

# Airport Learning Tree

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## Contents

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Staff Appreciation | 1          |
| Upcoming Events    | 1          |
| Front Desk News    | 2          |
| Snuggle Bunny News | 3          |
| Wobbly Lambs News  | 3          |
| Tiger Cubs I News  | 4          |
| Tiger Cubs II New  | 4          |
| Fuzzy Duck News    | 5          |
| Bouncy Bear News   | 5          |
| Kindergarten News  | 6          |
| Panther News       | 6          |
| Family Matters     | 7          |
| Menu               | Attachment |

## Upcoming Events

2/10 Parent's Night Out



## Celebrating Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a teacher favorite around the building because a majority of the celebration happens right in our classrooms. We all focus on loving each other and our kids! It is so fun to celebrate love and caring! We encourage teachers to get creative and spend a week or two celebrating Valentine's Day, and it really is fun to see what types of things they come up with. It can be as simple as getting a box of conversation hearts and sorting them by color or as in depth as pink, purple, and red colored rice for a sensory tub. We would like to pass along some of the activities that we love in hopes that you may be inspired to incorporate them in your own celebrations.

Any age child could create a piece of art or write a letter to mail to a loved one. The process of writing letters or sending mail is not an experience many of our kids have now a days, so it is a great opportunity to teach them. At the center, we will have kids color a picture and participate in preparing the envelope and then all walk over to the mail box together. It is then so exciting to hear reports of who received their mail! We also will create little mail boxes in our classes so students can deliver mail to each other which they find quite exciting.

Another favorite is to put conversation hearts in different types of liquids (vinegar, oil, water, salt water etc.) and see which will dissolve first. We always ask kids to make a prediction and ask them why they think that. Although they don't necessarily know why, it is great practice for them to be able to voice their opinion. This is a fun experiment to check back on every 10 or so minutes to see how the candies are progressing.

An older kid favorite is free art with stickers, heart cut outs, paper, scissors, glue sticks, ribbon etc. If kids are at the writing stage, a list of Valentine type words can be provided for copying or an adult can write messages for them.

This theme can cover all subjects and doesn't have to be extravagant, but also provides for many opportunities to celebrate the important meaning behind the holiday. We hope that you enjoy this time with your children as much as we do!

Dear Parents...



### Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and our teachers are busy planning all the fun activities that come with this lovely holiday. Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets outside classrooms for class parties. When purchasing treats to bring for our parties, keep in mind that we do have some students with severe allergies to peanuts.

Additionally, please talk to your child's teacher about how they are handling

Valentine's cards. Some of the younger classes may not want you to put names on them, so that the children can place them in the card holders, while the older classrooms may want the names so that they can match them to the correct holder.

Also, as some of our classes learn about the mail system, help us make this a learning experience by watching for mail that may be coming to your house.



### Facebook

If you get a chance, and haven't already, please like us on Facebook.

This is another way that we share information including upcoming events, weather related closures/delays, etc.

And if you have a chance, please feel free to leave us a review!

### Immunizations

Thank you for all your help in making sure your child's immunizations are current!

### Year End Tax Forms

Year-end tax statements are now available. Please ask the front desk for your copy.



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

Evalyn  
Jasper B.

Max  
Desiderio  
Jasper W.

Easton  
and Evelyn

Happy Birthday to you!



## Snuggle Bunnies loved by Denae & Courtney

Hello Snuggle Bunny families! Welcome to the exciting month of February. The month of love! Colton just celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, so Happy Birthday to him! He is taking steps and will be walking and even running soon enough. Right behind him is Gideon following in his footsteps by standing up on his toes reaching for whatever he can hang on to. Those are milestones for our oldest snuggle bunny boys. We welcome four new babies to our classroom. Easton, Marcus and Nazir joined us in January, and we look forward to welcoming Arlo in February. It's so great to have a room full of babies again! We are working on sitting up by ourselves and enjoying tummy time with each other. Cadence, Tobin, and Jax enjoy playing on the activity mat together, holding hands, and looking up at the birds. Aurora, on the other hand, is most comfortable in her play seat watching her friends. We are practicing holding objects such as different toys and making them do movements. Working on all the basic motor skills is usually the focus of our day. Overall, the class is progressing nicely and we make the best out of every day. Spreading lots of love and cuddles that our little bunnies need.



