

# Airport Learning Tree

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## Upcoming Events

1/2 CENTER CLOSED

## Staff Appreciation

During the holidays, we strive to look for any opportunity possible to praise, celebrate and thank our staff. We had a wonderful Christmas party where we got to get dressed up and let loose a little, enjoyed spoiling each other with Secret Santa gifts, and each opened an Advent gift. Sadly, we had to cancel the Christmas program, which we usually use as a chance to brag about our teachers as you enjoy their hard work to prepare their classes so I would like to do it here.

We will start with "the Debbies" as we like to call them. Not only do these ladies open and close our doors every day, but they provide us all with laughter and support and utilize their many years of experience to provide great care to all of our kids.

In the baby room we have Denae and Courtney. This is our most important class as these infants require the most care which they provide all while making parents feel comfortable and confident with leaving their baby in someone else's care. Not only do these ladies love your babies, but they provide a calm, positive, and consistent environment.

Speaking of calm of environments, have you seen Jan interacting with the wobbs? The nurturing care as they learn basic signs and songs and start developing their language is just what a wobbler needs.

That toddler room can get a little chaotic and takes a special kind of person to thrive in that environment. We have Reanna with the younger ones, who we really utilize in so many ways including grocery shopping and van runs. She is very creative and playful with her little group. On the other side, we have Abby and Chela who are a little bit crazy (in a good way of course!) They are both so animated in their play with the toddlers. Abby brings great creativity and drive to provide engaging activities to her kids while Chela can be seen acting at the horse kids are riding or snuggling someone who needs a little extra attention.

Deby is joined by Kierra in preschool who provides care you would expect from a seasoned veteran! She has a great future ahead of her working with kids and we look forward to watching her grow.

Jr. K is now anchored by Hanna, our sweet, loving, hard-working girl who can do it all! You can find her grocery shopping, driving vans, in any classroom and even in the office filing. She was so thrilled to have her own class and we are lucky to have her.

Kindergarten and school-age are loved by McKenzie and Robin. This is a dynamic group as their ages range from four to eleven. Luckily, we have a teacher in McKenzie who is energetic and can play tag or basketball with a group while Robin continues to surprise us with her creativity. This group has a lot of fun!

Jessi provides us great consistency and flexibility in the kitchen and cooks with a lot of love and pride. Keeping our kids fed and happy makes everyone's job easier.

Although we've been missing Shirley recently, she will be back with us soon and we can't wait. Talk about a jack of all trades, she cleans, drives vans, takes photos, does grocery/supply shopping, and loves all of our kids like they are her own. You can often hear her affectionately being called Grandma.

## Staff Appreciation cont.

A couple of our new comers include Deena and Shaila. They both bring little ones with them to work and we look forward to seeing how they all grow and blend in with our family. They both offer positivity and flexibility and are enjoying getting to know all the kids and teachers.

Shayna and Stacey are substitutes who end up saving us quite a bit. Shayna has been with us for years and can do anything! Stacey can usually be found in preschool and not only makes us laugh, but has built some great relationships with the kids she cares for.

While Joy's role with us has changed in the past year, she has taken her new role and really excelled. She is another teacher who can go into any classroom as a head teacher or teacher assistant and has a calm consistent demeanor that puts kids at ease.

None of us would have this opportunity if it weren't for Penny. While she has taken a step back and isn't spending as much time in the center, when she's here she provides positivity and makes herself available to share and guide based on her years of experience.

This group of teachers we have love your kids with all they have and come to work each day ready to provide the best care they can. We can't thank them enough!

## Dear Parents...

We hope that all of our families had a wonderful holiday season and wish you a Happy New Year! We are all looking forward to getting back into our routines, seeing our kiddos every day, and hearing about all the excitement the holidays brought to us.

### Hours of Operations

Please remember that we close at 6:30pm. Our staff works hard all day and expects to be leaving by 6:30 to get home to their families. Currently the charge is a dollar a minute after 6:30, but if we continue to have problems, it will be raised to three dollars an hour.



### Immunizations

This month you will be receiving notification if your child's immunization records are not in our system. State licensing requires us to report any child who does not have their current shots. If immunizations are not brought current, we may be forced to exclude your child. Please help us by making sure to provide updates as quickly as possible.

