

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds

**Gail Salgado
and Pat Dutton**

We loved getting outside to play again. We are now playing on the "big children's playground" and the boys and girls really enjoy it. They have learned to walk up and down the stairs with one hand on the railing, one step at a time. As a reminder to you, please apply sunscreen to your child every day before class, and appropriate shoes for playing on the playground.



The children enjoyed a wonderful class Easter party followed by the Easter Parade. They danced, sang, and wore their beautiful "handmade" Easter bonnets and ties. Thank all of you for joining us at the Easter parade. And, thank you to Joahn's and Theo's parents for a great class party.

The children have grown up so much this year, physically and socially. We are very proud of each and every student. They love making their daily crafts, going to Library, Music, Science, and Chapel classes. They enjoy circle time and their daily assignments (which they do very well).

The children enjoyed visits from The Baptist Illusionist,

Ponies Plus & Petting Zoo, and Mother Goose. Those events were real highlights during April.

Our Bible verse this month was "God has brought me joy" paraphrased from Genesis 21:6. Our shape for the month was a rainbow and the colors were the colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet). Every day the children tell us what joy God has sent them. We hope you enjoyed your spring break and this beautiful spring weather with your child!



3 Year Olds

**Shawna Kirkman
and Betty Hamlin**

We began April with fun Easter activities. The children sang songs and decorated a cross to remember that "Jesus is Alive!" The children looked great in their hats and ties in the Easter Parade. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter party. After Spring Break, we talked about April showers. We had fun creating the April showers playing with



water and bubbles at the water table. We also used eye droppers and paint to make

raindrops and then used a straw to blow the paint like the wind to make colorful umbrellas.

It was fun talking about Noah's Ark. The children all learned about God's promise symbolized by the rainbow. Ask your child to tell you about that promise. We ate fruit loops for snack which had all the colors of the rainbow.



We ended April by learning about the animals on the farm. The visit from Ponies Plus and the petting zoo was a favorite for everyone!

We had 3 children who turned 4 this month. Happy Birthday to Miles, Michelle and Chloe. We hope you had a wonderful day!

May will be filled with fun activities. We will talk about flowers, butterflies, ladybugs, turtles, frogs, and bees.



We are looking forward to Mother's Day in our classroom. It will be an exciting time as we present a special program and have our moms in the classroom for a special snack. The children are already working hard preparing for that special day.

At the end of May we will share "Camp Day." That should be great fun!



3 Year Olds **Kristie Morris and Glenda Rodriguez**

What a wonderful month we had. God surely has been good to us with the weather.

We began this month



celebrating Easter. Everyone enjoyed making the

Resurrection Eggs. I

had a good time retelling the last week of Jesus' life, using the symbols in the eggs.

Spring Break broke up our month; I did enjoy celebrating Jesus' resurrection. I hope yours was a restful week.

When we returned to school, we went back in time, and met Zaccheus. He was a "wee little man," living in the same time as Jesus. We discussed money, and our needs and wants (and the difference between the two).

The last week of April was great fun. The ponies came to visit from Ponies Plus. We loved their visit. We took the pony's visit as an opportunity to learn about farms. "P" is for "pony" and "pig."

During April, we had one "Birthday Boy! Happy Birthday Louis! We hope you truly enjoyed your special day!

We finished the month learning about the Parable of the Prodigal son (who ate with the Pigs). What a lesson we learned about family and the love shared.

In May we will be celebrating

Mother's Day in class with lots of fun things coming home for our moms. Bring your camera to our Mother's Day celebration!

We will end the year with "Camp Week."



Camping inside is a real treat.

4 Year Olds **Ellen Mahan and Paulina Gabellini**

We hope everyone had a beautiful Easter Season. It's hard to believe we only have one more month of school.

Our Bible verse in April was "God loved us and sent His son." 1 John 4:10. We talked about God's sacrifice to send his son to die for our sins and that the empty tomb is a sign of the miracle of His resurrection.

Before Spring Break we celebrated Easter with our Parade and party. Thanks to our moms, Adela Mora, Samantha Curtis, Cameron Hiett, and Camille Remail for putting together a great class party for the children.

After Spring Break, our curriculum focused on learning about the unique animals that God created. First we took a dive into the sea with a look at the big mammals in the ocean like whales and dolphins, and then explored



the amazing world of the coral reef, from clown fish and anemones to sea turtles.



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Next we focused on animals that live in the wild.



