

# CHILD'S VIEW NEWS



4729 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland, OR 97219

503-293-9422

[www.childsvie.net](http://www.childsvie.net)

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## Happy Spring!

Daffodils abound and the trees are in bloom. We are looking forward to sunny days ahead! Our Spring Plant Sale is underway and we are looking forward to our Garden Party on April 30th to get our garden ready and begin planting. Mark your calendars to join us! Our last Parent Link meeting of the year is Thursday, April 7th. We are so grateful to those parents who have participated in Parent Link throughout the year, and to all

of our families for your help and support with volunteer needs and fundraisers!

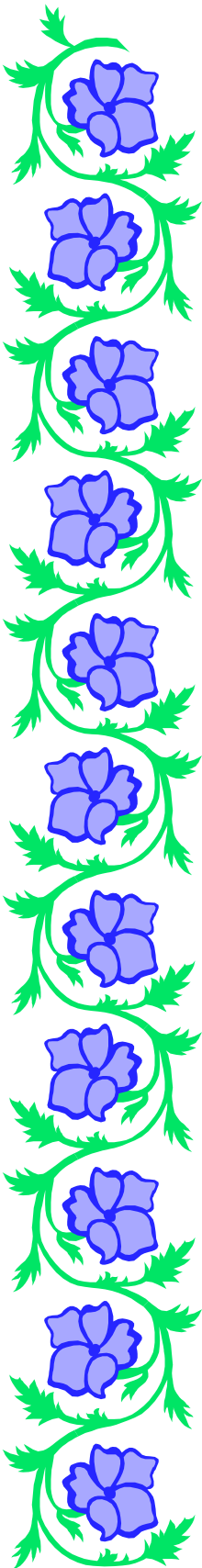


**The Season for Nonviolence** came to an end on April 4th. On April 5th we planted our new Peace Pole to help us continue our focus on peace throughout the year. We sang peace songs and each child placed a stone block at the base. In

the next few days we will continue working on the base around our Peace Pole, arranging the stones and planting flowers. Our Pennies for Peace jars are filling up rapidly. The last day for pennies will be Monday April 11th, so bring those last pennies in. Child's View will be matching the donation. We will continue collecting food for SW Hope until April 17. Please help your child select non-perishable food or toiletry items to place in the barrel. You can also go online to see how you can go out to eat and feed the hungry at:

[www.swhope.org](http://www.swhope.org).





## Dove Room News

The Dove Room is happy to announce we will soon have a new bunny joining us. His name is Monroe. He is currently spending the time he needs at the Fisher's house, getting acclimated to BoBo, and vice versa. We are all very excited for our new friend and can't wait for his arrival!

As far as the Dove Room itself, things are great! It seems like within a week, the children have exploded through language and math exercises. There is everything from reading labels and matching to objects and writing notes to each other, to counting bead chains all the way to 100, and collective exercises with addition. This is very exciting to witness. There is a crazy amount of confidence and joy that fills the room everyday. Some of the children are even starting to make their own "3 part" books to take home. I feel so proud!

We are continuing to cover many grace and courtesies as well. Since there have been some illnesses going around the school, I have made it an important part of our day. Some of these include how to use a tissue (blow your nose), and the importance of hand washing! Be sure and ask your kids about the "choo-choo" song. :)

We are the strongest we have been in the Dove Room, and look forward to many more great successes!

## Crane Room News

Last month there were lots of true stories about peacemakers and problem solving. Faith taught us a new song that included the sign language for peace, love and joy and the idea that these things flow eternally from within us (I've got peace like river, I've got love like an ocean, I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul). The children have engaged in lots of sharing and are cultivating rewarding and thoughtful friendships. I witness a great deal of joy as the children stitch an embroidered design or draw a picture for a friend.

Tux was taken to the vet last month. He had an ear infection, for which I had to give him ear drops twice a day for a week. Tux was very patient, as unpleasant as it was for him. I was grateful that he was well socialized by his original owner! We noticed right away that he was feeling better, because he ran and ran and ran some more in their run-around wheel. Many of the children wrote a thank you note to the veterinarian for helping tux feel better.

Molly, a student teacher from the Montessori Institute Northwest, will be joining us for practice teaching in April. I very much look forward to her arrival and participation in class.