### Weather Related Issues

Hard to believe winter has just started and we have already had so many weather related delays or closures. In anticipation of more, we would like to inform every one of our procedure. When possible, we have someone stay at a hotel so they are here in the morning, but until we know how many teachers can make it in, we can't open the building. We can change our voicemail message remotely so that is a good way to get information, and we also attempt to send an email and update our Facebook. Hopefully, we won't have any more delays or closures, but we are attempting to be as prepared as possible.



### Sicknesses

As we're sure you are aware, there are some nasty colds and other sicknesses going around, and we have seen quite a few sick kids in the center, as to be expected this time of year. While we are doing our part to keep hands washed, and toys, door handles, phones, keyboards etc. sanitized, there are some things you can do to help us to minimize the spreading of sickness.

As written in our Parent Handbook, we cannot admit or retain in care, except with

the written approval of the local health officer, a child who: has a fever over 101.5, diarrhea, vomiting or severe cough. While these are the main symptoms we are seeing, but there are others listed. If your child has any of these symptoms, they need to stay home. Additionally, your child needs to be free of these symptoms for 24 hours prior to returning to the center.



Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday dear...

Kenny  
Maddy  
Kaidence  
Julian  
Saul  
Ellie  
Hannah  
Dante  
Colton

and Teacher Ru  
Happy Birthday to you!

## Snuggle Bunnies loved by Denae

Happy New Year all Snuggle Bunny families! We will be going through a new transition as far as friends moving forward to the Wobbly Lambs. We say farewell to Alexander, Cassius, Brooke and Makenzie. We will miss all of them, but we are excited to watch them continue to grow. Our new bunnies that we welcome are Chloe, Cadence, and Marcus in January and Aurora and Tobin joined us in December. We are excited to have their smiling faces brighten our room. Tummy time will be one of our main exercises through out the day. Plenty of fun toys and activities will be available for our little bunnies to reach for and look at. As for our older friends, we will be reading books and practicing standing on soft blocks for support. We also did some painting for sensory that they enjoyed. Overall, we are excited to have a great month and share lots of love in the Snuggle Bunnies classroom.



## Wobbly Lambs loved by Jan, Courtney & Deena

Hooray a New Year is here! We have big changes going on in the wobbs room! Arkeylius, Ewan, Killian, Evelyn and Colbie are graduating from the wobbs room and will be going into the toddler room. We will mix all their wonderful energy and smiley faces!

Alexander, Cassius, Brooke, and Makenzie are coming to us. We will love having them join Dakota and Eleanor. What an exciting new journey for them. In a couple weeks, we will miss all be settled into our routines. We will be learning more about our signs, numbers, and colors. Also, we will practice our letters and songs along with having time to read books.

Most of all, we will be having fun learning while playing.

## Tiger Cubs I loved by Reanna

Goodbye 2016, hello 2017! We all loved celebrating the holidays this past month, especially Christmas. But the new year is upon us and promises to be full of fun new adventures. In the last year, we have all become big kids in toddlers, practicing our ABC's, numbers and colors. We've practiced using spoons and open cups during lunch and snacks. We've mastered sleeping on mats instead of in cribs and our vocabulary continues to get bigger and better.

In December, we practiced the letters W, X, Y, and Z, the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the colors red, orange, yellow, and pink. We talked about Santa and giving to others (a great time for practicing "sharing with our friends"). And even though we didn't get to show off, we practice and practiced for the Christmas program and were doing fabulous.

January isn't just the beginning of the new year, we're also starting the alphabet over so we'll be working on A, B, C and D, the

numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8, as well as the colors green, blue, purple, and brown. Art will focus on the theme of winter and snow. Maybe we'll even get another chance at playing in the snow. We will also have a bit of a transition as we get a few wobbs moving up to our room. We will be welcoming Evelyn, Arkeylius, Killian, Ewan, and Colbie which will result in some of us moving over to the big toddler side. Each of the wobbs have visited for short periods of time so the transition should be smooth!

