

APRIL 2021 EVENTS

In addition to our many wonderful monthly activities, the month of April is filled with special celebrations and events. April is a month-long celebration of our children and our Earth.

We start the month with our **Guest Readers** program (April 1-April 30). If you would like to read a story to your child's class, please sign up by March 31st on the **Guest Readers Form** sent to your email. Reading will be a virtual event this year.

Week 1: April 1-2

1. **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Bike-a-thon Week** is March 29 - April 1.

Bikewell Bear Day is Thursday, April 1

Bike-a-thon Week is our annual week-long program of learning bike safety practices with Bikewell Bear and friends and culminates in a fun "**Bikewell Bear Day**" event on **Thursday, April 1st**. Since we are unable to bring bikes to school, our staff has come up with fun and energized activities to incorporate all they will learn this week. We will have obstacle courses, races and challenges that will equate to laps. Please don't forget to collect your pledges for this event. For many years we have done this event with amazing results, and we hope we can do it again. Our donations over the years have amounted to over \$45,000. Refer to the Bike-a-thon instructions you received in your email. Remember that every penny helps a friend.

2. **School Closed**-Friday, April 2.

Week 2: April 5-9

1. **Pink Day** is Tuesday, April 6. Wear something pink to school.

2. **National Unicorn Day** is Friday, April 9. Get ready for some "UNI-corny" kind of fun.

Week 3: April 12-16

"The Week of the Young Child" - The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (www.naeyc.org).

NAEYC is the world's largest early childhood education association. As a member, OTR supports the **Week of the Young Child**. 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. This year we have especially recognized the important role childcare plays in all our lives. 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 recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment - at home, at child care, at school, and in the community - that will promote their early learning." OTR is planning a week of special fun events.

1. **Magical Monday**, April 12

2. **Terrific Tuesday**, April 13

3. **World Music Wednesday, Drummers' Circle**, April 14

4. **Artsy Thursday**, April 15.

5. Fabulous Friday: Celebration of Spring Party and Pizza Lunch (OTR sponsored), April 16
Finally, we get to celebrate the arrival of spring. Our "Celebration of Spring Party" is a celebration of the wonderful "newness" blossoming all around us. We will be having an egg hunt, spring surprises, a pizza party and lots of fun.

Week 4: April 19-23

1. **T-shirt Day** is Wednesday, April 21. Wear your favorite T-shirt to school.
2. **Earth Day Celebration** on Thursday, April 22 with a display of our recycled works of art. We will be doing some fun activities to acknowledge our part in taking care of our earth.
3. **World Book Day** is Friday, April 23

Week 5: April 26-30

National Arbor Day (www.arborday.org) is Friday, April 30.

(Founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, this tree planting holiday is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April). We will celebrate with some outside plantings of annuals in our Butterfly Garden and a **School Yard Habitat Day Party**. **Over the Rainbow has been a certified Schoolyard Habitat Site of the National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitats Program since August of 2004.**

That rounds out our April events.

Wow - we sure will be busy!!!!!!