## Afternoon News



In the afternoon, during outdoor play, we have been watching the daffodils bloom, the cherry trees blossom and the weeds grow in our garden. We are looking forward to the Garden Party at the end of April, and have been spending time digging in the planting beads to loosen the soil. Expect to see cut flowers coming home.

Classroom activities include making food coloring bubble paper, flower vases and bracelets.

## The Important Thing

The second work-timers came up with the following poem, inspired by The Important Book, by Margaret Wise Brown.

**The important thing about a broom is that you sweep with it.  
It has a stick for a handle,  
and bristles for sweeping debris.  
You put it away when you're done sweeping.  
But the important thing about a broom is that you sweep with it.**

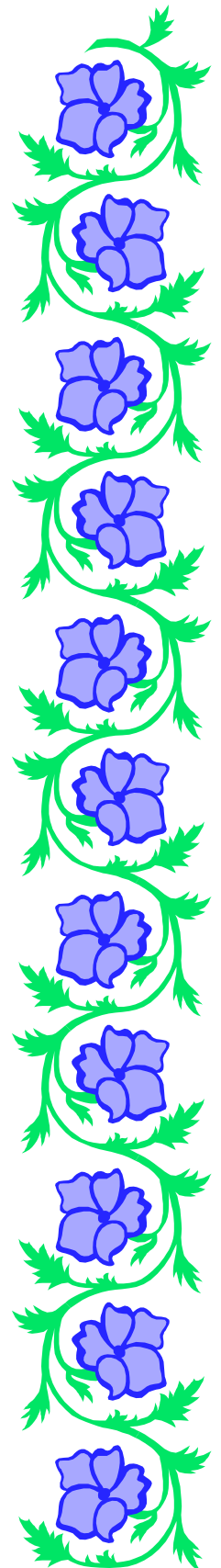
**The important thing about a lamp is that it shines.  
You have it in a house or a school.  
You can read with one.  
It has a switch and a light bulb in it.  
But the important thing about a lamp is that it shines.**

**The important thing about a spider is that it eats mosquitoes!  
It has eight legs.  
It is an arachnid.  
It builds a web that bugs get stuck in.  
But the important thing about a spider is that it eats mosquitoes.**

**The important thing about a drawer is that it opens.  
You can put stuff in it.  
You can pull it out and take things out of it.  
It closes.  
But the important thing about a drawer is that it opens.**

**The important thing about a tree is that it grows.  
It is green and it has leaves.  
Sometimes it has sweet, yummy fruit.  
A tree can make paper and shade and it cleans the air.  
But the important thing about a tree is that it grows.**

**The important thing about peace is that it is peaceful.  
You can represent it with a shiny rainbow peace symbol.  
You can feel it in a deep breath.  
Peace is loving.  
But the important thing about peace is that it is peaceful.**



# Positive Discipline

~by Andrea Fallico

Every adult who cares for young children has a responsibility to guide, direct, and socialize children to appropriate behaviors. It's important to keep these directions positive to help the child make good choices, have self control, and be responsible. The more effective the adult, the less time they'll have to spend correcting misbehavior's. Children specialists believe that using physical force, "put-downs", and threats can harm the child's natural development.

Positive discipline works in tandem with the child's development. Being positive towards the child will help them build their self esteem, and be kind to others. Negativity can result in depression, and inhibit learning. As parents/teachers it is important to practice patience, cooperation, attentiveness, and understanding. Every child reacts differently to certain rules. Here are some helpful suggestions to prevent misbehaviors:

1. Set clear expectations.
2. Make sure the environment is a happy one.
3. Show interest/engage in the child's activities.
4. Provide choices. This helps with self control and decision making.
5. Pay attention to the child when they do things "right," and say yes whenever you can.
6. Be an encouraging role model for the child.
7. Help children see how their actions affect others.
8. Involve child in creating rules for the home or classroom.



