



## St. Therese Child Care Center Newsletter April 2018

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe with the weather we have been having that it is the beginning of April! As we have seen lately, the weather changes drastically sometimes even within a day. Please make sure you have a variety of clothing choices for your child.

Also, please watch your email for our program evaluation also coming out soon through survey monkey. We appreciate your feedback regarding the program. Your suggestions help us to better serve your needs.

We are starting to look ahead at summer staffing. Again, if your plans will be different (reduced number of days, extended vacations etc.) during the summer months, please let me know as soon as possible so we can ensure appropriate staffing and vacation credit. Thank you to those who have already given me that information.

Staff appreciation week (May 7–11) will be celebrated with the school and child care staff together again this year. Please watch your emails for details and ways you can help make this a special week to show the staff how much we appreciate all the staff does for the children and families.

The date for preschool graduation has been set. It will be Wednesday May 30th from 5:30–7:00 PM. We hope all the children (and families) who will be going off to kindergarten next year will be able to join us for some fun and food. Invitations and details will be coming out closer to the event, but we wanted to get the date reserved on your calendar.



Child Care Office  
(952) 261-0587  
Jo Ellen Begalke, Director  
Daycare@st-therese.org





# Classroom News

## *Infant Room*

### *"Lambs"*



April is here and the infants are so excited about the signs of spring we are seeing and the melting snow. Please continue to send jackets and hats with your baby as we have been going outside each day and will continue to do this as the weather and our schedules allow. This month we will be welcoming a new friend, McKenna, to our group- she is the sister of Miles from the toddler room so it will be fun to have them both here. Millie is as busy as ever trying to help friends with toys or nucs and has been visiting the toddler room to get ready for her transition in May. Emery is starting to gain confidence and balance to begin walking soon. Brooks enjoys visiting the gym and tries to escape the room to go there whenever the opportunity presents itself. Charlotte also plans her escape by putting down the doorstop - but her goal is more to gain the attention of whoever may be passing by. Leah has perfected the "speed crawl" and has loved sitting by the window looking for and waving at the excited 5th graders, and occasionally her mom, passing by. Mila is busy moving around the room any way she can figure out to move her body and moves from tummy to downward dog to sitting and back down until she gets where she wants to go. Aislyn is busy charming everyone, talking and sitting by her friends is her favorite thing to do. This month Crosby has perfected his sitting and this is how he prefers to play, he also loves watching, talking and laughing with his friends.

Amanda, Tina, Jessi and Sara



Infant Room  
Lambs  
Lamb@st-therese.org  
(952) 261-0626





## Toddler Room "Elephants"



April showers bring May flowers and hopefully the warm spring weather we are all looking forward to. This month the toddlers number is 4, the color is yellow and the shape is rectangle.

We start off the month talking about vacations! We'll explore things to do on vacation including visiting the zoo and sending postcards. Seeing tropical fish, building sand castles and living the island life would be a dream vacation for most of us after this winter and we're very excited to learn about all these fun things.

Toddlers love to paint and the second week we will experience many different ways that we can paint. First we'll use a brush and then we'll use toy cars. Finger painting uses our sense of touch and we'll see how the children react to the feeling of wet paint on their fingers. Bubble wrap is fun to both paint on and paint with and the children will do both. Lastly, Legos make amazing designs and we are always excited to see what the kids do while painting with Legos.

Our next week is All About Me. We'll talk about our parents and step parents. Some of us live on Lake Minnetonka and others live on rivers. Our families are important and some of us are big brothers and sisters and some of us are little brothers and sisters and some of us are an only child. We love our grandparents and we'll celebrate them too.

Earth Day is April 22 and we will celebrate the entire week with activities to help us learn about all the things we can do to help the earth. One of the most important thing on this earth is trees. We would not be able to survive with out trees. We'll paint our own planet earth and then we'll practice reduce, reuse, and recycle. Finally we'll plant seeds and watch them grow into beautiful flowers.

As April ends, we're going to teach the toddlers Spanish. Young minds are so acceptable to new languages and this is the perfect time to introduce Spanish. We'll practice counting to 10 and then learn how to say our shapes. We'll tackle colors next and finally the months of the year and the days of the week.

Enjoy the month!

Arlene, Soua, Anna and Nicole



Toddler Room  
Elephants  
Elephant@st-therese.org  
(952) 261-0614





## *Preschool Room "Zebras"*



Welcome spring, warmer temperatures and melting snow— hopefully soon!  
We welcome Charlotte this month from the toddler room. We look forward to getting to know her and having her join all the fun!

