



# GBC NEWS

## SUMMER 2016



## Look who we celebrated recently! *Spring & Summer Birthdays:*

### April Birthday

4/8- Harper L-F's 3rd Birthday  
4/10- Ms. Deb's Birthday  
4/14- Harper F.'s 4th Birthday  
4/15- Louise's 4th Birthday  
4/25- Brayden's 1st Birthday

### May Birthdays

5/1- Ms. Carrie  
5/6- Emelina's 3rd Birthday  
5/7- Warner's 2nd Birthday  
5/10- Lily's 3rd Birthday  
5/11- Ms. Patty  
5/15- Ms. Allison  
5/15- Lola 's 4th Birthday  
5/15- Mimi's 2nd Birthday  
5/16- Nicholas's 4th Birthday  
5/19- Henry's 2nd Birthday  
5/21- Ms. Emily

### June Birthdays

6/3- Benjamin's 2nd Birthday  
6/11- Gabriel's 4th Birthday  
6/11- Fern's 1st Birthday  
6/18- Francesca's 1st Birthday  
6/20- Eero's 2nd Birthday  
6/29- Aurelia's 3rd Birthday  
6/30- Anders's 2nd Birthday

### July Birthdays

7/12- Aanika's 4th Birthday  
7/13- Nurse Jen  
7/18- Harper Y's 3rd Birthday  
7/23- Dylan's 1s Birthday  
7/28- Ms. Jisela  
7/31- Ava M.'s 1st Birthday

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."*

*-Rachel Carson*



## A Note From Katie & Krissy:

Thank you to all of our generous families who continue to participate in our GB Gives Back program! We were able to donate many needed items to local men and women's shelters as well as the Chicago Animal Care and Control. Thank you!

We also want to thank our Blossoms families for their participation and support in our hearing and vision screenings. All of our preschoolers were successfully screened this month for healthy hearing and vision!

Hoping to see many of you at our Family Swap/Sale in August, and our Family Field Trip in September!

### Dates to Remember:

- **SAT AUG 20<sup>th</sup> 10-12**  
GB Family Swap/Sale
- **MON SEPT 5<sup>th</sup>**  
CLOSED for Labor Day
- **SAT SEPT 10<sup>th</sup> 10-1**  
GB Family Field Trip to  
Garfield Park Conservatory

## Say Hello to GB's Newest Friends!



Nathaniel  
*Seedling*



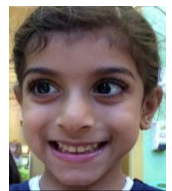
Fulton  
*Sprout*



Conor  
*Sprout*



Emma  
*Bud*



Aanika  
*Blossom*

## Seedlings

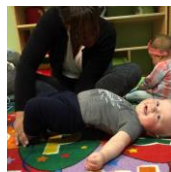
Ms. Larrita, Ms. Juliet, & Ms. Camiah

During the summer months, our themes in the Seedling room focused on farm animals and fish in the sea. Our language activities kept Seedlings' interest, as we enjoyed looking at pictures of farmhouses, farm animals, and different fish. We also read the books "First 100 Animals", "Sea Friends", and "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish". Seedlings had many laughs during our story time when encouraged to imitate teachers making fish faces! As for dramatic play, Seedlings continued their exploration of our farmhouse and underwater themes with a toy farmhouse, farm puppets, and plastic fish. Seedlings used these materials during our cognitive activities too, as they were encouraged to place farm animals inside and outside of the farmhouse. Teachers also showed Seedlings plastic fish, and then hid them under a box to see if they could find them.

Art is always a favorite in our room! Seedlings had a blast coloring farmhouses with red paint and making baby chicks using the print of a potato. We also dipped linking jacks in paint to decorate fish cutouts with dots, and made fish out of handprints and footprints.

Science is always a great opportunity to observe Seedlings' reactions to our activities. We mixed different color paint in plastic bottles, explored farm animal magnets on a cookie sheet, watched plastic fish float in water, and used food coloring to color water and yogurt blue. Science transferred to food experience as we explored the feel, color, and smell of a potato, yogurt, and sardines. Seedlings also used their sense of touch as teachers poured water on their hands and sprayed a mist of water on their fingers.

