

Dear Families,

Please don't hesitate to share your concerns, questions or ideas with us as they arise. We're happy to accommodate your requests, to make changes and to individualize for you and your child. You may talk with us anytime, email us, leave a message or share with Tera and/or Tammy. We work hard to build relationships with your children – building a positive and communicative relationship with you is tremendously important to our success as teachers. Please be sure to check in with your child's teachers daily. This can be as simple as saying hello or asking about your child's day.

October 31st is Team Day at The Growing Tree – wear your favorite team Jersey. The Growing Tree will be holding a parade outside with masks. **Please keep candy and costumes at home!**

Jen has moved on to other opportunities. **Please welcome our afternoon co-teacher Salina Schuster!** She will be working in the afternoon and she is a wonderful addition to the Blossom room. Salina has over 12 years of experience as an educator with young children. She loves to teach children about nature and has already explored wild, edible mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest and various types of squash with the Blossoms. We look forward to all that Salina will bring to our classroom

Please **only bring one reasonably child-sized blanket, one small pillow, and one small stuffy for naptime items.** We want to make sure that there is enough room to put everything in our cubbies as winter is slowly arriving. Please make sure to put naptime items in the bottom section of the cubbies to allow for more room for winter clothes. **Fabric bags are available at the front desk for \$6.** These bags are perfect for your children to stuff their gloves, mittens, hats, jackets and snow pants for safe keeping and organizing. It also give your child the opportunity to take their bags and boots to a less crowded part of the classroom to work on independently dressing themselves. A reusable shopping bag or small backpack works perfectly.

Earlier this month your Blossoms learned all about germs. They created their own ooey gooey germs with our jars of 'flarp,' which became a popular choice at free-play due to the funny noises it made! They used buttons, plastic eyes, toothpicks, and so much more to make their flarp germ masterpieces. Because these projects are open-ended (meaning there is no model, or 'right way' to produce) children are able to explore their creativity, express their ideas, experiment, make predictions and adapt when more successful ideas or strategies arise. There are germs all around us and now your Blossoms know how to cough into their 'wing' (also known as your elbow), to wash their hands before eating and after their hands become dirty and to use tissues when needed so that germs don't make us sick!

We just began our building study and your Blossoms couldn't be more excited! So far, they have learned about the Leaning Tower of Pisa and built their own leaning towers with blocks, clay and other materials. They also learned about the Burj Khalifa (the world's tallest building) and other skyscrapers and the kids even made their own skyscrapers that touched our classroom ceiling! Each morning your Blossom participates in journals where they share their creations and stories about buildings. They are so fun to explore and read together. We'll be collecting and compiling our building journals into books for your children to bring home at the end of the study.

Every day, your Blossoms practice calming techniques that help them to relax their minds and bodies and deal with conflict. We teach different types of deep breathing and encourage deep breaths when your child encounters a difficult, frustrating or upsetting situation. We encourage each Blossom to use their words in a firm voice to communicate when they feel upset. We hope to empower your children to feel confident or capable in suggesting solutions, making compromises, expressing themselves successfully and resolving conflicts. Each day before lunch we practice yoga specifically so that they can relax their bodies and calm their minds in preparation for our rest time. Your children are truly becoming yoga masters!

Conference sign-ups will be available November 1st at the front desk. **Conferences will be on Friday, November 11th 2016.** Please remember that we have 24 conferences to complete on that Friday. Your promptness is much appreciated!



The Blossom Class of 2017 playing 'Share The Chair' – like musical chairs, except no one is excluded! Instead children share chairs with one another as less and less chairs are available. Games like this teach children cooperation, collaboration, spatial awareness, compromise and decision making skills. Also – it's just a lot of good ole' fashioned fun!

Thank you for the opportunity to work and play with your outstanding, creative, kind, brave, curious children.

All the best to you!

Lane, Caroline, Linda, Salina