Here are some strategies on how to respond to misbehavior's:

1. **Natural Consequences** - The child will learn that sometimes their actions will result in something breaking or becoming lost. This will help teach the child to be more careful.
2. **Logical Consequences** - Having structured consequences that will allow the child to see how the behavior and the consequence are directly related.
3. **"Fix-up"** - Having the child develop a responsibility towards their own actions. (I.E. cleaning up messes, relieving another child's distress, etc.)
4. **Positive Time Out** - Designate an area where the child can go to calm down and regroup. Child chooses to return when ready to re-engage and deal with the situation. With very young children and big emotions, sometimes time-out needs to be taken together.
5. **Redirection** - This can be helpful when you notice a child being uncooperative towards you or others. Simply offer another choice, or have them be your little helper. When directing the child, be firm, but calm and loving.

Each child is special in their own way. Take the time to observe the child's interests and special qualities. This will aide in choosing the best action for the child and situation when such actions must be taken.

## Tips for Being Positive with Kids

From our Parent Night on Staying Positive with our Children, below are some tips:

- Respect. Treat your child respectfully, model respect towards others, and expect your child to treat you and others respectfully.
- Preparing the environment. Make sure the environment is set up in consideration of your child and his/her needs. When there are problems, look to see what is preventing a need from being met. Sometimes that thing is the adult, so remember to look to yourself as well.
- Support your child in their independence and ability to do within the environment. Don't do for them what they can do for themselves. You may need to support the process, however.
- Help your child learn interdependence. We all work together to help each other. Expect your child to participate and be a helper.
- Show your child what is expected and teach appropriate behavior through modeling and direction, rather than punishment and reprimands.
- It's all perception. Focus on the positive. Look for how to turn a perceived negative into a positive.
- Let go of control! Direct and guide. Help your child learn to make positive choices.
- Positive discipline. Use natural and logical consequences. It is not up to you to control your child's behavior, but to allow their experiences and choices to show them the way. Then you can be there to love and support when the consequences of their choices don't work out in a way they like and to help them discover better ways of handling things. This doesn't mean you just allow your child to do whatever they want until life hands them a blow. You may need to bring about a "natural" consequence, but it must be directly related to the circumstances. Keep a clear distinction between punishment and discipline. Discipline guides and empowers. Punishment belittles and makes wrong.
- Positive communication. Say what you want, rather than what you don't want. Use positive conflict resolution techniques. State feelings, the problem, then what you need. Avoid demeaning and dismissive remarks. Avoid starting a sentence with YOU. (It brings immediate defensiveness or negative response.)
  - You never pick up your things.                      It is time to pick up your toys.
  - You never listen to me.                                Let me see your eyes so I know you are listening.
  - You always leave the door open.                    Come back and shut the door.
  - You always slam the door.                            Let me show you how to shut the door quietly.
- When looking at a difficult situation, the positive solution fits the following criteria:
  - Child is empowered.
  - Child takes responsibility for self and the situation.
  - Child understands the problem and learns options for solving it.
  - Child's self esteem is intact.
  - Creates a positive outcome for all concerned.

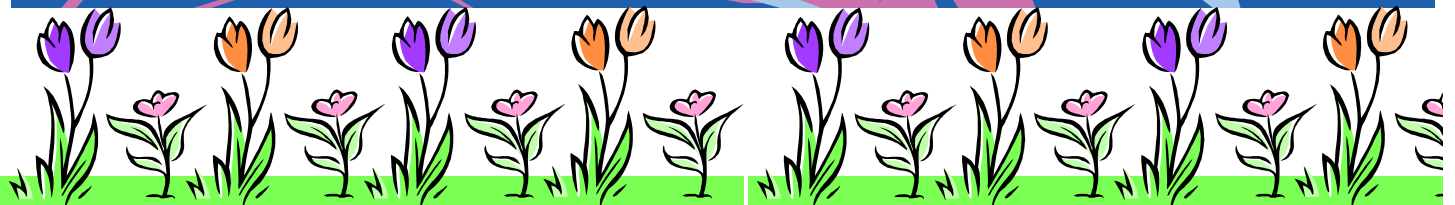
## Time to Order Your Blooms!

Our annual **Plant Sale Fundraiser** began on March 28th and will continue through April 12th. Order forms were emailed to you and there are more by the parent files.

Check the nursery's website at [www.newleafgreenhouse.com](http://www.newleafgreenhouse.com) to see examples of the plants. They are always healthy and nice. The baskets and planters are beautiful and make great gifts! All proceeds will go to the purchase of new classroom materials.

There will also be a plant wish list of items we'd like for our garden.

