

## Yellow Room Hot Topics (May 2018)

We are here, our last month of the regular school year. Spring is in full effect, the creek bed is bringing a lot of natural fun, and the Busy Bees are learning (and growing!) as fast as ever. April started out as an exciting month, as we celebrated Easter; Father Kevin taught us the Easter story, and we had a wonderful egg hunt and picnic. It continued to be a month of celebration, as we recognized NAEYC's Week of the Young Child. We had special visitors, such as guest musicians, and special treats, such as foods from around the world and our pasta party. Our WOYC was capped off by the annual Slaying of the Dragon. Check the Living Tree page for recap posts of those special moments.

To end out the year, we have four of our class's favorite topics—artists, authors, space, and superheroes. With these engaging topics at our fingertips, we will be learning about the history, the facts, and the stories of these areas. We will introduce important figures, such as Frida Kahlo and Dr. Seuss, and key concepts, such as constellations and super powers. Through these activities, the children will explore creative expression, reinforce pre-reading/pre-writing skills, expand motor skills, and explore cause-and-effect. Outside, we will practice upkeep of our garden and the creek bed, practice new games like “Buddy Whackers” (a noodle game Ms. Carissa created), and foster new friendships across classrooms as we head into the summer. This late in the school year, it is crucial for the students to be connected to the topics and activities, and we feel confident May's lessons and outside curriculum will do just that.

### Chapel

As we continue on through the Easter Season and beyond the Season of the Pentecost, we will continue studying Jesus through the eyes of people in his life—the Good Soil, the Blind Man, Peter at Pentecost, and The Church. These lessons will be accompanied by some of the students' favorite songs, such as “Down in my Heart,” “This Little Light of Mine,” and “Oh Be Careful.”

### Parent Education

Many of our students have shown passionate interest in art, storytelling, and other forms of creative expression. Dr. Laurel Bongiorno, Dean of the Division of Education and Human Studies at Champlain College, has a straightforward article about tactics, concepts, and phrases for supporting your child's development in creative expression; we particularly support the distinction between product and process art: <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/supporting-development-creativity>

### Parent Reminders

- With the new creek bed on the playground, the unpredictable weather of spring, and our hands-on methods of discovery, please make sure there is a variety of extra clothes, including water shoes and hats, in your child's cubby each day.
- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray, as necessary, in the mornings before school; we will reapply during Fun Zone.

### Important Dates

May 15 – Parent-Teacher Conferences (Wright House)

May 28 – Memorial Day (School Closed)

May 31 – Last Day of School

June 1 – Teacher In-Service (School Closed)

June 4 – First Day of Summer Camp