## Wobbly Lambs loved by Jan, Shaila & Deena

Here we are in February already! This past month was difficult for all of us, but now the days are getting longer and spring is not too far ahead of us! We hope things dry out enough to get outside to play.

We have a pretty awesome room with our new wobblers and our two girls that were already here. They get along very well.

The children like to play with dishes and play food in their new (gently used) kitchen. They are also into playing with baby dolls and cars. They are all showing great interest in the numbers, letters, and colors on the wall! We practice this daily. These children will randomly stop what they are doing and go over to hug a friend or gently rub their head. It is a very happy room.

## Tiger Cubs I loved by Reanna & Deena

Boy did we start 2017 in a great way. We restarted the alphabet during circle time and have added a weekly ASL sign too. This month we practiced A, B, C, D and numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6, and finally the colors blue, purple, pink, and brown. We learned the signs for "no" and "stop" also. This is very helpful when we are talking about how to tell our friends to leave our toys alone or to leave us alone. We also try very hard to teach everyone to use their "no thank you" words. We had tons of fun with the snow while it was here. Our

favorite was snow painting and throwing snowballs at the big windows.

In February, we will be focusing on Valentine's Day and what it means to us. How to be loving to our friends and family. And we will be having a party to celebrate too! Keep an eye out for a snack sign-up sheet on the door. At this age, Valentine cards aren't necessary, we will play with some the day of, but we don't pass them out to everyone. Just be sure to sign up for a snack to share with the whole class.

We will also practice the letters E, F, G, and H, the numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 and the colors black, white, gray, and red. Our signs will be "thank you" and "love." We can't wait to get our month of love underway.



## Tiger Cubs II loved by Abby & Chela

This past month we spent time reviewing letters A, B, C and D and numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8. We also learned all about *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and made dinosaur eggs. Have you seen them hanging in the hallway by the swimming pool window? They are so cute and fun to slide open and shut. We all had a blast playing with hula hoops, dancing, and especially loved when we braved the cold to go outside.

This next month we'll be celebrating all things love with Valentine's Day crafts, mailing letters, cutting out paper hearts, and gluing. We'll also practice letters E, F, G, and H, review numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12, and count from 1-10 in Spanish.

After our holiday party on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we'll start to learn all about helpers and find new fun ways to help our friends out at school. Please check the door and window for any updates on monthly wipes, party snacks, and notifications regarding all Tiger Cubs!

## Fuzzy Ducks loved by Deby, Kierra & Stacey

January was full of fun and full of excitement. We started off with our New Year's celebrations. A yummy confetti cake, sparkling grape juice, and confetti filled balloons.

We did a lot of snow experiments, painting snow, and having a short snowball fight. We made igloos, painted with feathers, and lots of mitten fun.

Let's hope February is a little less exciting when it comes to the weather.

We will be talking about Mr. Groundhog and the hopes of spring being around the corner. We will talk about our teeth. What is healthy and what is not? We will use tooth brushes to paint with. Valentine week is always so much fun. We will make cards to mail home. Please make sure we have your correct address. The kids love getting mail. There will be a Valentine party. Be sure to look for the sign-up sheet to bring goodies. We will also exchange Valentine cards. No need to put names on

them. Just put them in envelopes or fold. We will be talking about our pets. Who has one? Where does it sleep? Who gets to feed it?

If you have a pet, please bring in a picture so we can talk about them.

We will be doing some science experiments like how are shadows made? What happens when you mix vinegar and baking soda? What color do we get when mixing white and red? Looking forward to a fun and exciting month!



## Bouncy Bears loved by Hanna & Joy

Hello all! Hard to believe January is almost over. For our fun month of January, we talked about our New Year's resolution. And many of our friends say they would like to write and spell their names! A lot of us are a giant step ahead of this. We will continue to familiarize ourselves with our numbers, shapes, and of course, the alphabet. For this month, we had a chance to talk about animals that live in the arctic such as polar bears, arctic foxes, snow owls, and even baby belugas.