Lastly, Seedlings had fun during our movement activities, perfecting their twisted yoga pose, hip circles, and guppy pose. Seedlings also strengthened their small muscles by pulling apart linking jacks and trying to put them together again. What a busy, fun-filled summer we've had!



## Sprouts

Ms. Jisela, Ms. Lilly, & Ms. Jewel

The Sprouts have been busy this summer! We have been observing the green trees and beautiful gardens at Union Park, and watching our own garden grow outside of Green Beginnings!

We have been staying cool indoors with many new creative art and sensory activities. The Sprouts used recycled cardboard boxes as canvases for their painting projects, and worked with bubble wrap and dot markers to create ice cream art. Our Sprouts also worked their fine motor skills as they used paintbrushes and washable dry-erase markers to create lines and circles across their paper and dry-erase boards.

Our sensory table was put to good use this summer too as we added water and sand to explore. Driving trucks and cars over this new texture was exciting too as we explored saying, "vroom!"

We look forward to continued summer fun in the Sprouts room before preparing for Fall activities in September.



## Buds

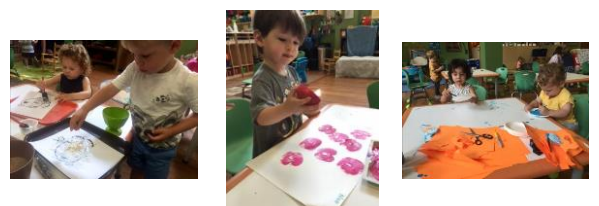
Ms. Judy, Ms. Janet, & Ms. Mirella

Hello Bud families! It has been an exciting summer! Our Buds have all grown so much and have gained many new skills. We have said good-bye to some of our old friends, and warmly welcomed new friends throughout the last few months.

Our Buds have been a busy little bunch, engaging in many outdoor summer learning experiences. Playing outside gives your Bud the chance to explore the natural environment and participate in imaginative adventures. We played favorite outdoor games, cooled off in the sprinklers, and went on nature walks in search of seasonal items. Not only is outside play fun for the kids, but it is important for physical health and gross motor movement such as running, jumping, kicking, and throwing.

We spent most of our indoor time living "Under the Sea"! Your Buds learned all about tropical life. We counted seashells, created jellyfish, and even painted sharks! We scooped sand, poured water, and pretended to fish as we sang silly songs.

Summer is a special time of the year for the kids and we thank you for letting us share it with them! The children chatted about their weekend trips, day jaunts, and special week vacations. We heard many stories of train rides, fun grandparent outings, and swimming. What great memories and learning experiences for your child!



## Blossoms

Ms. Devon, Ms. Emily, & Ms. Carrie

The Blossoms summer has been full of science! We began our summer by planting grape tomato and bell pepper seedlings. The kids have been watering and observing the growth of each plant. Once ready to harvest, the kids plan to make a pizza with their homegrown produce!

Our Blossoms also spent the first part of summer observing the lifecycle of a butterfly. Beginning with caterpillars, the Blossoms watched as the caterpillars transformed through the chrysalis stage and emerged into butterflies. We created observational drawings, learned how to care for the newly formed butterflies, and eventually released the butterflies into Union Park's gardens.

Our life science continues this August as the Blossoms recently entered a unit on the ocean! Fish, sharks, and jellyfish have been the focus as we have been combining science with technology through our Live Ocean Webcam observations. Monterey Bay and Aquarium of the Pacific both offer live streams of various ocean animals, offering the kids a firsthand perspective into the daily life of each sea creature.

Lastly, the Blossoms have been exploring data collection. Each morning, the kids arrive to a question that they are invited to answer by signing in their name under the appropriate category. The question may be something concrete (i.e. "Are you wearing green today?") or may have to do with a preference (i.e. "Do you like winter or summer best?") Our Blossoms have learned a lot about each other!

