

A Word from our President.

Hi Downey Families!

We are now firmly in the second semester. Classes have been busy with field trips and projects. Thank you teachers and families for sharing the pictures from the field trips and class times. Speaking of field trips, please keep an eye out for an invoice for the second half of the activity fee. This does not apply to Tadpoles or Lily Pads families.

This month, we will also be seeing the order forms for the Art to Remember fundraiser. Jen sent a preview on Bloomz of the artwork done by the students. This is a cool fundraiser where your child's artwork is available on many different items that make great gifts or keepsakes. Order forms will be placed in your Downey mailboxes.

In March, we will have our Spring Work Night on Wednesday, March 20th from 4-7pm. Unfortunately, unlike our Outdoor Work Day, we do not provide childcare since we will be cleaning in all of our indoor spaces. Only one adult from each family needs to attend, but this is a required event for all families. If no adult from your family can attend on the 20th, contact Sarah Bowles to be connected with a project that you can do from home or on another date. Be on the lookout for a list of projects that will be sent through Sign Up Genius.

If you know of any families that would like to check out Downey for next school year, please let them know of our open houses this month. On March 13th from 9:30-11am, families can take a tour, see the classes in action, and get questions answered during our daytime Open House. No RSVP is required, but if families would like to send one, they can contact us at downeymembership@gmail.com. On March 16th, we will have a Downey Story Hour (similar to what we did in the summer) from 10:30-11:30am. Current and prospective families will have the chance to do teacher-led activities as well as tour the school.

At the end of March, we will have Spring Break. The week of March 25th is a flex week. If we need to make up classes, we will do so during that week. The week of April 1st is the second week of Spring Break; no makeup classes will be scheduled during that week.

Thank you families for all of the work you do in making Downey a great place to be!

Tiffany

CLASSROOM UPDATES



FROG LOG

There weren't many days in the classroom during February so it just seemed to fly by! We were busy with our field trip to Bloom and fun Valentine exchange and activities in the classroom. The Bloom visit was a wonderful success and we will visit Bloom one last time in May.

During February we made different kinds of paper airplanes and flying crafts. We did some target practice and distance testing with the aircrafts. The children really enjoyed deconstructing a broken CD player to see what was inside and there will be more of this to come. The sensory table started as cloud dough, which was quite the hit for many, and changed to rice at the end of the month.

We had activities available in the classroom that focused on these academic concepts: writing our own names, letter exploration, numerals 0 - 10, and recognizing and creating patterns.

For March we will be beginning a unit on birds. We'll incorporate bird themed activities in our art, dramatic play, with books, workbench, and more. There are several children who enjoy playing (video or other types of) games, so I'm working on coming up with some activities and ways we can create a unit of games for the classroom. If you have any activities, knowledge, or ideas about these two topics, we would love to hear about them!

Also for the month of March, we will be taking a field trip to Indianapolis Repertory Theater to watch a play titled Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in A Play!" This play is based on the characters from Mo Willems best-selling book series Elephant and Piggie. We will be reading some of these during class to familiarize the children with them and I highly recommend these books as family reading too!

Thanks,
Mindy Dant-Gordon



POLLIWOGS

March already; so hard to believe. We welcomed a new Polliwog this past week; Vini Vargo, Her family is a former Downey co-op family; we are excited to have them back. In March, we will talk about all of the signs of Spring and celebrate St Patrick's Day! We will be doing some fun science experiments this month. Thanks to everyone for the special Valentine's cards and treats:) I enjoyed them all! Last month, we had a fun field trip to Bittersweet; where the kids decorated yummy cupcakes. I cannot believe how much all the Polliwogs have grown!! They are having fun in the classroom and learning so much through play.

Angie Burck

CAREGIVER'S CORNER



“Children are never so calm and focused as when you find the right match of work to meet their needs.”

Do you struggle with telling your child “no” frequently? This article gives unique Montessori-based perspective on finding purposeful work to redirect struggles with following expected behaviors.

Link:

<https://www.mother.ly/montessori-at-home-giving-your-child-purposeful-work-could-be-a-game-changer>

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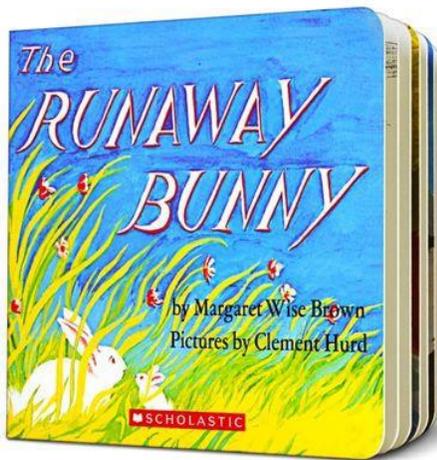
Kristen Biehl 2018-2019 Downey Co-Op Librarian
734-277-4841

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

🐰 Dare I risk it and say we are headed for spring?! I can't wait for everything to be coming up green! This month I have some great recommendations on spring books for your kiddos!

Thank you to the families who ordered during this past book club order! 🐛 As soon as your order is delivered to our classroom, I will send it home with your child.

This month, I'd like to recommend two books I read with my kids every spring:



The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown

We love this book; it's been part of our family canon since I was little. There's no greater bond than that between parent and child. *The Runaway Bunny* reveals that bond and exhibits very clearly how much a mother loves her baby, no matter what.

Purchase it here through our Scholastic book club (use class code TLMYP) for only \$6.

Link:

https://clubs.scholastic.com/the-runaway-bunny/9780439184632-rco-us.html?cgid=M_7#q=Spring&prefn1=isBuyableByParents&sz=18&start=168&prefv1=true

Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt

Bundled with

Over And Under The Snow by Katie Messner

Last month I recommended *Over and Under the Snow*, and it is now bundled with our spring favorite about the secrets of growth in the garden! Grab both in this bundle and explore the transition from winter to spring together in these beautifully illustrated books!

Purchase it here through our Scholastic book club (use class code TLMYP) for \$8.

Link:

https://clubs.scholastic.com/over-and-under-and-up-and-down-pack/9781338559385-rco-us.html?cgid=C_5#q=Up%2Band%2Bdown&start=2