We will wrap up our animal discovery with whales! There are so many different kinds with different colors and different sizes like whale sharks, blue whales, and even orcas. We still plan on making our polar bear cupcakes!

Moving on to our new month of February, our huge topic will cover Valentine's Day. We are grateful for how much our friends have grown and speak strongly how they feel every day. We love our class! We

will also decorate our very own Valentine's Day cards to our friends of Jr. K. Our friends will be sending home a lovely gift to our families to show how much we love them too. Let's also not forget Groundhog Day! Will the groundhog see his shadow this year? February 11<sup>th</sup> is the last day of Chinese New Year, and we will celebrate with a lantern festival. As a class, we will also make our own lantern festival. Still wishing families a warm new year and sending lots of love from Jr. K.

## Kangaroos loved by Ru & McKenzie

January was a whacky month! The first couple weeks, it seems like we spent just a handful of days together as a kindergarten class! Now that the snow has melted, and we are all back at school, we are getting back into our routine and really trying to accelerate our learning. We started off the month talking about weather, which we saw quite a bit of! We then talked about the ocean for a couple weeks. During ocean week, we filled up a whole paper brainstorming creatures that live in the ocean. The first bunch came very easy but then we had to get creative to fill up the paper. Later we realized that we missed some very obvious animals like dolphins.

Looking ahead to February, we will start off celebrating Valentine's Day. We have already started preparing for this as we have been practicing writing our friends' names so we will be ready to write on Valentine cards. We've also been talking about what Valentine's Day means - loving our friends and family, being kind, etc. We're not super fond of the mushy mushy talk, but our teacher does it anyway. When we're not making Valentine themed crafts, we will incorporate hearts and such into our other activities. There will be plenty of books, practice drawing and cutting hearts, Valentine themed math, and a Valentine's Day party! Boy will we be busy!

Following Valentine's Day, we will talk about space and robots followed by the theme of transportation. We will create our own robots and give them names and describe what they do. This activity really allows our imaginations to soar as there is no limit to what our robots could do!

We are making so much progress academically, and we look forward to seeing what else we can accomplish in the next couple months.



## Panthers loved by Robin, McKenzie & Shirley

In January we started early getting ready for Valentines. Throughout the building we posted little signs that say "I Love You" in foreign languages. A lot of parents are asking about them—flipping them over to see what language it is or trying to pronounce each one. We get a kick when they try and pronounce them. Then they get a chuckle when we try and do the same.

The best snack time ever goes to popcorn day when Teacher Robin

started a food fight with a big bowl of leftover popcorn. We were outside and the kernels flew, along with raisins! It reminded us of the snow ball fight just a couple weeks ago she started. Teacher Robin is awesome! Yes, even when she had us help her clean it up!

Every day we are working on our three dimensional hearts to hang in the hall along with the cool snowflakes that are already there. We will also be

making our melted crayon hearts to hang in the windows or where ever the sun can shine through. We will also be working on other Valentine things in February. Valentine cards for friends in our class, our parents, and other people we love. There will also be surprises we cannot let the cat out of the bag about.

## 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.

**02/04** Valentine's Photo 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](http://lakeshorelearning.com).

**02/04** Out of Sight! Goggles

**02/11** Circle of Love! Wreath

**02/18** Soaring Superhero Puppet

**02/25** Pup in a Cup! Craft

### \$4 Zoo Second Tuesday

**When:** Tue. February 14<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. February 1<sup>st</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. February 11<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.

### **February: Love your Backyard Birds**

February is the perfect month to remember and show love to your backyard birds. It is also a good time to get ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count occurring Friday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> through Monday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that encourages bird watchers to tally the number of birds seen and create a real-time snapshot of their locations. Second Saturday is a great way for kids to learn about birds through fun, interactive activities.

### \$2 Days at OMSI

**When:** First Sun. of every month, **02/05**

**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:** Tryon 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.

**02/04** The Owls of Tryon Creek

**02/11** Winter Twig Identification

**02/18** Birds: the Art of Nesting

**02/25** Slugs, More than Slime

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/>