

Woodside Newsletter

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SUPERHERO PLAY

A Few Words from Teacher Patty

Superhero play centers on children's fantasies of danger, bravery, good and evil, and above all, power. In superhero play, children don't just mimic adult activities, they become larger-than-life characters that help them explore their fears, hopes, and passions. They use imaginative stories and props that symbolize these feelings.

This sustained play based on fantasy characters is a sign that their brains have developed enough to think about the past and the future, and to picture what it's like to be someone or somewhere else.

This role playing provides a

way for children to "think out loud" and gain a



Green Lantern is a superhero

deeper understanding of what they have observed or imagined. They get to practice adult skills, explore feelings, try out new ways to connect with friends, discover how their bodies move, and try to

make sense of the large, and sometimes baffling world around them. Superhero props support exploration of other, more complex aspects of growing up: adult power, independence, and control. Children choose superhero play more than any other type of dramatic play when they want to focus on feelings. When children pretend to cook or drive a car, they are imitating adult actions. When they battle bad guys, they are not necessarily practicing future acts of violence (although this can be an element for some chil

(Cont. on pg. 3)

SPRINGTIME IN EUREKA

SPRING-A-LING

As Old Man Winter exits center stage, the blustery and sunny — but still cold — days of April are upon us. Yep, sweatshirt weather is here. Have you planted a garden? Flown a kite? Here are some of the fun activities from recent weeks in and around the Woodside classroom — and Eureka... and a preview of what's to come.

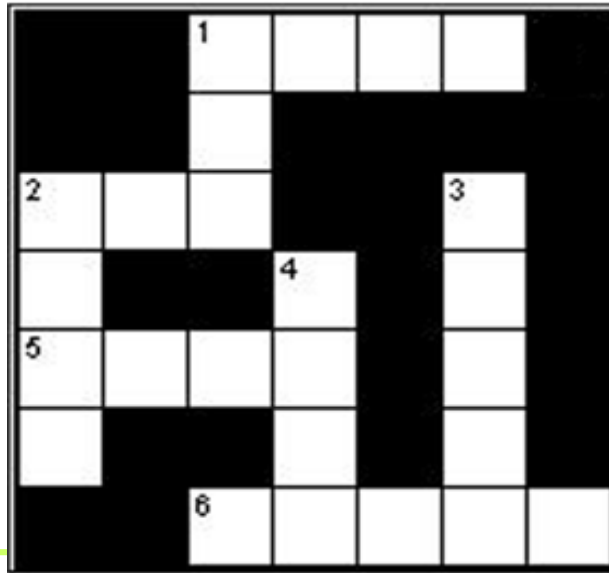
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Those rascally leprechauns! Little green footprints were found all over the Woodside classroom on St. Patrick's Day morning. Gold nuggets left behind by the tiny Irishmen were eagerly stuffed into gold satchels by wealth-building Woodside kids. "I'm rrrriicchh!" was even overheard by one parent, whose turn it was to teach that day.

SO THAT'S WHERE MILK COMES FROM!

Before it ends up on the shelves of Safeway, WinCo and Eureka Natural Foods, milk gets squirted out of real cows! Woodside kids recently got first-hand experience milking cows at a Ferndale dairy — literally! So, what does it feel like to squeeze milk out of a cow's udder? "Warm" was the way one Woodside kid summed it up. (Cont. on pg. 4)

Crossword for Kids



Did you know???

The first “word cross” puzzle appeared in the *New York World* in the year 1913. Arthur Wynne, a Liverpool journalist, invented the popular word game — now known as “crossword” — when his editor asked him to invent a new game for the paper.

Quote of the day:
“Daddy, can I do the crossword puzzle with a crown (crayon)?”
 —Emma Hurley, 4

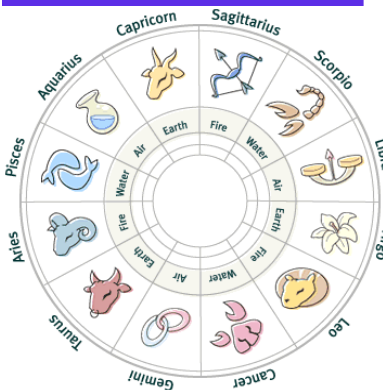
ACROSS

1. This white drink comes from a cow, and you pour it on cereal.
2. ‘I’m sleepy. I want to go to ____.’
5. ‘I don’t want to get wet. Why do I have to take a ____?’
6. ‘Mommy, where’s the tooth-paste? I have to brush my ____.’

DOWN

1. Pigs live in the ____.
2. ‘I can go potty all by myself. I’m not a ____ anymore.’
3. ‘I’m a good artist. I can make pretty pictures with a paintbrush and ____.’
4. ‘After I put on a sock, I put on a ____.’

HOROSCOPES FOR KIDS



Did you know that the time of your birth can play a role in determining your personality? According to **Astrology** — or the study of the stars’ and planets’ influence on human affairs — the course of your life is pre-ordained on the day you were born. When were you born?

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You are known for your adventurous spirit. Bugs don’t scare you anymore, and you even taught yourself to eat spaghetti with a grown-up fork. Mom should let YOU drive next time!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Taurus is the sign of the bull, and wow, do you ever know bull! Mommy thought you were eating your broccoli, but you were just hiding it under the table. HA! (Broccoli is gross.)
 (Cont. next pg.)

