

MAY
2016



KTK News of the Day

Notes from Our Feathered Friends

Baby Chicks: All the babies want to wish their moms a happy first Mother's Day! We are excited for the warm weather to come and stay. Please make sure your child has weather appropriate clothing and a hat. Also, if your child is six months old or older, please bring in sunscreen and we can start applying it for walks and playing on the deck. Declan has been transitioning extremely well to the Penguins and is excited to be an official Penguin now. Our babies are growing up way too quickly, rolling about, starting to scoot, and getting great ab workouts sitting up. We are proud of you, babies, but feel free to slow down a little! This month we welcome three new Baby Chicks: Tessa, Wyatt, and Beckett (Romie's brother). We hope everyone has a fun Memorial Day with their families.

Penguins: We would like to wish our moms a happy Mother's Day! We are so pleased to announce that Declan O. has joined our class and is doing great. We also are sad that R.J. will be graduating to the Parrot room. He has been visiting and is doing well. He is definitely ready for new adventures, but he will be missed. We are all working very hard on perfecting our skills here in the Penguin class. Whether they are social skills or motor skills, we are all busy showing off what we can do or say. We have so much fun every day marveling at the interaction we see. With warmer weather here, we remind you to bring sunscreen and insect spray (if you want). We are required to go outside unless it's 90 degrees or warmer, so please bring a sun hat as well. Thanks!

Parrots: Hooray! Our plants are sprouting so nicely – be sure to take a look when you are outside. Other highlights from April include our wonderful spring bulletin board as well as lots of birdwatching. Our themes for May are Mother's Day, Colors, Shapes, and Caterpillars. We must

also bid farewell to Jacob and Duncan, who will each be spending the summer at home and returning in the fall. At the same time, we will officially be welcoming Romus (RJ), who is graduating to our room from the Penguins.

Peacocks: In May, the Peacocks' monthly themes are Animals and Mother's Day. The first week of May we will be talking about our moms and Mother's Day. We will make our mothers a special gift. Later in the month, we will learn about pets and how to take care of them. We will learn about zoo animals and their habitats. We will also explore what animals live on farms. Some of our featured activities will be a pet grooming salon, making a dog house, a couple animal matching games, and a How Many Spots on the Cow? game.

Preschool: Spring – a time of wonderful beginnings but also many emotional moments as some of our friends go on to bright, new adventures. It's hard to believe this is our last month with our older friends. We will be having a graduation gathering on Thursday, June 2, from 3-4 pm (more details to come). We welcome Madison into our preschool family. She will join us as numbers allow this month and be in our class full time once a spot opens. We have two birthdays in our classroom this month: happy, happy birthday to Drew and Ms. Kristi! During

May we will be learning about using our imaginations with the themes Mother's Day, Pirates, Opposites, and Space. Check out our weekly lesson plans on the website for more details (except about Mother's Day – our activities for that theme are secret). Thank you to those who continue to bring warm gear for outside time. Even though it is May, we may still need hats and gloves, at least for morning play outside. Somehow that playground is always windy and often chilly in the mornings.



A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Now that we are getting into some rainy weather, please make sure your child has good shoes here for playing outside. Often the ground is still damp in the afternoon, and sandals aren't as good as a good pair of tennis shoes for keeping feet warm.

Also, don't forget to bring in sunscreen for your child if you haven't already done so. The children will be taking a lot more walks and visits to parks in the surrounding area as the days continue to get warm and sunny again. Hurray!

Thanks for all you do as parents. You give us wonderful ideas, great referrals and a lot of good stories that make us laugh.

Remember that we will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 27th.

Happy Mother's Day!

Sue Schneider
Koala-T-Kare Director

Out of the Mouths of Babes

The kids had just gotten up from nap time when Ms. Sue decided to have a fire drill. After the drill one of the little girls from preschool was rubbing her eyes and said, "My legs are still shaky."

A friend was eating cereal for breakfast. After hearing a story about Boo Boo and Yah Yah he said, "boo yah" (with pumping arm action). There was a cereal and milk explosion! He said with a shocked look on his face "Oh, I'm all wet!"



Upcoming Events

May 5: Cinco de Mayo
May 8: Mother's Day
May 21: Armed Forces Day
May 23: Victoria Day
May 30: Memorial Day/**KTK CLOSED**

May Birthdays

May 10: Drew
May 21: Owen A.
May 26: Duncan
May 30: Declan O.



Birthday Party Ideas: Escaping the Stress of Children's Birthday Parties

Source: parent.net

Birthday parties are a wonderful way of encouraging your child on her or his special day. For parents, planning a child's birthday is sometimes a mix of stress, fear, and also fiscal worries. It comes each and every year, and many children will barely have finished putting away their presents when they begin talking about next year's extravaganza. Escaping the stress of children's birthday parties is not easy, but it is possible.

