

## Welcome back to the barn!

We are three weeks in to our spring semester morning program and are excited to have begun the afternoon program this week. It has been so fun reconnecting with our friends as well as welcoming many new faces to the barn. Our students have been eager to get back to work and have been working and playing hard, practicing a plethora of burgeoning skills, both with their bodies as well as communicating with one another. We are always so impressed with the leaps small children make on a regular basis.

It is so fun to hear from parents about the new things they notice in their children at home. We invite you all to continue sharing these things with us as well as any details about their home life that can help us to understand each of them more deeply as individuals. Even small details about their sleep, hunger, or changes at home really help us to meet each of our students where they are each day.



Our students always have access to an array of independent activities from which to choose.



All of our students, including the youngest, are eager to lend a helping hand and practice new skills.



Our library is always open and many of our storytimes are prompted spontaneously by the children.

## Bridging School and Home

We work on so many things every day at school, but there are certain areas on which we really focus. One of the main things we do each day is practice resolving conflicts with grace. For small children, these conflicts are often either within themselves or between themselves and the environment, of course they can also be interpersonal.

No matter the nature of the conflict we practice finding the calmness required to try again and communicate as best we can. Anytime someone is too upset, our first step is always to offer a sip of water, as this helps us to take a pause and reset before trying again or moving on.

Below you will find links to previous newsletters with many examples of how we phrase things and why. As much as possible, if these are reinforced at home, they can quickly become ingrained tools for our students throughout their lives.

[It's not just what we say but how we say it - 1.2](#)

[Tell them what they can do - 1.3](#)

[Resolving conflict away from home - 2.10](#)

[More phrases we use everyday - 3.6](#)

Some other school practices that may be useful in the home setting include encouraging the children to be responsible for their own bodies and materials. Anytime they need help, we model the phrase "help please" in a calm voice, as this will be key throughout their lives to successfully attain help.

We also expect our students to help keep track of their personal belongings throughout the day. Another unique practice is that all of our children in diapers practice getting changed standing up; this involves them more in their own bodily care as well as prepares them for autonomy in potty-ing and dressing.

Anytime you have any questions about your child's day at school or skills they are building, please let us know!

# GREENHOUSE UPDATE

**Thank you SO MUCH** to everyone for sharing and donating in support of our very successful Holiday Hoopla fundraiser! We exceeded our goal and have not only funded this semester's scholarships, but also will have a better than ever class garden as well as a working greenhouse classroom. This space will allow us to not only expand our gardening and science curriculum, but also provide a space for our older students to delve deeper into a variety of Montessori inspired studies. Check out the new floor! Shelving is next!



We are elated to see our afternoon program continue to grow. As we begin our biggest afternoon semester yet, we are reminded of how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful area surrounded by so many outdoor advocates both young and old!



## Free Parenting Class

THE INCREDIBLE YEARS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN (AGES 3-6)

- Virtual class meeting twice a week for one hour each session
- All Materials Included
- Registration Required
- 14 Week Class

### TOPICS TO COVER INCLUDE:

- Building a positive relationship with your child
- Increasing positive behaviors
- Building social, emotional, and pre-academic skills
- Setting limits
- Enforcing consequences
- Helping your child to solve problems and express feelings appropriately



### Details:

This 14-Week Class will meet biweekly. Virtual Meetings will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am to 10:30 am



To register, contact Becky [rcolumbo@gmail.com](mailto:rcolumbo@gmail.com) or Felice [felice.stjohn@gmail.com](mailto:felice.stjohn@gmail.com).

These classes have been very popular with our community and are consistent with our educational philosophy. While it began last week, you can still sign up!

## Important Dates

- **CLOSED:** Presidents' Day  
February 15
- **CLOSED:** Spring Break  
April 5-9
- Last Day of Spring Semester  
Afternoons: Thursday, May 13  
Mornings: Friday, May 21

BE ON THE LOOKOUT IN THE COMING WEEKS FOR SUMMER AND FALL PROGRAM INFO. CURRENT, ENROLLED FAMILIES WILL HAVE AN EARLY ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEFORE INFO IS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

**Spring Payment #2 Due:**  
Wednesday, Feb. 10  
**Spring Payment #3 Due:**  
Wednesday, March 10