Plants are picked up Thursday, May 5th—just in time for Mother's Day!



## You're Invited to a Garden Party

Our annual **Garden Party** is coming up soon! Saturday, April 30th, 10 am-2 pm we will be sprucing up our garden and outdoor play area. This is a family event that will include spreading bark chips, trimming trees, pulling weeds, preparing the garden beds for planting (including tilling and spreading our compost), putting new sand in the sand box, and more! There's a lot to do and we need YOU! So pack up the family and any gardening tools you can to join us for this fun and productive event. We'll even take a break around noon for some pizza! The sign-up sheet will be posted on the Parent Bulletin Board.



## National TV Turn-Off Week

April 18-24, 2011



*"American children and adolescents spend 22 to 28 hours per week viewing television, more than any other activity except sleeping. By the age of 70 they will have spent 7 to 10 years of their lives watching TV."*

*-- The Kaiser Family Foundation*

Pre-school age children absorb all that is around them. Is what they see on TV what you want to be creating their young minds?

Turning off the television gives us a chance to think, read, create and DO! It also gives us the time to connect with our families and engage in our communities. To be active and remain fit. Turn off the TV and turn on life!!!

**But HOW?!** It may sound

daunting, stressful or nearly impossible. But it doesn't have to be a week of "I'm bored," and other general whining and misery. Spend some time brainstorming, *with your family*, things you can do instead of watching TV. At school we will also be talking about things we can do instead of TV. Children have wonderful ideas! Let each family member choose the activities for a day. Take a hike and find all the new spring growth. Find a new game to play or rediscover an old favorite. What did YOU like to do as a kid? This is a great time to pass on (or create) family traditions!

Need more ideas? Just go to: [www.insteadoftv.com](http://www.insteadoftv.com) for lots of things to do. Also [www.unplugyourkids.com](http://www.unplugyourkids.com) has numerous links for more information. If you have any ideas we can pass on to other families, let us know!

## Week of the Young Child

April 10-16, 2011

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC.)

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.



## Summertime

We're already planning lots of FUN, FUN, FUN for summer! During the summer the two classrooms combine. Jessica and Andrea will each be working part of the summer. We continue our Montessori program in a more relaxed manner with lots of outside time and additional fun activities. The Dove Room becomes our Summer Elementary Program, which our Kindergarten graduates are invited to join. The Summer Elementary is for children aged 6 through 10. If you are interested in more information about the Summer Elementary, or have friends or families who may be, let us know! Information is also available on our website: [www.childsvie.net](http://www.childsvie.net).

## Earth Day

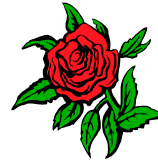
April 22



Part of our philosophy at Child's View is to help our children learn to care for our Earth. In honor of Earth Day on Friday the 22nd, we will be planting a tree and picking up litter. We will also be talking more about recycling and conservation. Check online for family Earth Day activities and events around Portland.



# April 2011



## April Events

- 1<sup>st</sup> — Returning Student Forms Due
- 4<sup>th</sup> — Season for Nonviolence closes
- 7<sup>th</sup> — Parent Link Meeting, 8:30 am
- 12<sup>th</sup> — Plant Sale Orders Due
- 8<sup>th</sup> — In Service Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> — Week of the Young Child
- 15<sup>th</sup> — Summer Forms Due
- 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> — National TV Turn Off Week
- 22<sup>nd</sup> — Earth Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> — Garden Party, 10 am-2 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Returning Student Forms due	2
3	4 Season of Peace End	5 Peace Pole Celebration	6	7	8 Inservice Day	9
10	11 Last day to bring Pennies for Peace 	12 Plant Sale Orders due	13	14	15 Summer Forms due	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23
National TV Turn Off Week 						
24 Easter 	25	26	27	28	29 	30 Garden Party 
Week of the Young Child						

## May Events

- 5<sup>th</sup> — Back to School Night. 6:30-8:00
- 6<sup>th</sup> — Plant Sale Pick-Up
- 25<sup>th</sup> — Ice Cream Social
- 31<sup>st</sup> — Memorial Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

## Back to School Night — May 5th

Your child becomes the teacher and you the child as s/he gives you lessons on their favorite work. This is always a fun night for everyone. Mark your calendar! More info to come.

