

Special points of interest:

- Closing early at 4pm on Dec 31
- CLOSED Jan 1
- CLOSED Jan 21
- Kindergarten Info Session Jan 24
- SPIRIT DAY Wear your class color! Jan 25

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New Year... New Goals!

Happy New Year!

Every January we are closed on MLK, Jr. Day to have a "Dreamer's Day" of our own. The staff participate in an all day retreat. We have team-building activities, professional development and goal setting. We discuss the highs and lows of 2018. We also share the comments that you gave us from the parent surveys (the good and the areas needing improvement). Together, we take ownership by creating realistic goals for the school to work on. We hope to better serve you in 2019. Teamwork makes the dream work! We truly appreciate you and your family for entrusting your children with

our faculty and staff here at LeafSpring.

Our next family event will be on **February 7th** from 6-7p.m. for Cupid's Ball. This is one of the cutest events—children get dressed up and even get to dance with their moms and dads. So, you better bring your dancing shoes!

ATTENTION PRE-KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: We have two "Save the Dates" for you! First is **Thursday, January 24th** at 5 p.m. We will be discussing all things related to Kindergarten. More information is in the section below. The second date is **Friday, June 7th**. We will have their Pre-

Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony in the late afternoon.

PRIVATE KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: Save the date for **Friday, June 7th**. Private Kindergarten graduation will be later in the morning. Can you believe it? Time is flying and first grade will be waiting for them!

As with all things, our doors are always open.

Your Fearless Leaders, Joyce, Angeline, Athena, and Krystal

Kindergarten Readiness Information Session—Save the Date

Is your child going to be a Kindergartener next Fall 2019? Are you considering Private Kindergarten or unsure what your options are? All are invited to come to our Kindergarten Readiness Open House and Information Session on **Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 5pm in the Village Gym**.

Come learn about...

- Preparing for Kindergarten. Ready or Not?
 - Our Private Kindergarten class at LeafSpring School.
 - Public school options in the community.
 - Registration information and timelines.
- We'll also tell you about our great...

- Summer camp: Camp Blue Sky!
- After school recreation program: The Village.

More information will be posted in our Pre-K Classrooms. Please see the Village Director, Angeline, for any questions.

Curriculum Highlight for Yellow Room



In December, one of our weekly themes was the Four Seasons. We took each day out of the week to focus on a season beginning with Spring and ending the week reviewing all four seasons. We read a book representing each season, dressed Mr. Froggy accordingly, and then did art relating to that activity. Each day we all sang the "Four Seasons" song in the tune of "If You're Happy and You know It." This activity helped with clapping in

rhythm and language development. They were able to recognize the four seasons and discuss how the weather changes in each. In art for creative development along with helping their sensory and cognitive skills, we created the sun, a fall tree, a flowery field using scissors to cut the grass, and foot prints in the snow. I feel their favorite part of the season curriculum was dressing Mr. Froggy! They really enjoyed coming up with what they

felt he needed for each season and taking turns in dressing him. They also related this to their daily living in what they needed to wear each day.



Gold Room's INSPIRED Article

This month we reintroduced the value of respect to the children. As the children have learned how to be helpful, they have also started to develop an appreciation and respect for their environment.

One of the goals of the Environmental Literacy is to help the children develop positive habits that will benefit our environments in the future. We are learning how to be

kind to the world around us. Gold room visited the retirement community at Atlantic Shores. We sang Christmas carols and spent some time talking to the residents. The children made cards for the residents. Each child was able to hand a card to a resident. Then, the residents gave each child a little gift. The children used their manners that we have worked so hard to learn.

The kids did an amazing job following the rules and they were so respectful. The staff and residents commented on how well-behaved the children were. We were so proud of them. They really showed us that they understand what it means to be kind to the world around us.

Have You Been Naughty or Nice to Your Teeth?

Holiday treats start with Halloween, continue to Christmas, and extend to Valentine's Day! I found this article and thought it would be great to share with you as we all indulge in the sweetness each holiday brings!

It's not easy to stay healthy during the holidays. Sweets seem to appear everywhere you go, and with all of the present-wrapping and card-

writing, there's not much time to devote to you and your family's health and well-being. Luckily, Hermey the Elf, best known for his adventures with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, joined forces with the American Dental Association (ADA) to come up with tips for keeping your mouth and teeth healthy during the holidays.

In the classic holiday movie,

Hermey dreamed of becoming a dentist and helping people keep their teeth healthy. In 2014, the ADA awarded Hermey with a Dental Do Gooder (DDG) for his passion for dentistry. This year, Hermey and the ADA came up with a set of tips to help families keep their smiles in tip-top shape.

✓ **Have a routine.** Hermey always brushes his teeth two times a day, for two minutes,

(cont'd from pg 2) Have You Been Naughty or Nice to Your Teeth?

and you should too! It's what keeps your mouth healthy in December and all year long. Make sure to use a fluoride toothpaste that has earned the ADA Seal of Acceptance.

✓ **Choose the carrots.** (That means you, Santa!) Cookies and sweets are nice holiday treats, but instead of reaching for another candy cane, take a cue from Rudolph and eat the carrots.

✓ **Don't forget the dentist!** The holidays can be a busy time, but that doesn't mean you can forget about your teeth. If you are due for a teeth cleaning or need work done, don't forget to visit your dentist in December.

✓ **Drink water.** You need a lot of energy for holiday activities, but avoid drinking sodas, sports drinks and juices

with lots of sugar. Instead, drink water with fluoride in it to keep your teeth strong and healthy.