Prepare for the worst

Most likely the worst will not happen, but if you come to terms with all the things that could possibly go wrong, you are one step ahead of taking control of your stress. The obvious problems may be shenanigans between the invited adult guests where one party may be on the outs with another and refuses to attend if person A or B is on the guest list.

There is also a good chance that there are some problems with the invited guests. Perhaps your party date falls right on a popular vacation date and the best friends are out of town. Conversely, your other child may suddenly throw a tantrum and feel unhappy because she or he is no longer the center of attention.

Maybe on the day of the party you notice that you forgot to mail out the invites. Conversely, you are finding that you are becoming increasingly irritated with the birthday child's attitude toward you and before long you find yourself muttering something along the lines of not being a cash machine.

Setting yourself up for the best

Now that you had a chance to brainstorm and think of the worst things that could possibly go wrong, it is time to set some goals and also prepare ahead of time to set yourself up for the best possible occasion.

- Planning is good. Getting any number of kids to move in the same direction, at the same time and on the same day requires meticulous planning. Put it down on paper, enlist help, and have backup activities if you believe that you might run out of entertainment halfway through the party.
- Theme the party. Themes have fallen by the wayside, but if you enlist the help of a theme, you do not have to rack your brain to come up with decorations and games. Instead, many themes naturally lend themselves to games and activities already.
- Do not give the invitations to your child to hand out at school, unless you are inviting the whole class. If your child gives invitations only to a select few, there will

be hurt feelings. If you are keeping the numbers small, mail the invites or call the parents of the other children directly.

- Limit the number of kids that will attend the party. Although a free for all ensures a good turnout, the idea of inviting one child for each year of your child's age is a good way of limiting the expense and chaos you might experience.
- Do not discount the stress your child will endure at the party. Depending on the age, your child may become over stimulated, tire out, and subsequently also begin acting out. In some cases, there may be hurt feelings over gifts or friends who suddenly pair off and leave your child out.
- Be honest with yourself about your comfort level with suddenly having 10 pint sized kids running through your home. If you don't like the sound of this idea, consider enlisting an outdoor venue or visit one of the fast food locales that offer party packages with food, entertainment, and – best of all – cleanup!
- Keep the party short and sweet. Do not make it an all day affair but specify a starting and ending time. The younger the child, the shorter the duration of the party. This is a good rule of thumb to keep kids from acting out.
- Goodie bags are a must and there must be sufficient bags for each child present, including the siblings. It should be a fun little item that says "thank you" to the kids for coming and helping your child celebrate.

After all is said and done, your child will not remember all the presents received, but more or less the experience. Make it as low stress and enjoyable as possible. Eliminate all the stressfulness as much as you can. Lastly, have fun!



Happy Mother's Day



News from the Kitchen

Happy May! May is a great month. The weather starts to turn the corner into what feels like summer, and it's a great time to start getting out of the house and enjoying fresh air. It's also a great time to go to farmers markets and start planting gardens.

May brings a few great holidays. Be sure to do something special with your kiddos to help make Mother's Day great for all the hard-working, loving moms out there. In addition, May 13th is National Apple Pie Day; YUM! Apple pie is a favorite with many people, but the thought of making a home-made pie can be a little overwhelming: making the crust, rolling it out, and peeling what feels like a million apples!

Well, I found a simple recipe to make apple pie bites when you're in the mood for that delicious apple pie goodness but don't have the time to go through all the steps of a traditional pie. And, bonus, this is so simple anybody can do it. It would make a wonderful treat for Mother's Day (hint, hint!). Dads: grab your little ones and head to the store to pick up a few items and you'll be well on your way to a delicious treat for Mom!

Apple Pie Bites

Ingredients:

- 1 package refrigerated pie crust
- One can (about 1 1/2 cups) of apple pie filling
- 1 egg
- Sugar for sprinkling

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Chop the apple pie filling. You can do this by hand or using a food processor.
3. Unroll one sheet of pie crust dough and spread the filling on it. Leave a 1/8 inch border around the edge.
4. Unroll the second sheet of pie crust and place it on top of the filling. Gently press down to secure it.
5. Make an egg wash by beating the egg with a splash of water. Then, brush some egg wash on the top pie crust and sprinkle it with sugar.
6. Cut the "pie" into strips about 1/2 inch wide, and then cross-cut the strips into rectangles. You can do this with a decorative edge roller, with a regular pizza cutter, or (very carefully!) with a sharp knife.
7. Carefully transfer the pie bites onto a baking sheet coated with cooking spray or lined with parchment paper. Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until they're slightly golden. Enjoy!

