a tunnel. Seedlings also stretched and toned their thighs while practicing the yoga pose Tushie Touches ☺

We are getting ready for Spring in the Seedling room... our babies had a blast exploring soil in plastic bags this past month! We look forward to our outdoor Spring walks!



Sprouts

Ms. Jisela, Ms. Lilly, & Ms. Sharlene

March was a busy month for the Sprouts. We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday, Sprouts spread their luck around St. Patrick's Day, and we welcomed Frannie's dad for Pizza day!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in the Kids Kitchen and counted goldfish- yummy! We read a lot of Dr. Seuss classics and worked on 1 fish, 2 fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. The Sprouts even made their own fish using their handprint.

Sprouts got very busy in the Kids Kitchen Celebrating St. Patrick's Day! We made puffy paint shamrocks and green play-dough. Sprouts helped add the ingredients and mix the flour. They enjoyed rolling and using their fine- motor skills. We ended the celebration by making a rainbow cloud.

We ended the month by welcoming Frannie's dad Dave the Pizza Man to our classroom where we got to explore ingredients and make our own pizza. Yum!



Buds

Ms. Judy & Ms. Janet

Buds March was full of fun and learning as we brought a favorite book into all areas of the classroom: "Preschool To The Rescue"! The story is all about a preschool class that rescued a pizza truck that was stuck and could no longer deliver pizza!

We made pretend pizza at the art table working on fine motor skills as we took friends' orders and prepared pizza in our new pretend pizza oven. We even washed our own dishes! We took turns and shared as we played the day away in the GB Restaurant.

We had to take a breather from so much fun to actually EAT PIZZA! From <http://coalfirechicago.com/> Frannie's Dad Dave from the Sprouts room came in and spent the day with us showing how he makes great pizza like in his restaurant.

We were all glad Dave didn't get "stuck in the mud" like the pizza truck did. With the pizza truck safe, the Buds were on their way to more learning and fun. We ended the month with Spring Training and March "book" Madness. The busy Buds are the way to more learning in the next month as our themes include Spring, Easter, & Earth Day. We hope to spend lots of time outdoors exploring and discovering nature all around us.



Blossoms

Ms. Devon & Ms. Emily

We switched gears a bit in March and began a project on *pancakes*! We realized we had an unusual number of books about pancakes in the classroom, so we began our project through reading and discussion. We even added some new vocabulary words to our repertoire as we talked about other names for pancakes: flapjacks, hotcakes, griddlecakes, and latkes ☺ Using play-dough, spatulas, rolling pins, and circle cookie cutters, the kids worked up a storm preparing pretend pancakes for their friends.

We also attempted a new storytelling activity. Using the wordless book "Pancakes for Breakfast" by Tomie DePaola, the kids dictated their version of the story to a teacher as they watched their words being written down on paper. We then read the story aloud together, flipping the pages of the book as their story progressed. The kids were so proud of their work, and received a great lesson in the cycle of literacy: *what you say can be written, what is written can be read, what is read can be understood.*

We couldn't conclude our pancake unit without actually *cooking* pancakes! After exploring measuring tools and flour in the classroom, the Blossoms voted between *Curious George's Pancake Recipe* from *Curious George Makes Pancakes* or *Grandma's Pancake Recipe* from *Hey Pancakes!* Curious George's recipe won! The kids did a fantastic job following directions and patiently awaiting as their treat cooked! Once the pancakes cooled, they were offered a choice of putting syrup on their pancakes, like in *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*, or strawberry jam, like in *Pancakes! Pancakes!* They were delicious, and a great cooking intro to Dave's pizza visit ☺