They learned the difference between living on a farm where a

farmer takes care of the animals, and living in the wild where the animals take care of themselves and find their own food.



Throughout the school year we've used our world map to underscore our curriculum themes. This month each child picked an animal from around the world that is unique to its country or continent and then shared that animal with the class.

During this month we reviewed the alphabet by grouping the letters by how they are written. First we reviewed all the horizontal and vertical letters (E, F, H, I, L, T, U).

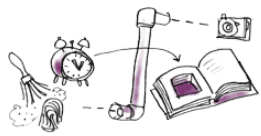
After that we grouped the curvy letters (C, G, O, Q, and S), then the big and little

**A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z**

curves with lines (D, P, B, and J) and diagonal lines (A, K, M, N, V, W, X, Y, Z, and R). The children are doing a great job learning to write their letters.

This month we introduced a "Tinkering" center. One way of exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM) with

children is through the use of tinkering which can be taking things apart to see how they work, putting things together, or using random stuff to create something. We appreciate all the contributions you gave to our new center. The children love it!



We've had a lot of fun with our animal series this month and will continue to explore God's creatures as we



learn about life on a farm and the miracle of the butterfly next month.



4 Year Olds Betty Light and Cheryl Halla

April has been a delightful spring month. The children really enjoyed the Baptist Illusionist, especially his trick with fire in a pan. After he put a lid over the fire and lifted it, a bowl of Tootsie Rolls appeared. Everyone was happy to get two.

Our Easter parties were a big success. The children had a great time playing games and eating all the special snacks. Thanks to all the moms who helped. The children really enjoyed parading around the gym wearing the beautiful

bonnets and creative neckties



they made. Doing the Bunny Hop added to the fun!



This is a perfect time of year to learn about baby animals. Our boys and girls made bunnies, ducks, and chicks. We learned a lot about the stages of the development of a chick in the egg. The highlight will come when the science teacher brings in baby chicks. We will actually get to hold them!



Our children had fun playing several spring time games such as "find the lamb" and "alphabet bunny." In the bunny game, they took turns being the bunny while wearing ears and holding a basket of alphabet eggs. If a child could identify the letter on the egg they chose, they received a jelly bean. If not, the bunny had a chance to guess the letter and get a jelly bean. Everyone looked forward to being the bunny.



After Easter break, we learned about ladybugs, frogs, and turtles. We even saw a ladybug outside on the playground. Now that the weather is warm, ladybugs are coming out of hibernation. They are considered 'the gardener's friend' since they eat 50 aphids a day. We also learned that they protect themselves by turning over and excreting (a new word for us) a liquid that smells and tastes bad so the birds won't eat them. Isn't it amazing how God protects the ladybug? Most

ladybugs have 7 dots. Ask your child what color they are when they first hatch.

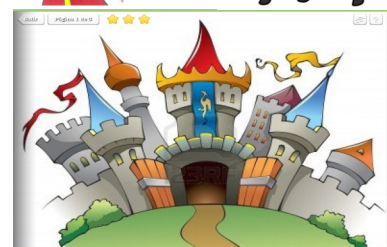
We enjoyed talking about the frog and its life cycle. We learned about dangerous frogs in the rainforest. They are very colorful, but poisonous. We are glad they are not here. The children greatly enjoyed a very funny story about **"The Frog in the Kitchen Sink."** We all had lots of laughs when the eyes on the book rolled around on each page. A visit from Hidden Pond Nature Center really tied in with this unit.



During April, we finished our alphabet pages. Now we will work on review of

uppercase letters as well as recognition of lower case letters.

The month of May will present a new adventure as we learn about life in medieval times. We will share many castles, knights, and dragons to add to the fun of this unit. Something exciting awaits your child every day.



**4 Year Olds
4 Day Class
Becky Cloer
and Victoria Nicely**

Busy! Busy! Busy!
That's what April was for us. As we started reviewing the alphabet, we began focusing on the lower case letters. The children have been doing very well with this task. Please help your student remember to start their letters at the top, and encourage them to write their name using upper and lowercase letters.



