

May Newsletter

Blue Dolphins

The Blue Dolphins had a great time last month exploring the new areas of the classroom. The woodworking area has been very popular as we work on both collaborative and individual projects. We are currently working on making wind chimes using recycled picture frames and keys. These will be beautiful art pieces for your children to take home, and will serve as a wonderful reminder of all their hard work learning how to use real tools.

This month we will continue our exploration of gardening and composting. We are working on creating a living teepee in front of our classroom out of pole beans that will serve as a cozy quiet

place, an element of outdoor dramatic play, a lesson in caring for living things and



**Graduation will take place
May 29th at 5:00-7:30,
Learningden will be closing
at 3:00 that day.**

growing our own food.

May is such an exciting time for the Blue Dol-

phins! We are getting ready for graduation, practicing our performances with Music Molly and talking about Kindergarten at group time. Our graduation and summer potluck will take place Tuesday May 29th at Elings Park. This is a very fun and special event for the children and it's a great opportunity for us to spend some relaxed time catching up with all our families. There are lots of events happening this month so make sure to check the calendar and parent boards frequently.

Ms. Jessica & Ms. Michelle

Purple Sharks

This month we will be doing more outdoor activities. Taking walks around the school and fixing our outdoor area. The children have been showing a lot of interest in group play. We will be doing more activities were more than 2 children can participate. We are turning the loft and writing center into a

night and day area. We will have group discussions were we identify differences between night and day. The activities will be guided by the children's interest about night and day. The children have shown interest in activities with writing and tracing so we will be doing a lot more of those activi-

ties in class. We have loved hearing parent feedback on the daily emails and I'm glad to hear that it has connected the parents more to the classroom.

Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Lauren and Ms. Stephanie





The Rainbow Fish will be planting Cucumbers in the school garden this month!!

The Green turtles will be receiving new materials and a new couch for the classroom this month!! All funded from their silent auction.

Lots of fun happening in our outdoor classroom this month!!



Rainbow Fish

The rainbow fish have been busy sorting, counting, building clay figures and cutting this month. We have introduced new materials to the classroom and the children are really building their self confidence and teamwork skills looking forward each day to playing with their peers and sharing materials with each other.

This month we will continue to use our new materials as well as work on

Mother's day projects and practice our songs for our summer potluck. Next week we hope to have an e-mail list in front of the classroom for you to update your e-mail. We will start experimenting this month with sending out daily e-mail updates with pictures of the kids.

Next week the children will prepare a dish for the Mother's day lunch and work on decorations for the tables. Please let June or Brittney

know if you can make it for the special event. It will take place Next Friday from 11-12.

This month we will also be reading the Little Seed and planting Cucumber plants in our garden boxes. We are really excited about this and a thank you to Aven's parents for the donation of the plants. Thank you,

Ms. June and Ms, Brittney

Green Turtles

Thanks to all of you who helped to make our art auction a success! We look forward to adding some new materials to our classroom this month! This month we will be very busy working on special Mother's day surprises and practicing our songs for graduation on May 29th at Elings Park. Towards the end of the month we will start our ocean theme! We will transform our classroom into an underwater adventure. The children will

have so much fun exploring items from the beach and painting sea creatures! Our ocean unit will continue throughout the month of May and into June because there are so many fun ocean projects and fieldtrips! We are so excited for the fun that summer brings; during this time please check your children's cubbies to make sure that they have plenty of extra clothes because of warm weather we want to make sure all of the children have

proper attire and sunscreen.

Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Brandi

What is growing in our outdoor classroom??

The outdoor classroom will be exploring sea life in the month of May. The ocean is a magical place that both kids and adults love to learn about and explore. We'll be working on a big group art project for the hall and individual sea animals to hang at school and later take home. The sensory table will be out with water, sea creatures, sand & shells. For a fun cooking project, we'll be making ocean-blue sparkly playdoh with the kids. Later, we'll have the playdoh out as a great open-ended material for the kids to create and play with. For

some large motor skill development- and fun- we will set up a "fishing net" to climb on. As always, we will have books on the outside table based on the theme- many of the kids love the personal one on one time they get with teachers when the books are read to them. We'll spend some time talking about the ways the ocean is important to people and how we need to protect it. We will be scheduling a field trip to the UCSB touch tanks for the end of May.