## Tiger Cubs II loved by Abby & Chela

This past month we found ways to entertain ourselves indoors by riding "horses," creating tons of holiday crafts, and dancing to our favorite songs. We also said hello to two new friends: Katherine, who enjoys riding bikes, and Sean who loves to play with cars. We practiced wrapping presents and giving gifts, tried candy-cane fishing, and played with 'snowballs.' In addition to the holiday themed play, we practiced our numbers 1-10 in English and in Spanish, letters W, X, Y and Z and reviewed shapes and colors!

Next month we will start back at letter A. We will continue working on using our words and not our hands. We will also practice listening through various games such as Red Light, Green Light, the Hokey Pokey, and Simon Says. We'll learn all about color mixing and dinosaurs as well in the upcoming month. Lastly, we will be saying a farewell to Faben, Jasiah, Declen and Marley as they move up to preschool. They have been visiting off and on for a couple months so we know they will do great! As a reminder, please send your child with warm clothing as we are hoping to get outside more in 2017!

## Fuzzy Ducks loved by Deby, Kierra & Stacey

Happy New Year! The kids were full of energy in December. It can be hard when their schedule is changed. We did have a lot of fun making a lot of Christmas art. Well some of us did art, others just don't want to be interrupted while building cities or playing with cars. We made cloud dough with oil and flour and that was a huge hit!

In January we are having some friends join our class from todods.

We would like to welcome Faben, Jasiah, Declen, and Marley. We will be starting off the new year with a celebration. We are going to make a confetti cake and have grape juice. We'll have party blowers and do our own version of the countdown to New Years.

We will also learn about winter. How do we dress? What animals like the cold? Do we like the cold? We will decorate some snowflakes, have a snowball fight

(with wadded up paper), and we'll paint snow people. What happens when a snowman gets too warm? We will try ice skating with paper plates on our feet. Just too much fun to list it all!

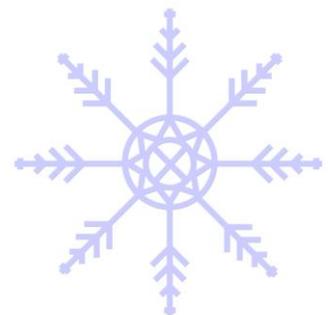


## Bouncy Bears loved by Hanna

Hello everyone! Our classroom was overflowing with wonderful Christmas stories! It was wonderful to hear everyone express how much they loved their Christmas with families. For our lovely month of December, we made eskimos and igloos! We had a chance to make a pretend fire out of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper and used flashlights for the lighting. It was like camping in an igloo. Around the friendly fire, we drank hot cocoa with marshmallows! Then we read our favorite winter story *The Mitten*. Inspired by the story, we just had to make our own mittens! We also talked about

Rudolph, elves, and of course, we can't forget Santa Claus. We wrote our letters to Santa and even decorated our gingerbread cookies! We also wrote our names on our snowmen and Christmas trees. Now our next focus will be January. For our Happy New Year, we will create our New Year's resolutions. We will discuss what goals we want to meet in Jr. K and things we want to do for the many months of 2017 coming our way. Since we are still in the winter season, we are going to explore animals in the arctic. We will read about penguins, polar bears, whales, and many other cute creatures. Together we will study their

habitats, what they eat, and most importantly, how they keep warm in chilly conditions. We wish everyone a Happy New Year! May this New Year bring many opportunities your way to explore every joy of life. May your resolutions for the days ahead turn all your dreams into reality and best efforts to greater achievements.



## Kangaroos loved by Ru & McKenzie

What a busy end of the year we had! Between practicing for the Christmas program, working on Christmas gifts, and the crazy weather, we feel a bit like it was a whirl wind. We were so sad to not have the Christmas program as we had been working really hard, practicing each day and were really looking forward to seeing Santa! We had a couple snow days and late start days thrown into the mix which kind of held up the completion of our Christmas gifts so if you have not received yours; it is on its way! If you did receive yours, we hope you enjoyed opening it. We worked very hard for

almost two months and hope it is something you will treasure for a long time!