We kicked off the month with our Pond Unit. We enjoyed a visit from Hidden Pond Nature Center. They brought some of God's amazing creatures that we have talked about throughout the whole month. I know some of us enjoyed touching frogs, toads, and snakes but a



few of us may be more hesitant! We have learned how frogs go from an egg to a tadpole and then to a frog through metamorphosis. Puzzles have been a great tool for learning about the stages of the frog as well as sharpening our eye/hand coordination skills. The boys

and girls also have their wonderful stuffed "Pond Pillows." These treasures will help the children



remember the life cycle of the frog for years to come. Our students learned a lot from the book entitled *In a Small Pond* by Denise Fleming. We learned about many other creatures that would be in a pond and have added them to our bulletin board. We have learned that insects have 6 legs and 3 body parts.

Our caterpillars were amazing! We were able to see those tiny caterpillars



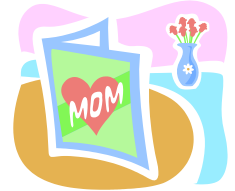
grow from about a half inch to over an inch in just a matter of days. By the end of the second week they had spun their chrysalises (cocoons) and now they hang, suspended from paper inside the school terrarium, ready for their next phase of life. They look like they are all doing well.



Now we are waiting for the butterflies to emerge. We look forward to releasing them outside in May.



In May we look forward to our Mother's Day celebration with you, moms. We are planning something very special! Mark your calendar. You will not want to miss this!



Also in May, we will enjoy "Camp Day."

Remember to send in a towel and a flashlight for this very special event. Eating hot dogs and chips by the light from a flashlight can be real fun!



We will be making tie dye t-shirts. Please bring in a plain white (pre-washed) t-shirt for your child by May 12th. Thank you.

Finally, May will bring a time to celebrate all our many accomplishments during preschool. We will continue to prepare for graduation which will take place on Thursday night, May 25, 2017. You will definitely want to remember your camera!

May promises to be a fantastic month!



4 Year Olds Kellie Westbrook, Paige Ellis, and Glenda Rodriguez

As Spring Break and Easter approached, we rejoiced by studying the real meaning of Easter. The children learned that after Jesus died on a cross for our sins, He rose on the third day, just as He promised! In Chapel, the children learned that an angel told the people who visited the tomb, "He is not here; He is ALIVE!" We now serve a risen



Lord! We also learned a song in music to celebrate Easter called ***Jesus Is Alive!*** The boys and girls sang it very joyfully at our Easter parade. It was fun, too, to do the 'Bunny Hop.' They all looked so beautiful and handsome in their hats and ties.

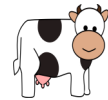
What a joy to have the children share the adventures they went on with their families for Spring Break. Some took trips, and some visited family. We loved hearing about all the fun your families enjoyed.

April has been full of adventure. We began our farm and pond unit learning about the lifecycle of a chicken. We experienced lots of adventures on the farm as we talked about



cows, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, cats, and dogs.

We made a barn and filled it with hay. We also enjoyed reading the books ***Big Red Barn*** by Margaret Wise Brown and ***Down on the Farm*** by Merrily Kutner. These books gave us the opportunity to learn about animal sounds. Children love animals and discovering different



characteristics about each animal. For example, a cow makes milk, sheep have wool that is sheered to make clothing, and the rooster wakes up the farmer.



We found tadpoles, frogs, turtles, ducks, and fish in the pond. We hopped from one end of our room to the other like a frog on lily pads. We also enjoyed a game of leap frog.



Our adventures will continue as we get ready for Mother's Day and our upcoming graduation. There will be more information on these events coming soon. Excitement is in the air; I can feel it! I know you can too.

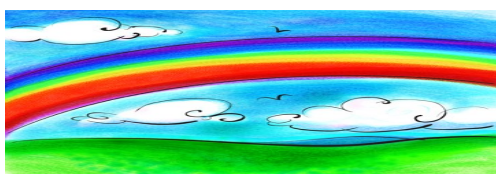


Chapel with Marcia Lee

As Palm Sunday was nearing, we celebrated the real meaning of Easter. How exciting it was to realize that after Jesus was hurt and placed on a cross to die for our sins, He rose to new life on the third day! It was explained to the children that an angel told those who visited Jesus' empty tomb, "**He is ALIVE!**" How wonderful to know we serve a risen Savior! Each child received a small plastic egg designed with colorful crosses. Inside was a colored cross that each child could wear as a necklace. We learned a wonderful song in music just for this occasion called ***Jesus Is Alive!*** The boys and girls really sang loudly when we practiced it in preparation for our Easter parade.



