

Ted Williams



May 2015

Principals Message:

Dear Discovery Isle Parents,

Happy Mother's day to all! Join us for our Mother's day Muffins on May 7 & 8th from 8:00 am to 9:00 am to help celebrate your special day! Grandmas, Aunts, etc. are invited to attend, as well. Muffins will be served by our Kindergarten classroom located in the Sharks.

We are in the process of assigning classrooms for our 2015/2016 school year. The class list will be available after memorial weekend. This process can entail pairing schedules, parent requests, student personalities, learning styles and teacher styles. All of our Teachers are amazing and we know you will enjoy each one. We are excited to have everyone who is returning for the next school year.

As the weather begins to warm up please check your child's cubby for extra clothes to make sure that they still fit and that any extra clothing articles be taken home. Since our school has been repainted we have opted to not return the jacket hooks to the classrooms. Each child's cubby can fit a thin blanket, crib sheet, change of clothes and sweatshirt.

We would like to remind everyone that our half day program ends at 2:30 with a pick up time no later than 2:45. For auditing and ratio purposes your account will automatically be charged \$5.00 for every half hour used.

Melinda Carvalho, Principal

Jen Hayes, Assistant Principal

Go Padres!!!



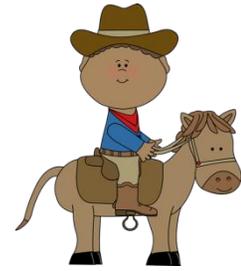
Dates to Remember:

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| May 5 | Cinco de Mayo: Tacos for Snack |
| May 7-8 | Mother's Day Muffins 8:00-9:00 am |
| May 10 | Happy Mother's Day |
| May 15 | Cap and Gown Graduation Pictures
Kindergarten/Pre-K Graduation Only |
| May 19 | Pajama Day: Wear your pajamas to school |
| May 22 | Scholastic book order due |
| May 25 | Center Closed, Memorial Day |
| May 28-29 | Western Days: Dress up, pony rides and barbecue! |



Western Days

May 28-29



Come dressed up as a cowboy or cowgirl for the day. We will have pony rides along with taking pictures. We will also be providing a picnic lunch. We will be barbecuing hot dogs along with baked beans and fresh fruit.

Developing Writing Skills in Young Children - From Crayons to Concepts -

In the early preschool years, writing starts with practicing fine motor skills and progresses to include concepts such as vocabulary, sentence structure and inventive spelling. Our curriculum builds the foundation for writing beginning with our infants. Our teachers not only instruct students how to write, but they also help instill a love of writing and self-expression.

Below are activities we implement in our classrooms to get children excited about writing, as well as fun activities to try with your child at home.

INFANTS/TODDLERS

In the classroom: Our infants and toddlers practice picking up and placing objects into containers, building hand strength and coordination.

At-home activity: Give your child plastic cooking utensils, such as spoons and spatulas, along with a large bowl. Place appropriate finger foods in the bowl, and encourage your baby to pick up the utensils and use them to move the food around. Choose utensils with different sized handles so your baby learns how to grasp and hold objects in various ways.

BEGINNERS (Ages 2-3)

In the classroom: During imaginative play, teachers provide pens, markers and crayons to encourage students to practice writing. For instance, they pretend to own a restaurant and write food orders, and pretend to be doctors and take notes about the condition of their stuffed animals.

At-home activity: Incorporate writing activities during playtime. Bring sidewalk chalk outdoors and ask your child to write what they see. Don't correct spelling or proper letter formations. Show enthusiasm in any efforts he makes, as this is how children learn that words are powerful and have meaning.



INTERMEDIATES (Ages 3-4)

In the classroom: Different writing tools and surfaces make writing more interesting for children. Our Intermediates use chalk on a chalkboard, form letters using modeling clay, and finger paint on canvas.

At-home activity: Three year olds enjoy mimicking adults in their daily activities. Allow your child to engage in a new writing activity with you, such as writing a grocery list or a thank you card. Explain to him what you are writing and the purpose it serves.

PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (Ages 4-5)

In the classroom: Teachers make writing fun for our older preschoolers by creating a classroom post office and asking the children to write and mail letters to each other. Through this activity, students practice communicating thoughts and ideas on paper, using proper grip, writing first and last names in correct case, and writing words independently by using inventive spelling. Inventive spelling encourages a love for writing and reinforces phonics. Traditional spelling is encouraged as students move into more formal writing in early elementary grades.

At-home activity: After a family outing, invite your child to write about his day in a journal. Encourage him to use uppercase and lowercase letters. If he asks for help writing more challenging words, have him attempt to spell them by sounding out the word and writing the letters that make that sound. Invite him to read his journal entry to you.

We provide many opportunities for our preschoolers to develop and practice their writing skills. By setting this foundation, they will be better prepared to communicate thoughts and ideas through writing in elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD- Director of Early Childhood Education