This month we'll start with the Easter theme. We will make crosses and read "The Story of Easter for Children" and "God Gave Us Easter" as we talk about the real meaning of this holiday. We will also have a few "kid-fun" activities as well like eggs, chicks and bunnies.

Next we will learn about opposites and all the different comparisons we find in our classroom. Some opposites we will explore will be hot/cold, wet/dry, rough/smooth and light/dark.

The third week of the month, we will talk about flowers and all the things that start to grow in spring. We will finger paint hyacinths, make egg carton flowers, and some flower sun catchers.

The last full week of the month we will learn about the Earth to observe Earth Day. We will do some special projects relating to the Earth and recycling. We will get some of our ideas from books we will read: "10 Things I Can Do To Help My World", "Why Should I Recycle?" and "Our Earth". We will end the week with the picture book of Saints and talk a little about St. Francis who is associated with patronage of animals and the natural environment.

Cara and Jennifer



Preschool Room  
Zebras  
zebra@st-therese.org  
(952) 261-0592





## Preschool Room "Kangaroos"



It is time to spring into action! We are all impatiently waiting for warmer weather. So while you look over the weather reports and see a warmer temperature prediction, please remember that we go outside early in the morning and it is often still cold. It is still necessary to bring hats, mittens, boots, snow pants, and a winter jacket every day.

The kids will be starting week one learning about the different regional areas of the United States: East, South West, Pacific Northwest, West, and South. We will be making arts that include lobster hand and footprints, southern iced tea, and cactus needle prints. We will be talking about the different types of climate they experience, famous tourist attractions, and how we would get there if we decided to travel.

Week two is specifically all about Minnesota. After learning about the different regions of the United States, we will focus our learning to the exploration of the different things that makes Minnesota special. Our arts will include a lighthouse, spoon and cherry, and Snoopy. We will be reading books such as "A Walk through Minneapolis" and "The Minnesota Tourist Guide".

Our third week is focused on saving the planet while we learn about Earth Day. The children will learn how to reduce, reuse, and recycle. They will practice sorting materials and learn how different materials are reused. Our arts will include several recycled art projects as well as a "these hands can..." where the children will talk about what their hands can do to help and how they can have a huge impact on the Earth.

Week four is our decades week where we will blast through time to visit the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. We will listen to different music from each decade and look at the fashion trends and how they are all different from 2018. Our arts will include making milkshakes, psychedelic oil and water painting, and a Pacman.

Please remember to check your child's backpack each night as that will be the primary way to communicate important information.

Anna, Kris and Colin



Preschool Room  
Kangaroos  
Kangaroo@st-therese.org  
(952) 261-0616





## *Preschool Room "Giraffes"*



Happy Blessed Easter! Hopefully you had a relaxing spring break and great time with the family. This month we are celebrating Lauren's birthday on the tenth, so wish her a happy 5th birthday!

The Easter season is underway and the first week we are focusing on what this season means, as well as the things we see around. From the empty tomb to eggs, and lilies to bunnies, it is sure to be a spring-like week! We also ask the kids where they think Jesus went after he rose from the tomb. I can't wait to hear their answers!

We believe it is important to know about the area in which you live, so this second week's theme is all about Minnesota. Art includes loons, state symbols, Charlie Brown, and Minnesota sports! We will see how many of the state symbols the kids know and learn about all the ones we don't! The kids will be proud Minnesotans after this week.

Earth week is upon us and it is important that we all learn how to take care of our earth and our environment. We will ask what the kids think we should do to protect our earth. How do we clean up after ourselves? What does it mean to reduce, reuse, and recycle? It is our job to take care of the earth we were given!

Who doesn't love a nursery rhyme? This last week of April, there will be lots of fun with Humpty Dumpty and more! We have the cat and fiddle, mice climbing up the clock, and the muffin man making delicious muffins. There will even be a chance for them to write their own rhyme! It will be awesome to see what they come up with!

Make sure you keep checking bins for extra clothes in case we get soaked outside! Also, while it is still chilly and wet in the morning, we still need to have all winter gear at school. When the weather is consistently warmer and dry, we will send home all that stuff. Hopefully it is soon.

God Bless!

Sr. Sancta, Ashley and Erin

### **Dates To Remember**

Conferences April 10, 12—see sign up sheets in classrooms  
Preschool Graduation—May 30



Preschool Room  
Giraffes  
Giraffe@st-therese.org  
(952) 261-0615