During the month of April, the children learned the story of Noah, whose faith in God saw him through a great flood. Noah praised God for keeping him, his family, and two of every kind of animal safe on the Ark he and his sons built. They built the ark according to the specifications God gave Noah. God promised never to flood the earth again. The symbol of that promise is His magnificent rainbow. You can find this account in Genesis 1:1 through 2:25.



The story of Creation from the Book of Genesis was the last Chapel lesson studied in the month of April. The children learned that God created everything in the heavens and on the earth, including Adam and Eve, in just 6 days. On the 7th day, He rested. If God loved and created everything on the earth and in the heavens, we know He lovingly created and loves us too!



Music with Marcia Lee

April was a fun month in the music room. We had a good time singing songs about rain, rainbows, sunshine, and springtime. The children



especially loved **"One Raindrop Falls Upon My Nose."**

Other favorites include **"Here Come the Clouds," "Sunlight, Sunlight," "Lightning Flash," "Who Made the Beautiful Rainbow,"** and **"Zip-a-dee-do-dah."**



The children enjoyed making themselves very small, like seeds in God's earth, and then growing tall in **"The Growing Song"** when the words told them to.



We exercised to some songs like **"Climb Sunshine Mountain," "The Wiggle Song," "I am So H-A-P-P-Y,"** and **"All Fall Down."** The children really enjoyed the workout!

All the boys and girls had fun preparing for our Mother's Day program for you, Moms! We look forward to singing **"Fruit Salad Salsa"** for you, in addition to other songs to honor and thank you, Moms, for all you do as mothers.



The 4 year olds are working hard preparing for the Graduation Program which they will



present in a month.

Also in May we will focus on songs about the sunshine, warmer weather, and the interesting animals God created.

Science with Rebecca Myers



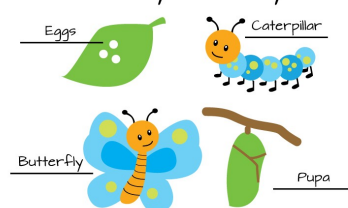
This month in science we had our most important science lesson of the year: fire safety. The students learned which things in their homes have the potential to



burn, such as stovetops, fire pits, barbeque grills, etc. We talked about how to escape a fire and how to extinguish a fire on our clothes (Stop, Drop, and Roll). We did a fun experiment with a candle to demonstrate how smoke rises, and that fires need oxygen/air to burn.

After spring break, we learned about the life cycle of the butterfly. The children made their own butterflies with a proboscis,

Butterfly Life Cycle



which is the long tongue that the butterfly unfurls to drink the nectar of the flowers. As a special treat, each classroom will get to observe their own live caterpillars. Once they create a chrysalis around themselves, they will turn into butterflies and emerge to fly! It's so exciting for the children to see this miraculous metamorphosis first-hand.



Lastly, we learned about

ladybugs and how they help gardens grow!



We went outside to hold and observe real ladybugs. Once they flew away, each student received a special ladybug bracelet.



What Happened in April

We were privileged to have **Hidden Pond Nature Center** and **Ponies Plus and Petting Zoo** visit our school in April. It is so special to see the children's faces light up when they can see and touch God's beautiful creatures! In addition, our **Painted Lady caterpillars** arrived so the children can experience first-hand the wonderful metamorphosis process God put into place. The **ladybugs** brought such giggles and squeals, once they were heard, the urge to smile was hard to contain.



We look forward to celebrating **Mother's Day** on May 11th and 12th. Please check your classroom calendar for details.



The **last opportunity** for the children to **visit the library** will be the week of May 8th through 12th. Please help your child remember to return their book so they can check out a new one.

Several classes will enjoy **"Camp Day"** in their classrooms in May. Snack will be hot dogs, chips and Rice Krispie treats. YUM!



Important Information Just For You



Mother's Day—Mother's Day, May 11th and 12th, is a special event at FBCDS. Please plan to devote your time to your preschooler. If you have other siblings, be mindful that there is very limited space in the classrooms. Due to limited space at the church, as well as limited resources, we cannot offer free childcare as we have for 'Party Parents.' It would be helpful for you to find child care during that time for your child's siblings. Thank you for your understanding about this matter.



Fire/Tornado Drill—

On Monday, April 24th and Tuesday, April 25th, FBCDS conducted a **safety Tornado Drill**. The children were led downstairs to the lower floor where there is a hallway as well as a specific classroom away from any windows. The children did a wonderful job holding to the railing, descending the stairs, and walking in the hallway. We will continue to conduct these drills to keep us all alert. You should ask your child about the drill.

