



Whale Watch News

March 2020

During the month of March, we will be looking at tide pools and ocean creatures, including marine mammals. Then possibly moving onto look at boats. We have really been enjoying our daily discussions and sharing of ideas which has helped us decide on the direction of our curriculum. We are looking forward to being immersed in ocean life exploration.

February in Review:

We continued our study of the creek environment during the month of February. We also began learning about birds around us, how the creek flows, the bay, and now we are expanding our focus to aquatic habitats and the shoreline.

Some highlights from February include:

Maps; we looked at maps of Mill Valley's creeks and streets. We made our own maps. We learned about islands, creeks, rivers and bays. The children got to play a game similar to musical chairs; they "swam" around the bay, and when the music stopped, they had to gather on various local islands (Angel Island, San Quentin, the Farallons, Big Brother and Little Brother). They learned about our local islands while having fun and cooperating.

Birds; we made bird houses. First, we designed our houses, making working drawings and plans. Then we built them, and finally papier maché them. We also learned to identify various birds and learned about beaks.

Drumming with Mika; we've been drumming as a whole class together in Room 1. The children are learning lots of pattern and rhythm as well as notes and scale. Ask your child about the positions!

Around Valentine's Day, we had many discussions about kindness. We discussed "filling our buckets", and ways to be empathetic with others. We wrote each other "rainbow notes" (appreciations for each other). On Valentine's Day, the class enjoyed giving out their valentines.

Pajama Day; we had fun on Pajama Day, sharing our stuffies and loviess with each other, and made beaded decorations for our stuffies. We also constructed beds for our stuffies, complete with mattresses and blankets. We enjoyed hot chocolate and special books. What a fun day!

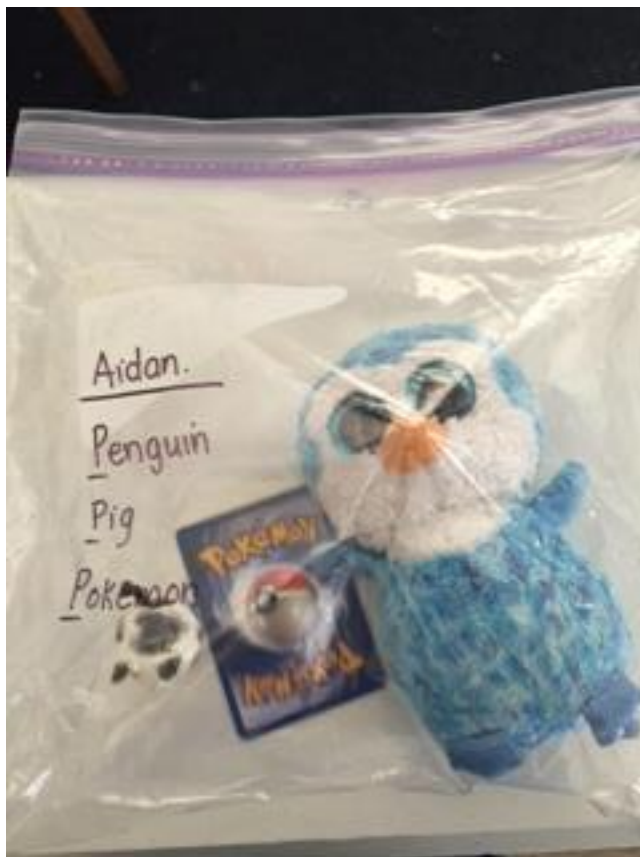
We are beginning our study of ocean environments now and are focusing on shoreline and tidepools this week. We made clay starfish and are exploring stone and shell classroom tide pools.

Sharing Items from Home:

We have found that the children are wanting to bring things from home to share, and that these

items are often toys. Unfortunately, when everyone brings a toy, there is a lot of distraction from the activities we have set up at school. We teachers have sought a way to acknowledge the children's desire to share things from home, while keeping the integrity of our curriculum intact. Here is the plan we have decided to implement:

On Handwriting days, we invite children to bring in objects beginning with the letter we are working on that week. These objects can be toys, items from nature, something the child has created - there should be no more than 2 or 3 items that fit and easily zip into a Ziploc plastic bag, labeled with your child's name and the name of the item on the outside. The children will be able to share their items during small group time. So, for example if it is a "P" week, your child can bring any P items that s/he wishes, provided it fits in the plastic bag (Penguin, Pig, Pokemon card, Pumpkin seeds... Creativity has no limit!).



Our Handwriting program is (usually) taught on Thursday or Friday mornings. Your child's baggie should be put in their cubie ready to share. The letters are as follows;

- March 5th - "Q"
- March 12th - "G"
- March 20th - "S"
- March 27th - "J"
- April 3rd - "D"

- April 17th - "P" and "B"
- April 24th - "R" and "K"
- May 1st - "A" and "V"
- May 8th - "M"
- May 15th - "N"
- May 22nd - "W"
- May 29th - "X"
- June 5th - "Y" and "Z"

Thank You Parent Readers:

Carolyn and Erin! It was fun having you come and read to the class.

We are in need of Play-Dough Makers:

Starting the week with fresh playdough certainly helps keep a happy and healthy classroom so let us know if you fancy making a batch!

Thank You Laundry Helpers:

We always appreciate clean towels and dish cloths to keep us going each week, especially when we are playing with water and sand trays! Thank you, Clara and Dionne.

Thank you to our amazing Board Members: We appreciate all of their hard work! Our Tam 2019-20 Board Member are Lauren Burke, Megan Jochimsen, Michelle Morrone, Renee Foster, Carrie Campos, and our President, Carolyn Schwartz. If you would like to help our board and have fun participating in school activities, please reach out to these lovely ladies.

