

Dear Families,

We're so proud of the Blossoms, who have truly become insect experts this month. We began this study by introducing insects that your children had some previous knowledge of (ants, butterflies, ladybugs, flies, honey bees, etc.) As we began to study these insects, we were able to make connections through games, stories, books, and the use of technology to develop a deeper and more connected concept of the characteristics, similarities, differences and life cycles of insects both familiar and foreign.

This July we'll study the ocean and ocean animals. If you have any materials, items, stories or photographs to share please let us know. We'll begin our study by identifying some ocean animals we are familiar with and slowly moving our investigation into other areas including the ocean layers, the life cycle of salmon, the predator/prey chain of the Pacific and we'll explore just how all those waves, tides and currents work!

Please remember to bring ONE SMALL blanket and pillow, and ONE STUFFED ITEM *each day*, for your child and to launder your child's items weekly. Not only does the Blossom room not have enough blankets and nap material to cover each child who does not bring these items – we also must launder these items at school. We need your help daily! A great and simple guideline – if it doesn't fit in your child's cubby, it's probably too big or too much! These items are an important part of your child's routine and sense of independence during rest time.

Growing Tree is a play-based child care center and during the summer we play in sand, water, soil, grass and with paint and other materials that are messy and fun. Please dress your child appropriately for their days here together. A light jacket is needed EVERYDAY, even on the hottest of days – the weather can be unpredictable and cloud cover or afternoon storms and wind can drop temperatures by over 15 degrees, making a t-shirt and shorts alone very uncomfortable for your child during outdoor play.

Growing Tree graduation will be Wednesday July 26th. Be on the lookout for an invitation.

Swimming lessons are coordinated through the front desk (Tammy). If you have cancellations, changes, or items for your child please see Samantha or Tammy.

Caroline has left Growing Tree to pursue other interests. Thank you Caroline for your support and we wish you well.

We are so excited to welcome Samantha Hausen to the Blossom room! She has achieved her BA in Early Childhood Education from OSU-Cascades and has been working for Growing Tree for almost a year. Please be sure to introduce yourself if you have yet to meet!

As always, please feel free to talk with us at anytime and share your questions, concerns or ideas with us. We are here to help best support your children and accommodate your requests.

All the best to you!

Your Blossom Teachers, Lane, Samantha and Linda

