



# The Learning Tree

Volume 30

Number 6

March 2009

## MARCH CALENDAR

- ✂ **Monday, March 2: 2009-2010**  
Registration begins for children not in our program
- ✂ **Monday March 2:** MusicGarten with Ms. Sarah
- ✂ **Tuesday, March 3:** MusicGarten with Ms. Sarah
- ✂ **Monday, March 2:** Happy 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dr. Seuss!
- ✂ **Tuesday, March 3:** Happy 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dr. Seuss!
- ✂ **Thursday, March 12:** : Wake our Bears and Teddy Bear Picnic
- ✂ **Friday, March 13:** Wake our Bears and Teddy Bear Picnic.
- ✂ **Monday March 9-Friday March 13:** LaVale Lions Eye Testing
- ✂ **Tuesday, March 17:** Visit to the Library
- ✂ **Tuesday, March 17:** We visit FPC organist Judie Brown
- ✂ **Wednesday, March 18:** We visit FPC organist Judie Brown
- ✂ **Friday, March 20:** Walk to the library
- ✂ **Monday, March 23-Friday, March 27:** Spring Book Fair
- ✂ **Monday, March 23-Friday, March 27:** Aerobic week



## March Winds Blow

Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

**March winds blow the kites around,  
Blow them right up off the ground.  
March means spring is almost here,  
Sounds of birds you soon will hear.  
Watch the leaves sprout on the trees;  
soon you'll see some honeybees.**

It seems that we had all those March winds in February! Hope that they have all blown away and the warm breezes of spring will be here soon.

We thank you for your patience once more for listening to the radio-again and again! Even with all the delays and closures we still managed to get almost everything done.

Hugs and kisses to everyone who bought or baked cookies, cup cakes and assorted snacks for our Valentine Parties. All were most appreciated. We cooked up lots of good senses when we made our pancakes. We counted, measured, cooked, smelled, tasted and enjoyed!! We even ate the leftover ones as finger foods as we watched our movie!

We learned a lot as we visited with our own Learning Tree Mom Dr. Debi Hurtt. Dr. Debi talked to us about how to stay healthy. Some of the things she reminded us to do were: eat healthy foods, get plenty of sleep, exercise, take our vitamins, wash our hands (keep our nails short and clean so that no germs can live there), and go to the Dr. for our healthy check-ups too!

We also had lots of fun doing our teeth brushing cha cha cha with Dental Educator and Hygienist, Leslie Stevens. Leslie told us how to brush our teeth correctly to keep our beautiful smiles.

Both Dr. Hurtt and Ms. Stevens recommended that we minimize the amount of juice that our children drink. They both encouraged drinking more milk and lots of water. Leslie said that the Academy of Pediatrics recommends only 6 oz. of juice a day for toddlers and 2 6 oz. servings of juice a day for preschoolers.

We used our lovely smiles for our school pictures – what a great way to remember all our Learning Tree friends! We hope that you were pleased with the results.

One result of the kitchen construction and clean-up was fire drills! The church was having the system checked which resulted in the alarms going off! We took advantage of this and did fire drills. The children did great! Teachable moments happen!

In March we will be continuing our themes of senses and healthy bodies. In early March we will be smelling and tasting (we do like green eggs and ham) our green eggs as we celebrate Dr. Seuss. We will also have lots of great Dr. Seuss books to read. We will move on the next week to great books to look at **and buy**. We will use our ears in the church choir loft playing the organ with FPC organist Judie Brown. We will be cuddling up to our favorite teddy as we celebrate waking our bears. The aerobic ladies of the Learning Tree will give us rhythm and lots of movements!! In between all these things we will talk about St. Patrick, lions and lambs, the wind and spring. Blows (like March winds) your mind doesn't it!! I think this is just a hint of what's in store for us as we try to squeeze in all the fun things we've planned in before the school year ends.



Just a word about our aerobic ladies—We are so fortunate to have so many aerobic instructors as Learning Tree moms. (We know they all look so great.) Several of them will talk and work out with your children. Children know that you go to the gym—now they will try some of the things that you do! Linda Sokoloski (YMCA and 2-year-old Mathias’ mom), Laura Cava (YMCA and 4-year-old Anthony’s mom), Pam Lepley (The Body Factory and 4-year-old Garrett’s mom) are just 3 of our fabulous mom’s who will work us out!

### HAPPY 104th BIRTHDAY TO DR. SEUSS!

We’ll be celebrating by reading lots of Dr. Seuss books. You loved his books as a child, now your children are fascinated by the crazy rhymes and antics of Theodor Geisel’s characters. On March 2 and 3 we’ll read books, make up rhymes and maybe eat green eggs and ham! (What else!) If you would like, please bring your Dr. Seuss Books to share.

### SCHOOL REGISTRATION

We will continue to register children until we are full! Please tell your friends! If, after registration you find that your circumstances have changed and your child will no longer be attending the Learning Tree in the fall, please let us know (although the registration fee is non-refundable). Thanks for your help!



### SPRING BOOK FAIR

Our Spring Book Fair will be the week of March 23. Preschool books from Scholastic Books will be displayed for sale in the church library. This will be another chance for you to buy books for your child and help the school too (they make great Easter basket fillers!). This will be our last book fair of the year.

### NO TIME FOR SLEEPING

THE BEARS IN THE WOODS  
ARE WAKING NOW  
WAKING NOW  
WAKING NOW  
THE BEARS IN THE WOODS  
ARE WAKING NOW  
AT THE LEARNING TREE



We will wake up our teddies! We will play!

Remember way back in January when we made a teddy bear to take home and hibernate for the winter? We said we’d wake them up in spring—well, it’s almost time!

