Happy Spring!

Seeing Spring in Full Bloom!

The colder temperatures are in the past and Spring has Sprung! All of the wonders of spring surround us. The sun is shining. The birds are singing. The flowers are blooming. All the same signs of spring we have enjoyed since our own childhood.

Here at OCC, we are blessed to have the opportunity to experience a very special and precious spring phenomenon... the blossoming of your children! With spring we see the wonders of their learning and enjoy the amazement of their development.

So, as you start to think of spring planting, mowing the grass, and spring cleaning, take time to think of the most amazing wonder of spring that is right before your eyes... your children.

It has been our pleasure to have been part of their lives and yours throughout this year. We hope that together we have planted the seeds for a life-long love of learning and discovering.

The 2015-16 Community Building Events... we’re not done yet!

At OCC, we strive to build a strong community atmosphere of friendship, fun and belonging for all of our families. While we have already enjoyed many community building events this year (Pasta Dinner, Bike Rodeo, Harvest Feast, Cultural Celebration, etc...), there are still more to come!

We are looking forward to Pancakes & Play, our Posting Party, Montessori Makers @ The Makery, and of course, the School Picnic @ Sunset Park!
Classroom 1
Ms. Kassie & Ms. Noelle

April already! The month of March flew by while we learned all kinds of fascinating things about life in the oceans. Our next focus is on the coral reef environment and its importance to sea life. When we learn about the Great Barrier Reef, we will use that as our stepping stone into the next continent we want to explore... Australia!

The classroom community is working together to accomplish spring cleaning! Here is a lot to learn about how to make sure that our classroom space is neat and tidy as materials are ready to use. We will be practicing dusting, sweeping, scrubbing, ironing, and lots of dishwashing! Working together on our goals is a good feeling!

Our class is also examining the idea of art. How long has there been art? What can we use art for? What makes an artist? We appreciate beautiful and interesting things to look at—and we love how creative your children are. We are looking forward to all the wonders that spring will bring!

Classroom 2
Ms. Maggie, Ms. Julie, & Ms. Lyn

Greetings from Classroom 2! Wow, winter is already a distant memory, but hopefully the learning that took place in our classroom over the season did not fade as well. Our units of study included colors and the continents, weather and the water cycle, and the ocean.

As we look forward to the spring season we will turn our focus to the life cycles of plants and animals on a farm, investigate insects, and end the school year having fun with frogs! A field trip to Schlow library is also in the works now that it is nice walking weather. Our foundational learning is blossoming in the classroom as well, and we look forward to speaking with you about your child's progress during our spring conferences!

Classroom 3
Ms. Sarah & Ms. Alison

Welcome glorious spring with new light, colors and warmth! The children have been invigorated by the fresh air and play time outside. We will continue to soak up the good weather through walks and tending to our gardens in the play yard. We also have been transforming our classroom into the soft colors of the spring landscape through the use of cherry blossoms strands, paper lanterns and other artwork made by the children. Did you know that in 1912, cherry trees were shipped from Japan to the United States to spruce up Washington D.C.?

In science we have been exploring animal adaptations: camouflage, migration, special features, etc. Animals are amazing! Another animal topic that we will enjoy are life cycles; a perfect topic for the abounding new life in spring time. Lastly in geography we have talked about the land, its features, and learned how to read a map. Now we will put those skills to use and wrap up a trip across America. If you would like to come into our classroom to help with any activities, please do (an hour is great)! We love to have helpers and your children love to have you visit.
Classroom 4
Ms. Robin & Ms. Kristen

Classroom 4 has begun our science topic of insects and arachnids for the month of April, having concluded the human body and magnets. May will bring the study of flowers and birds through the end of the school term in June. Our “Artist of the Month” for April is Vincent Van Gogh. We will be reading about his life and looking at some of his Impressionist artworks. We have just concluded our study on Claude Monet. In geography, we will begin our “travels” to South America. We will learn about some of the countries, the people, the climate, and celebrations. If time allows, we will then journey to the continent of Asia. This should keep us quite busy through the end of the school year!

