

WILD LILAC PRESCHOOL

HONORING ALL CHILDREN

Iris House 1533 SE 32nd Ave, Portland OR, 97214
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Daffodil House April Newsletter

What We Have Been Up To:

With the coming of spring, we have been noticing lots of sprouting plants, flowers, and budding trees in our backyard! We have begun our snap peas and are going to be adding a bamboo tepee for them to climb. Everyone has made their predictions about how many days the peas will take to sprout, and we have a countdown started in the playroom. We also brought some of our spring leaves and flowers inside to look at through our loupes (easy-to-use magnifying glasses.) We drew pictures of the magnified objects and discussed how they looked different when magnified.



Examining an object...

Our “Still Life of a Bird’s Nest” is complete, and we think the walls look so beautiful. We are amazed at the creativity and individuality expressed in each of the paintings and impressed by how carefully

each child looked at the lines and shapes of the bird’s nest for their painting.



Our First Play After Play Experience!

Our show-and-tell time during circle has led us to explore some interesting topics including musical instruments, sea creatures, birds and nests, and ballerinas. During a recent circle time, a student noticed that our circle looked like the letter “Q,” with one person lying down to make a tail. This led us to write “families of ‘Q’s’” on drawing paper and talk about words that started with “Q.”



Exploring the letter Q!

What’s Coming Up:

We are planning another still-life project to help us build up to a culminating project of

painting a self-portrait. We have some hand mirrors and have already been practicing looking at our faces and other objects in the room.

After our student-initiated exploration of the letter “Q,” we have noticed a growing interest in reading and writing. We will be introducing other pre-reading and writing activities such as making letter shapes with our bodies, identifying words and letters around the classroom, and a writing station, complete with pencils, envelopes, and “stamps.”

Book Club:

Our next book club meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 7pm. The name of the book is *That’s Not Fair: a Teacher’s Guide to Activism with Young Children* by Ann Pelo. We hope you’ll join us for a discussion about a topic that is very close to our hearts at Wild Lilac.

Earth Day:

Also, our Earth Day Planting Celebration is scheduled for April 22 at 11:30 am. Please come join us! We welcome any ideas you might have that would make our gardening projects a successful learning tool for everyone at Daffodil House, and we always welcome donations of any leftover seeds or gardening supplies.

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From Michelle in the Wild Lilac Kitchen...

Spring is here!
A brisk walk through the Irvington neighborhood this evening has me feeling the buzz of spring. The colors and textures are truly enchanting & I am so excited to become reacquainted with the foods of this flavorful season! Soon the earth will be offering cruciferous vegetables for our quiches and stir fries and the loveliest berries to speckle our tart yogurt. Our strawberry planter is packed and ready to fuel our friends with sweet crimson snacks as they find new ways to explore the outside world. Oh how we love our apples and pears, but how wonderful it will be to welcome the fruits of summer, the peaches, the plums & my favorite, melon! I have many ideas brewing for the coming months...having just finished fermenting a batch of delicious rose petal kombucha at home, this week we will explore the art of fermentation at Wild Lilac and make our very own yogurt, a simple and practical way to introduce fermentation. We do love our yogurt!

And to pair with that yogurt, here is my recipe for coconut granola. Enjoy!

4 cups thick rolled oats
1/2 cup unsweetened dried coconut
pinch of salt
1/3 cup honey
scant 1/4 cup canola oil

Combine dry ingredients in one bowl & toss. Combine oil and honey into a measuring cup. Pour honey/oil over dry mixture and mix well (clean hands work like a charm, I usually rub a dab of oil onto my hands to prevent excessive stickiness. Spread granola onto parchment lined or oiled baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 30-40 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle with a few pinches brown sugar (if you have it, this makes the granola extra crunchy!). Let cool on baking sheets at least 30 minutes before adding any optional dried fruit. Store in an airtight container.

Calendar

April 5- Parent Event – Parent Discussion Night, 7:00pm

April 9- No School - Teacher Planning Day

April 22- Family Event – Daffodil House Earth Day Planting Celebration, 11:30am

April 29- Book Club Meeting for all teachers and parents/guardians!, 7pm

May 8- Community Event- May Faire, 10:30am-12:30am