

Blossom Nursery News



Blossom Nursery
Umm Al Sheif

“We are committed to providing a learning space that is both secure and stimulating”

Blossom Management Team



Blossom Village Nursery
Umm Suqeim 1

Earth Conservation Issue

24th March 2011

Blossom News in Brief

Dear Blossom & Blossom Village Parents,

Good Afternoon!

This will be the last edition of the newsletter before Spring Camp and the beginning of the new term. The nursery will be hosting a Spring Carnival 3rd – 14th April. It will consist of fun packed activities right through the school, see schedule within. If your child is on the academic program but you need childcare between these dates, the camp will be charged at an extra day rate, please go to the office to find out these charges.

We are focusing on the environment in this edition. We have celebrated World Water Day this week and also Earth hour is coming up on 26th March. We have included some handy water and electricity saving tips.

Also, within this edition is our Parent Evaluation feedback. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the form. The parent names that won the draw will be announced shortly.

We will be sharing our schedule for Career's week which is starting from Sunday.

Kind regards,

The Blossom Management Team

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BECOME



ACHIEVE



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Blossom Spring Carnival

This is the time of year where our little Blossom's come out into full Bloom! This year our Spring Carnival is going to be full of really great, fun activities.

Every day will be themed such as; Camping Day, Gardening Fun, Egg Fun day, Teddy Bear Picnic Day and Water Fun Day to name just a few.

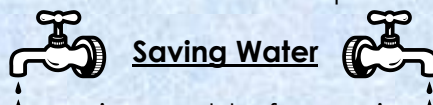
Please let the Management Team know if you would like to join our Blossom Spring Carnival programme.



Water & Energy Conservation



With World Water Day just passed this week and Earth hour fast approaching on Saturday it has made us at Blossom Nursery think more about the current situation of the earth. With Climate change becoming a more and more regular mention in today's media it's no wonder that the general population are thinking up ways to combat this phenomenon. Also living in a country where water isn't as readily available as places like the U.K, Canada and even parts of America it is also financially sensible to know some simple ways to save water. Below are some quick and easy tips on how to save water and electricity too. We hope that all our parents will participate in Earth Hour, this is a wondrous event between 8:30pm – 9:30pm on Saturday, so get your candles ready and enjoy being part of a worldwide event and a planet saving initiative.



-Whilst brushing your teeth in the morning and before going to bed, turn the faucet off whilst brushing. Use a bottle of water to rinse, so that you only use what you need to.

-Limit shower time! 'Soaking' in the shower for 20 minutes can use up to 80 gallons of water! Take a 5 minute shower, that's all you need to have a good scrub.

-Don't keep the faucet running whilst washing dishes. This wastes gallons of water, especially if you had a big dinner and have lots of plates to clean. Also you can use a washing up bowl in your sink, this will fill up with any excess water and you can use this excess to water your indoor/outdoor plants!



-This one is easy! – Turn the lights off if you are not in the room! That also counts for any T.V's, radios, etc. And don't put them on standby either; switch them off from the mains.

-Buy energy efficient light bulbs for your home. This will save thousands of kilowatt hours over the course of a year.



Parent Evaluation Feedback

Thank you to all the parents who participated in our Blossom Parent Evaluation which helps us plan for a better blossom experience. We received responses from over thirty-five families which have helped us to understand and plan for the 2011-2012 year. Here are some of the findings and comments.

We received much positive praise for our spaces and ethos of the facilities with comments like: **The nursery is clean, bright, full of colors and everybody always has a smile for us!** And many commented on the use of outdoor areas, gyms and the pool which help provide a varied learning experience. Parents at Blossom Village would like to see a water play area added (we are in process of getting this in place by summer 2011) and some commented at Blossom that they would like to see more activities in the afternoon (we are working on revamping skillplay to ensure children get a variety of fun classes with termly focus - stay tuned for details). Parents recommended us to have an Animal Day, more sports like soccer and basketball and further experience days like Dubai drums and our recycled papermaking projects so we are beginning the brainstorming for this.


The attitude and professionalism of staff were highlighted with over 39 staff named and noted as always providing a golden smile to children. Our meal program and longer opening hours are reasons many chose us and we will continue to ensure that afternoon activities are structured and that our food choices are healthy and nutritious. A concern for three parents was that they wanted more native English speakers at the nursery -- we will review our hiring practices to ensure that we try to find a balanced approach of language, training and experience for those working in our classrooms. Only one staff member was noted by a parent as ineffective. Security at the gate is something we all need to ensure is done always - the double gates system is in place to ensure children remain safe so please always close doors and gates behind you.

Our curriculum and the passion with which early childhood education is approached is perhaps what got us the most commentary and kudos. Thanks for all your support and ensuring the parent- nursery partnership remains a strong and effective start to our children's early education experience. We are working on a new newsletter format and a website that will keep us communicating better and hope to roll this out in the coming weeks. As always, if there is any concern, comment or suggestion - please feel free to drop me a line - zahra@theblossomnursery.com

Career's Week

Next week is Career's week at Blossom. During this activity packed 5 days, we look into some professions and we ask the children that golden question...." What would you like to be when you grow up?" This generally gets them thinking and we usually receive great answers. Whether is Doctors, Dentist or just a plain old super hero (!) we've got lots of fantastic activities to get their brains ticking?

Laid out below is the schedule for Career's week. You will see on Sunday that we are having a photography workshop with Mr. Paul Aiken; he is a great photographer and is one of our parents at Blossom. You can check out more of his wonderful pictures on www.paulaik photography.net

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Photography Day  Photography workshop by Paul Aiken.	Dental Fun Toothbrush Painting and Dental hygiene. *Please bring toothbrushes to school today!	Community Helpers Police, Nurse, Fire Fighter, Lifeguard, Builders hats, Astronauts, Scientist, etc.	Doctor Day An Apple a day keeps the Doctor Away.	When I grow up... Children discuss what they would like to be when they are older.

St. Patrick's Day, To be sure.



A note from our Languages Coordinator Ms. Nadege

During our French and Arabic Classes we had great fun working on feelings (Touch, taste & emotions). We have learned how to express our needs; for example by playing with the dinner set we would say if we like or dislike tasting and/or smelling foods or drinks also sometimes by looking at pictures. We also practiced how to say hot and cold. The colour brown, the number eight and the shape Diamond were part of the class too.



To get more information about these topics, I would like to invite you to open the attachments received in the last newsletter, you will find Arabic and French phonics and translations. Over the last week of term we will do some revision with the children.

The attachment to this newsletter is revision for the Baby & Toddler Groups.

Blossom's upcoming Events

Week of 27th March;
Careers Week

31st March;
Last day of term II

3rd -14th April;
Spring Camp

17th April;
First day of term III

1st -5th May;
Blossom Skygarden Week

Back to Basics By Tracy Fountain

Calling Parents & Home Help!

Back to Basics launched this month, uniting parents & home help in creating safer homes for our children. The dual language First Aid guide for infants and children ensures everyone in the home knows how to prevent an accident, who to call and what to do if an accident happens, in English & Filipino and English Sri lankan. Approved by Dubai Centre of Ambulance Service & Dubai Health Authority Back to Basics is on a mission to make our homes a safer place. As a Blossom parent you can purchase your discounted copy through the nursery and receive 10% discount off First Aid courses when you register online at www.backtobasicsuae.com

Tracy Fountain



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