Looking ahead to January, the school agers will be heading back to school and we will get back into our kindergarten routine. Our themes for the month will be weather and ocean. These themes offer a lot of activities so we will do two weeks of each one. During our weather weeks, we will keep a weather journal, practice describing and predicting the weather, and work on a weather related craft. Ocean week will be busy as we talk about dolphins, whales, turtles, jelly fish etc. How many sea

creatures can we name? Which sea creature is our favorite? We might make our own paper jelly fish and use water colors to paint paper sand dollars. Throughout the month we will continue practicing our letters with W, J, V, O and Q on the agenda. As we get back into our routine, we will start up our morning work again. Several of us are writing our first and last names! We will also focus on writing and identifying numbers 1-10.

We look forward to getting back to work on our kindergarten goals.

## Panthers loved by Robin & McKenzie

What a busy month we had. We wrapped up Thanksgiving in November and moved right on to preparing for Christmas. There were snowflakes covered in glitter, present wrapping practice, free art with wrapping paper, ribbon and scrapbook paper, and some time to relax. We also got an early start to winter break thanks to two snow days. Those snow days also resulted in the cancelling

of our Christmas program. While we all had been working hard to prepare, a couple of us had solos we were very sad to not be able to perform. We ended the month by playing musical chairs and toasting to the New Year with some sparkling apple cider. We are looking forward to seeing what 2017 brings us!



## Just For Fun

### Home Depot Kids Workshop

**When:** First Sat., 9-12pm

**Where:** Various Home Depot Locations  
**Description:** Free, monthly hands-on, "how-to" craft\* workshops designed for kids ages 5-12.

**01/07** Crate Tool Box

### Lakeshore Learning

**When:** Every Sat, 11am -3pm

**Where:** Lakeshore Learning Store, 16901 SW 65th Ave., Lake Oswego

**Description:** FREE fun craft activities for ages 3+

**Information:** 503-620-9888 or lakeshorelearning.com.

**01/07** 100<sup>th</sup> Day Celebration

**01/14** Prehistoric Pal

**01/21** To the Moon & Back! Rocket

**01/28** Let's Build a Snowman!

### \$4 Zoo Second Tuesday

**When:** Tue. January 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 4pm

**Where:** Oregon Zoo, 4001 SW Canyon Rd. Portland, OR 97221

**Description:** Enjoy all of the fun wildlife and adventure at the Oregon Zoo for a fraction of the cost with \$4 admission per person. Children 2 and under are, as always, admitted free of charge. Ride transit and receive an additional \$1.50 off with proof of ridership. There is a fee for parking as well.

### Wondrous Wednesdays

**When:** Wed. January 4<sup>th</sup> 10am - 5pm

**Where:** World Forestry Center 4033 SW Canyon

**Description:** Tour the World Forestry Center for the discounted price of \$3 per person. Ride the wet-free rapids, try your smoke jumping skills, and discover interesting things about forests all over the world. There is a fee for parking as well.

### Second Saturday at WREC

**When:** Sat. January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1pm - 3pm

**Where:** Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way

**Description:** Second Saturdays at the Water Resources Education Center are not only fun, they're free! Each second Saturday of the month, from 1 to 3 p.m., kids and their families are invited to explore a different topic through hands-on activities, games and stories.

**January: Roll on Columbia**

### \$2 Days at OMSI

**When:** First Sun. of every month, 01/01

**Where:** OMSI

1945 SE Water St., Portland, OR 97214

**Description:** Enjoy discounted \$2 admission to OMSI.

### Guided Nature Hike

**When:** Saturdays, 10-11:30am

**Where:** Tyron Creek Park 11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd.

**Description:** Free guided nature hikes exploring the forest and stream ecosystems and natural history at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Topics will vary from week to week but will be appropriate for all ages. Parents must accompany kids on all hikes. **No pre-registration required.** For more specific information or if bringing groups larger than 10, call (503) 636-9886 ext. 225.

**01/07** A Story of Stumps: Tryon Creek's History

**01/14** The Hole Hike

**01/21** Urban Wildlife

**01/28** Mosses and Mosses

Check out these great sources for more family fun activities...

### Multnomah County Library

<https://multcolib.org/events/programs>

### Vancouver Family Magazine

[www.vancouverfamilymagazine.com/calendar.html](http://www.vancouverfamilymagazine.com/calendar.html)

### PDX Kids Calendar

<http://www.pdxkidscalendar.com/summer-fun-events/>