✓ **Protect your teeth.** Wear a mouthguard whenever you play sports – or reindeer games – this winter.

Resource: <https://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/babies-and-kids/holiday-healthy-teeth-tips>

Improve Learning by Boosting Social Skills

One of the best indicators of future school success is a child's ability to interact with others. Students with positive social skills tend to do better in school than students who are aggressive, disliked by classmates or unable to form close relationships. Class discussions, group projects and group activities all require students to work with one another. Strong social skills will make it easier for your child to succeed.

To reinforce social skills at home:

- **Talk about what it takes to be a good friend**—being honest, nice and a good

listener. Can your child think of times when he's shown these traits? Role-play to help him practice being friendly.

- **Teach your child to be a good sport.** Encourage him to be gracious whether he wins or loses. Compliment him for trying hard, even when he doesn't succeed.
- **Expect your child to be kind and polite.** Being nice is the right thing to do. Help him think about others' feelings: "Andy's mom is sick. How do you think we could help?"

- **Practice cooperation.** Do projects together, such as planning a family dinner. Look for opportunities to compromise, too. ("You can sleep 10 minutes later before school if you choose your outfits at night.")
- **Support your child's friendships.** Allow him to invite friends over and participate in group activities. Also encourage him to meet new people.

Be a role model. When parents are friendly to each other, kids probably will be, too.

(Brought to you by the Parent Connection of VBCPS)



Front Desk Notes from Mr. Justin

HELLO 2019!

My how fast 2018 came and went. We hope that all of our visitors had as much of a blast at our Holiday/Founder's Show, as we, here at LeafSpring School did! It really just puts you in the spirit hearing the little ones sing their hearts out! I hope that everyone's

holidays went well and Santa treated you all nice.

I will be doing our mid-year file audit! So please look out for emails about updated immunizations or paperwork that may be needed.

A few reminders – Vacation resets for those that qualify January 1st. We will

be closed January 1st in observance of New Years as well as January 21st for our Dreamer's Day Retreat.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please email me or stop by the Preschool front desk!

Happy New Year!

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OUR LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

INSPIRED

Raising Tomorrow's Leaders



January is civic.

I work well with others.

I tell the truth.

I do the right thing even if no one is watching.

I love my country.

Important Dates to Remember

2018

We will close early:

December 31 *Closing at 4 pm*

2019 Closings:

January 1

January 21

May 27

July 4

August 29-30

September 2

November 28-29

December 24-25

December 31 *Closing at 4 pm*

This Month's Celebrations

Children's Birthdays:

02 Paisley 1

03 Roman 5

05 Eamon 3

16 Tomohiro 6

Katie 3

18 Adyson 11

Cecilia 5

20 Levi 5

21 Jackson 8

22 Jason 2

24 Jack 8

28 Gabriella 11

29 Allie 6

30 Paige 5

Staff Birthdays:

2 Mrs. Christine

7 Mrs. Christi

22 Ms. Barbara

23 Mrs. Angeline

24 Ms. Jessica C.

30 Mrs. Natalia

Staff Anniversary:

11 Mr. Ron 3 years!

17 Ms. Mahogany,

Mrs. Kim, & Ms.

Scarlett 1 year!

January 2019 Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 LEAFSPRING SCHOOL IS CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 String Cheese Beef Ravioli Corn Fruit Cocktail Trail Mix	3 Cheerios Cereal Chicken Alfredo Green Beans Applesauce Animal Crackers	4 Pancakes Turkey & Cheese Wrap, Salad Pineapples Cheez-Its
7 Roll w/ Butter Creamy 3 Cheese Spaghetti Green Beans Pineapples Goldfish Crackers	8 Rice Krispies Cereal Turkey Sloppy Joe on a Bun, Corn Fruit Cocktail Oatmeal Cookies	9 Cheerios Cereal Meatball Marinara (beef, chicken, turkey), Roll, Salad, Applesauce Animal Crackers	10 Pancakes Chicken Tetrzzini Mixed Vegetables Pineapples Trail Mix	11 Corn Flakes Cereal Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Salad Peaches Veggie Straws
14 Cheerios Cereal Broccoli Rice Casserole, Mixed Veggies Pineapples Cheez-Its	15 Roll w/ Butter Mac & Cheese w/ Beef Hot Dogs Green Beans Applesauce Graham Crackers	16 Corn Flakes Cereal Cheese Lasagna Broccoli Fruit Cocktail Animal Crackers	17 Waffles Turkey Meat-a-Roni Corn Mandarin Oranges String Cheese, Crackers, Water	18 Rice Krispies Cereal Chicken & Cheese Wrap, Salad Applesauce S'mores Pudding
21 LEAFSPRING SCHOOL IS CLOSED TEACHER WORKDAY	22 Corn Flakes Cereal Turkey Spaghetti Mixed Veggies Mandarin Oranges Animal Crackers	23 String Cheese Beef Ravioli Green Beans Pineapples Oatmeal Cookies	24 Pancakes Cheesy Chicken & Rice Corn Mandarin Oranges Trail Mix	25 Roll w/ Butter Turkey Hot Dog on a Bun Salad Peaches Veggie Straws
28 Waffles Mac & Cheese Green Beans Pineapples Oatmeal Cookies	29 Cheese Wraps Mexican Casserole w/ Turkey Meat Broccoli Peaches Trail Mix	30 Rice Krispies Cereal BBQ Meatballs (beef, chicken, turkey), Roll Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Animal Crackers	31 Roll w/ Butter 3 Cheese Spaghetti w/ Chicken Corn Applesauce Snack Mix	*Milk served with all meals unless otherwise noted*