After School
Ms. Julie, Ms. Sara, Ms. Casey, Ms. Lexi, Ms. Bri, & Ms. Jessica

This spring the after school program is going to maximize outside time with the warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours. We will try and vary our outside time, so everyone has an opportunity to enjoy some time outside every week. We may even have snack or art outside! Our themes will be spring flowers and butterflies, baby animals and farms, and insects, from now until the end of the school year—not necessarily in that order. We will also reinforce respect and friendship throughout our themes. Activities will be available for the children to do throughout the week; however, if your child has missed something they really wanted to do, please let me know. We will start April by creating butterflies to hang in the lobby, so look for them to “hatch” later this month.
Hard to believe it is already spring! This year has gone by so quickly, but we still have plenty to keep us busy in the Older Toddler room. It’s so great to be able to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather in our Play Yard. We plan on taking more walks to see the flowers that are starting to grow. Speaking of flowers we will be planting some of our own in the classroom to transfer to the Play Yard. So keep an eye out on our windowsill for some budding flowers! We will also be learning about bugs, butterflies, and ducks. We will of course have our annual Duck Pond field trip for our Older Toddlers around mid to late May. We are going to need some parent volunteers to help us reach our destination so your help would be greatly appreciated. More details to come soon!

Since the weather is starting to get warmer make sure to check your child’s bin in the classroom for more seasonally appropriate clothes. Hats or even sunglasses are welcome if you wish to provide those for your child.

Younger Toddlers

Spring is here and in the P3Y Toddler class, we are looking ahead to all of the fun activities we will enjoy in celebration! We have wrapped up our theme on aquatic animals and we now look forward to decorating terra cotta pots & planting seeds while learning about sun, soil & water. Our classroom has already begun to transform with touches of spring so that our friends may enjoy refreshed spooning, stacking, tonging and matching works but we also look forward to introducing flower arranging as well as all of the sensorial attributes of spring flowers such as smell, touch and color. Part of this fun will be the addition of flowers to our classroom tree, which our friends have already begun to work on. We will have fun learning new spring songs and enjoying more walks outdoors. As our friends have grown since the fall, our walks now more easily and safely allow for friends to not only enjoy a stroller ride but also to exercise their own legs, as well!

Older Toddlers

With these walks, we also enjoy the opportunities to talk about our community as well as the nature we find outside.
Explorers

Ms. Maggie, Ms. Sarah, & Ms. Julie

Explorers toured the world this winter, discovering the many different biomes or habitats that exist on Earth including the arctic, desert, grasslands, oceans, and rainforests. Our afternoon friends are animal lovers, so they took great interest in learning all about the wonderful creatures that inhabit these varied environments. With the warmer months ahead, we will turn our attention back to our local environments, focusing on the farms, wetlands, and forests of central Pennsylvania and the plants and animals that live locally. We will get out again for our weekly walks in the neighborhood to observe the wildlife in our more urban environment. We will be making a couple of walking field trips this spring, so stay tuned and maybe you can join for one of our explorations!

Enrichment

Ms. Kassie, Ms. Alison, & Ms. Noelle

April showers bring May flowers and lots of exciting new things to our Enrichment class! With winter behind us we look forward to exciting days of learning ahead. This being the 40th Anniversary at Our Children’s Center our friends will participate in the making of a beautiful quilt. The completed quilt will be displayed at school for all to enjoy. This quilt making has certainly been a highlight over the years past and this year will be no exception. Once we are certain that Mr. Frost will no longer make an appearance children will enjoy working in our flower and vegetable gardens. The time of planting will soon be upon us! As we look to the end of the year, our academic explorations will take us to the continent of Australia. Literacy and writing works will highlight our studies of this vast and amazing continent. We can’t wait to move into a new season of learning and growing together!

OCC

School Picnic & 40th Anniversary Celebration!

Please plan to join us for an (extra special) end-of-the-year picnic where we will celebrate OCC’s 40th anniversary! Along with the usual great time with friends, we will unveil the 40th Anniversary Quilt, and enjoy a special anniversary cake!

Sunset Park

Tuesday, June 7

5:30-7:30

More details will follow as the event draws near!
This year, OCC will participate in Centre Gives!

The OCC Scholarship Program is supported through three primary sources: annual fundraising of the OCC Board of Directors; designated proceeds raised through the OCC Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund (EITC); and other annual fundraising efforts, including our newly created OCC Scholarship Endowment Fund.

This year, we will be participating in Centre Gives in an effort to increase awareness of (and potential donations for) OCC’s Scholarship Program. We are encouraging ALL OCC families to help us by promoting this event. How can you help?

- Like us on Facebook
- Share our Facebook posts
- Post your own comments in support of our efforts, using #centregives
- Join us at our first ever “Posting Party” on May 2
- Participate in our “Prizes for Parents” giveaways during the event

In the weeks leading up to and throughout the event, there are opportunities for OCC to win prize monies by utilizing social media campaigns (specifically #centregives). Join in the fun as we navigate this new opportunity to earn the funds to ensure that all children have the opportunity to experience OCC!