Many of the outdoor classroom

activities are open-ended. That means they have no planned outcome or directions. The kids get to use their imaginations and explore materials in the way they choose which makes the experience more meaningful to them. It also means they don't always have a lot of projects to take home. Often, the materials they use are things like water, sand, oil, food coloring, leaves and acorns. They climb ropes, balance on logs, and dig in the garden.

Ms. Ildi

Calendar And Wish List

May 11th- Mothers Day Lunch 11-12. All children and moms welcome for the event.

May 14th- CPR training \$50.00 per adult child care provided. 5:30-6:30pm. Advanced Registration Cards given that night.

May 25th- Outdoor Pictures from Lifetouch. We are experimenting with having outdoor summer school photos Anyone can come for the photos and we will decide what we want to do for the fall.

May 28- School Closed Memorial

Day

May 29th- Summer Potluck and graduation School closes at 3:00pm and we will gather at the park from 5:00 - 8:00Pm

Milk

Wish List -

Paper towels

Washcloths

Baby wipes

Vegetables

Fruit



Rummage Sale and Summer Potluck !!

It was an amazing sale on Sat and it proved to be the best sale ever!! We made \$1458.00 which will go towards new art supplies, a new airplane for the outdoors, dolls, nap mats and beads. We will also be purchasing light tables, and a sand play box for the classroom. Thank you to all the parents who donated items, helped prepare and market the sale and everyone who helped

run and contribute to the bake sale. It was a great success and we will be able to get the kids some great new things.

Summer potluck and graduation will be held on Tuesday the 29th!! As always the Learningden will be closing at 3:00 pm so please be on time to pick up your child or make other arrangements. At 5:00 enjoy the evening of train rides, bouncers,

food, face painting and most of all performances in the outdoor theater from your children.

Potluck sign ups will be up next week so please don't forget to write what you will bring. Also please bring enough to feed 15-20 people!!

See You Then!!

Please Read Important information about Late Pick ups!!

Recently we have been having many parents picking up after the 12:30, 4:30, and 5:30 pickups. We understand that many times things happen that cause a family to have a late pick up but we want you to understand that we staff according to the children's schedules and so if you have a late pick up it causes people to work overtime.

The Learningden Preschool closes at 5:30, so if you are late we are going to start enforcing a more strict late policy and there will be charges that accrue.

If you are past 12:30 or 4:30 you will be charged \$10.00 for every 5 minutes that you are late. If after 5:30 you will be charged \$40.00 for every 15min after 5:30.

Please understand that this is very important and if you are going to be late you must call and inform the school.

We welcome you to stay and visit with other parents at pick up times. We do not want to discourage this, but we ask that you visit outside after your pickup time.



Do you or any women you know have an interest in training for the Santa Barbara Triathlon with a group? I'm one of the coaches for the Moms in Motion Triathlon team, and we are starting to get our team together as we start training in June. The focus is on fitness and camaraderie, and we have a lot of fun while being active! Also this year we are raising money for the Food Bank by hosting an event out on the town.

Our practices are Saturday mornings with optional workouts during the week. The triathlon event is on August 25 and consists of a 500 yard swim, 6 mile ride and 2 mile run.

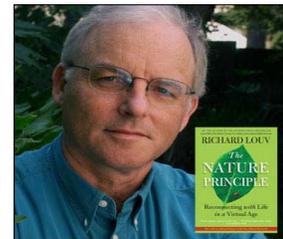
Let me know if you would like more details! And please forward to any other women you think may be interested.

www.momsinmotion.com is our website.

Or Contact Jensen's Mom, Whitney Bruice
689-3794



Richard Louv Free Event May 15th



Richard Louv is an acclaimed Author of the best selling book, "Last child in the woods' Richard sparked a national debate that spawned an international movement to reconnect children with nature. He coined the term " Nature Deficit Disorder" , influenced national policy and helped inspire campaigns in 80 cities and provinces in North America. He argues that by tapping into the restorative powers of nature we can boost mental acuity and creativity; promote health and wellness; build smarter and more sustainable businesses, communities and economies; and ultimately strengthen human bonds.

We wanted to share this important event with all of our parents especially because much of our outdoor curriculum and field trips are driven from the research and information provided in his books. Richard Louv will be speaking at the Granada theater May, 15th at 7:30p. It is a free event and seats will be given on a first come first serve basis!! The staff at the Learningden encourage you to attend, and if you let us know we can all try to meet up for this special evening!!