Bring those bears anytime during the week of March 9-March 13 (if you still have them)!

On **Thursday, March 12** and **Friday, March 13** bring your favorite teddy bear to hug and take to our Teddy Bear Picnic. We will be hugging and singing songs about teddies all week.

### EYE TESTING

During the week of **March 9-13** members of the LaVale Lions Club will be at the Learning Tree to take photos of your children’s eyes for the purpose of screening for eye disease. You will receive the results. If your child had this done in previous years you don’t need to have it done again. The Lions have done this for the past three years and have identified several children needing further professional testing. A consent form is attached to this month’s newsletter. We *must* have the form signed before the photos are taken.



### FOR CHILDREN GOING TO KINDERGARTEN IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

Registration for children going to kindergarten in Allegany County is **Thursday, March 26** and **Friday, March 27** at your child’s “big” school. In order to register you will need:

- 1) Proof of Residency. A current utility bill with your address can be used.
- 2) Social Security Card
- 3) Birth Certificate
- 4) Immunization Record

For additional information call the school or the Allegany County Board of Education Pupil Services at 301-759-2001.

### COMING SOON!

- Mother’s Day Luncheon: May 13 and 14
- No juice month in March see list for Mother’s day lunch donations

### MOTHER’S DAY LUNCHEON

WE HAVE SET THE DATE!!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR  
WEDNESDAY MAY 13 AND  
THURSDAY MAY 14

I can’t believe that I’m talking about this already! It is a very important day for us, so we are beginning our plans now! As many of you know (except for maybe our new moms) this is our biggest celebration of the year—and why not?!

We ask our families to bring in most of the necessary ingredients and then, you pay to enjoy lunch with your child! It is a fundraiser and a great time with your little one.

It is also most demanding of our time, resources and ideas. We are trying to get organized and get a head start on this project so we are asking for some of the non-perishables in March (in April and May we'll request the rest of the needed goodies).

**Instead of your March juice** please donate one or two of the following: peanut butter (Jif preferred) grape jelly, canned chunked pineapple, jars of real mayonnaise, sliced almonds, curry powder, bottled lemon juice, cans of sliced peaches, pears, mixed fruit, mini marshmallows. Any questions? Just ask Barbara—she's got the answers! ☺

**Help!** For spring we need beekeepers, farmers, animals of all kinds (big and small) and anyone offering to visit with an interesting job or hobby. Please speak to Barbara if you can help.

### TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS

February has flown by, and hopefully, the ground hog misjudged the weather, and we will have spring temperatures soon. Thank you all for the wonderful Valentine's Day snacks and treats. They made our celebrations of the holiday so special.

As we move into March, we will learn about senses. We'll try different experiences, including March wind that incorporates many of the five senses. During a visit to the church organist we will feel the music as well as hear it. The color green will be revisited and the diamond shape will be introduced. We'll be "wearing" the green" in a couple weeks for St. Patrick's Day.

As Easter is the second week of April this year, the sign-up sheet for Easter treats will go up on the bulletin board near the end of this month.

Hopefully, we will not miss any more days due to weather, and there are no days scheduled off in March. Remember to check the radio station for weather-related closings before heading in to school on those questionable days. Once we get warm days, we will venture outside and check for signs of spring!

It's hard to believe, but we will be waking our hibernating bears with a

teddy bear picnic as spring approaches, so watch for a note on the bulletin board. Remember to check out the rest of the newsletter for other fun activities planned for this busy month.

Some of you have mentioned that it would be helpful to know the words to the songs and fingerplays that we teach so you may join in as your child sings at home. This poem could well become one of their favorites for March;

*The March wind ROARS like a lion in the sky.*

*It makes me shiver as it passes by.*

—Miss Angela

### THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS

February was a busy month full of activities, even though it was shortened by holidays and snow days. One activity we prepared for was Valentine's Day. The children really enjoyed mailing their valentines to their friends. Thank you to the parents who supplied our valentine parties with snacks and treats. The treat bags were very full. We will continue working on the children's cutting skills, which we started in February. They really enjoy doing this activity.

March will find us still working on our "I Am Special" unit and our unit on dinosaurs and shapes. The artwork, songs and stories about dinosaurs are very popular. We will also wish Dr. Seuss a happy birthday and celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Teddy bears will be visiting us for a week, as we wake them up for spring and we will begin our preparations for Easter. There will be information and sign up sheets for the Easter party on our bulletin board by the end of the month. If the weather cooperates, we should have a very full month.

—Think Spring!  
Tricia



### FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS

February was heart month in the four-year-old class. At the beginning of the month we painted, cut and ate hearts. Our Valentine parties were yummy thanks to our great parents—thanks! We learned about the groundhog and his role in weather predictions. Our alphabet books are under way and we will have an alphabet celebration party when we finish our books. The second half of the month was focused on health and nutrition. We learned about our real hearts, our lungs and had fun using our brains to figure out riddles concerning body parts. The riddles were hard, but the classes always came up with the right answers! The last week of this short month was about taking care of our teeth, another alphabet page, and eating pancakes that Ms Barbara always makes for us. Our color this month was pink and our shape was the hexagon.

March is a favorite month—spring will arrive, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, hopefully finish our alphabet book, and walk outside to look for signs of spring. Our circle time is getting a bit longer as we prepare for kindergarten. The children are writing their names (first letter upper case and all the rest lower case) as we learn the kindergarten way. They can practice this at home and you may add their last name to the exercise. Math readiness and reading readiness happens every class in and out of circle time. Your children are doing so well as they prepare for the next step in their educational journey. Beth, Pam, Jessie and I have had a fun year and are looking forward to our last few months with our fantastic fours!

—Love, Miss Dinah

