

It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.

Dr. Wangari Maathai

April Topics

Welcome Monica Kernz and mamas Kristine and Tammy to our class! Thank you for welcoming the Kernz family. Thank you endlessly to Jordan for helping the children create their self portraits. These are hung inside the classroom. Please, you are always welcome at pickup to come have a look!

- **Peace Maker, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. Wangari Maathai.** April 1 is Dr. Wangari's birthday. We honor this wonderful woman's work for African women, children and the environment as well as the globe. We tell Dr. Maathai's life story in an age appropriate storytelling and now a new children's book about her life--in the book we read, there is a section regarding her imprisonment. We had a deep conversation regarding the tools used in that illustration (handgun and baton) to frighten her, to stop doing her earth work. We made emphasis on her bravery and her circle of support from others who supported her work and person, to get her out of jail. We ended our two day discussion with questions of what makes us feel safe during big imaginative play with friends and how do you offer peace to the earth. The insight was listed and will be photographed for our April google photos folder. We decided as a group to use safe words at school because school is meant to be a safe space. Additional words you possibly will hear at home: trees, women, babies, money, planting, poor/no food for the babies or families, soil, water, helping one another. A wonderful educational reference giving tribute to Dr. Maathai's work is from Project Learning Tree is at <http://www.plt.org/words-to-live-by---a-tribute-to-wangari-maathai>
- **Water Conservation:** Learning through introduction and practice of water fetching, uses and conserving water and the importance of fresh, clean water and how we can help.
- **Circle Showcase:** Opportunity for children, one at a time, to bravely enter the circle to tell a joke, dance, act, sing, silly movements or impersonation during circle. Following each showcase we clap and celebrate the person's bravery. Like all spring life surrounding us, our class is popping with activity, interest and movement. At the end of the day we might do group stretching and we also might create group story telling.

- **Please, Thank you, Pardon Me, Introductions & More Listening:** Songs, role-play of manners and facial expression/body language practice. A fun and practical request for good old, Grace and Courtesy as well as practice of connecting. With our deeper work with communication, our circles will focus on listening games to practice exploring what listening is, how to listen to self and groups.

- **Parts of a Flower:** roots, stem, leaf, corolla (pedal), stamen, pistol using our class microscope at the science table. Our class will begin exploring more of the plants in and outside of the garden and using much more scientific vocabulary as well as labeling the plants with name and if edible or non-edible. April we will gathered dandelion and kale greens for class salads the children will make.
- **Relationship of pollinators and flowers:** Butterfly life cycle, bees, Robins, hummingbirds and continued observation of Painted Lady larva to butterfly process

- **Earth Day:** varying earth month projects honoring discussion of how we all are Earth Peacekeepers and focus on renewable and reusable resources and water conservation activities and art.
- **Peace Pole:** Please donate colorful, long ribbon for the garden peace pole

Reminders:

- No School: Spring Break 8-12th
- 2:30pm pickup days for April (last month of extended option for snow make up hours) 2, 4, 15, 16, 29 Thanks for the extended relaxing time with your darling children.
- **Please start collecting and getting to teachers:**
 - White tee-shirts: We would like to indigo dye Klahanie School tee-shirts in May.
 - Parent volunteer to help us set-up Klahanie School logo on tee-shirts (helping setup ordering from a distributor or finding someone on island to help administer the process).
 - Large fresh flowers: we will use them to scientifically take a part and see the parts under our class microscope
 - Ribbon

March 2019 Reflection

Happy Spring! This month has brought us many wonderful opportunities in and outside the classroom. We were able to expand our outside play space to the south end of the property where we have the slides and much dirt moving, digging and creation opportunities. We then explored the importance of planting on hillsides and awareness of erosion and how to help prevent. We also began exploring transplanting times and how to support plants during that process. The children's self-initiate outside imagination is rich and many are using the dress-up and Garden Stage. This has allowed wonderful practice of listening opportunities as well as initiative for talking-listening rock to figure out taking turns with spaces. The group is offering fantastic improv opportunities.

Happy Spring to all!