Superhero Play (Cont. from pg. 1)

dren). Fantasy monsters are most often symbols that represent children's fear, worry and anger. Magic wands, weapons, and superpowers are the symbolic tools they use to take control of those emotions and feel safe, powerful, and alive. *Magic Capes, Amazing Powers Transforming Superhero Play in the Classroom* by Eric Hoffman

At Woodside Preschool we have a wide variety of superheroes in the classroom. On a daily basis I am blessed to welcome Clark



Mighty Mouse is a superhero.

Kent who can quickly become Superman, breeds of dinosaurs I have never even heard of, princesses issuing orders, Ninja

Turtles and space robots. I introduce heroes from literature who "save the day" every month. A few of these characters are taken from Peter and the Wolf and just recently from Make Way For Ducklings. We also read a book recently about a young girl whose bravery taught her methods, including magic, needed to grow balloons in a new and creative way. My hope is to create a safe place for children to explore these feelings all ways on the lookout for

"On a daily basis I am blessed to welcome Clark Kent who can quickly become Superman, breeds of dinosaurs I have never even heard of, princesses issuing orders, Ninja Turtles and space robots."
—Teacher Patty

Horoscopes For Kids (Cont. from pg. 2)

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

The sign of Gemini — the twins — describes you well, because you can really multi-task. Putting on your jammies, drinking a sipie *and* humming 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' at the same time? Easy!

LEO (July 23-August 22)

Do you ever growl like a lion? Are you king of the playground? Of course — you're a Leo. You're not to be messed with. (Can we be friends???)

VIRGO (August 23-Sept. 22)

Virgos are known for being smart and well-organized. "Hey Dad: If you want me to alphabetize the DVD shelf again, I get an ice cream bar."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The scale is the sign of the Libra. Teletubbies or Dora? Bubblebath or regular? Mac-and-cheese or a burrito? Weighing options helps the clever Libra decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Power and determination — these are the traits of the Scorpio. Want to see a little kid carry a whole gallon of milk? Ask a Scorpio!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Like the skillful archer, you hit what you're aiming for. At bath time, that squishy-whale bath toy is a deadly weapon in your hands. Watch out, Dad!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

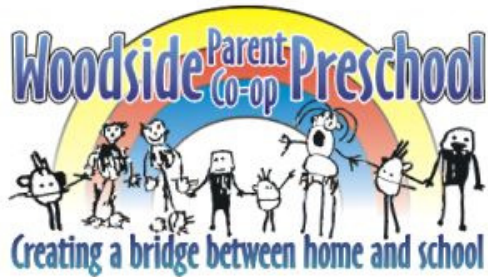
Sure, the grass may look greener on the other playground, but the practical goat likes a routine. Yes, you know you had tuna fish for lunch every day this week, but you want it again. And don't forget to cut off the crusts, Mom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're not only learning to read Dr. Seuss, but also how to tie your shoes. Heck, you can play XBOX better than Daddy. This really *is* the dawning of the Age of Aquarius!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Psychic powers are the exclusive domain of the intuitive Pisces child. 'I predict Mommy and Daddy will take me to Bon Bon-niere for dinner tonight.'



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ABOUT US

Woodside Preschool is the oldest preschool operating in Eureka. We are fully accredited by the State of California, and are staffed by a credentialed teacher/director. We are organized as a non-profit and parent cooperative corporation, having an elected board of directors composed of parents who are responsible for the school's operation.

We are very proud of our adult/child ratio of 1:5, not usually found in other school settings. This allows for more opportunities for problem-solving and one-on-one interactions.

Our philosophy is a parent involved approach giving children a bridge between home and school, providing a comfortable introduction to their first school experience. Our purpose is to create a warm and inviting setting where children are free to play and learn.

Our innovative teaching approach stimulates cognitive, physical, and social growth. We encourage problem solving skills and hands-on experiences. This creates a more active learning environment, fostering Kindergarten readiness.

SPRINGTIME IN EUREKA (Cont. from pg. 1)

GET RID OF YOUR \$TUFF

The Annual Rummage sale is a good way to finally unload that food processor you never use, or to shed that pair of 2-T overalls your preschooler outgrew long ago. Takes place May 17th at the Woodside School. (Proceeds benefit the school.)

SPRING BREAK: 4/14-18

Snack time, stories and choo-choo trains are courtesy of Mom and Dad this week, because Woodside will be closed for Spring Break.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Bring Mom along for 'a spot of tea' on May 8th at the Woodside classroom, 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

LOLETA CHEESE FACTORY/ WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Woodsiders take a field trip for some

cheese and a nature walk. Coming in June... date TBA.



Woodside kids enjoy a picnic.

PARENTS' MEETING

The next mandatory meeting is May 20th. One parent required to attend. Babysitting provided.

AROUND TOWN

The **Farmers' Market** gets underway Saturday, April 12th at the Arcata Plaza. Eureka locations (Old Town, Henderson Center) open in June.

The **Rhododendron Parade** winds through the streets of Eureka on April 26th. Hear the announcer describe the floats at Henderson and F St.

Are you more of a Wheel-watcher than a birdwatcher? That's okay — newbies are allowed at the **13th Annual Godwit Days** in Arcata. April 17th-23rd. Times, locations vary.

Ride an authentic steam train at the **Dolbeer Steam Donkey Days**. On April 19th and 20th, take the kids to Fort Humboldt for the historic rail excursion and history lesson.

The **Kinetic Sculpture Race** starts in Arcata, ends in Ferndale. May 24th-26th.