School photo days: Photos will be taken by School House

Pictures: <https://www.schoolhousepictures.com> in the playground at each classroom. Children will come to school at normal times and I will assist the photographer during photos. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately on his/her corresponding photo day. Let me know about any specifications. Siblings enrolled at the school will have a chance to take a photo together and class photos will be available as well. Information will be emailed to families regarding orders.

Photos days are from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on:

Wednesday, March 11, for the **Garden Room**, and the **MWF/5-Day Creek Room** Class.

Thursday, March 12, for the **Ocean Room** and the **T/TH Creek Room** Class. **Error! Filename not specified.**

Summer Camp Information: Camp dates are June 15 to July 24, we are closed July 3rd. Camp will be available 2, 3, or 5 days a week on T/TH, MWF, and M-F for all children enrolled at Tam this and next school year. Children who graduate this school year can attend camp if she/he is 5 years old during camp dates. Registration for camp is now open. The forms are near the cubby area in all classrooms. For summer camp questions, please contact Marcela or Lindsey.

Important Notice:

Please remember to sign your child into school when you drop off, and sign them out when you pick up. It is a state licensing requirement. Several people are forgetting to do so. We will highlight a reminder on the sign in sheets. If needed, we may need to call you back to school to sign in your child or pick him/her up, as children cannot be at school without a parent, guardian, or adult signature.

Health Reminder:

***Please help keep our school community as healthy as possible! To limit the spread of germs, we ask that you keep your child home if he or she is not feeling well. Germs can spread VERY quickly at school. If your child looks under the weather when he or she wakes up, please give your child a day at home to rest and get better, as symptoms oftentimes get worse as the day goes on. Sometimes, one or two extra days at home is all that is needed.**

***It is hard to be sick at school. Children want their parents right away when they don't feel well, and they will be cozier at home in their bed. If we call parents to pick up a sick child from school, please come get your child quickly. Have a pick-up plan if you are not available for a quick pick-up and let teachers know. We are isolating sick children in the office to help prevent the spread of germs. If we cannot get a hold of parents we will call people on your child's emergency pick up list.**

Children need to be symptom-free for 24 hours (with ought symptom suppressing medication) before coming back to school.

***To prevent the spread of germs we are asking children to wash hands as they enter the classroom or use hand sanitizer if preferred. We recommend they do the same as they leave the classroom. Teachers are sanitizing surfaces every day, asking children to wash hands if they go in their mouth, children wash hands before meals, and we ask them to cover their cough with their arms or tissue. Our cleaning company cleans and disinfects the classroom every night. We have asked them to clean and disinfect surfaces more meticulously due to our recent illnesses, and they deep cleaned the carpets at school this past weekend.**

***It is allergy season, plants are blooming all around and it's windy. Please contact your doctor if your child is showing symptoms of allergies and let us know if your child is taking allergy medication. We are seeing a lot of runny noses and coughs, and that can lead to ear and sinus infections if not treated. Also, allergy symptoms can be confused with cold and other illnesses. We have to treat symptoms as if your child is contagious, so seeing an allergist can help us narrow down possible illnesses and will help your child feel better.**

Last week, Rose, Lisa (The Strawberry Preschool Director) and I met to talk about the Coronavirus. We are being tracking the situation, and being diligent with our sick policy and cleaning practices to prepare for any illness. We called the Marin County Health Nurse Office last week to get updated information about the Coronavirus and are keeping track about CDC

information. The County Health Nurse told us to keep washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, and isolating children with symptoms of illness (to continue doing what we do for any illness).

Here are the links to Marin County's website and the CDC's website:

<https://www.marinhhs.org/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

Laurel Johnson, RN, PHN, SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

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A Note from Our Board:

Tamalpais & Strawberry Annual Preschool Fundraiser: Saturday, April 18th at 6:30 pm, at the Mill Valley Golf Clubhouse

I hope you all can attend the Preschool fundraiser. At the fundraiser there will be a silent and live auction and 100% of the donations will go to the school. Last year's fundraiser was hugely successful because of help from our parent community. The funds paid for the new playground, mud kitchen, a new art room, dramatic play area, and a small library in the classrooms at TAM Pre-school. The funds are also used to pay for Scott the Storyteller, Music Makers, Mika, Jamaroo, and all our classroom specialists.

We are looking for donations from the parents that can be auctioned off such as:

- Sports Tickets
- Vacation Homes
- Wine to be donated
- Experiences, such as round of golf, theater.
- Gift Certificates to restaurants, apparel, or services, spa
- Sign-up Parties that could take place at your house for either kids or adults (cookie decorating party, movie night, a dinner party for adults, etc.)

Please let me know if you are interested in donating! Thank you.

Lauren Burke (Wyatt + Dylans mom) + Board of Directors: laurenwburke@gmail.com

AmazonSmile:

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to Tamalpais & Strawberry Preschool.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

2. On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon

will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

3. For mobile devices: Click here for instructions on setting up AmazonSmile on your **Android** device: <https://www.amazon.com/b?ie=UTF8&node=15576745011>. Currently there is not an AmazonSmile app for the iPhone, though it is coming soon. One work-around: Add all of your items to your cart using the Amazon app on your iPhone, then checkout using either your mobile browser, or a desktop browser. And you're all set to shop at Amazon while making a difference in the lives of kids! Thank you for your support!

Billing:

For billing questions, please contact Rose Lofrano, our Chief Operating Officer. Her contact information is: 415- 246-4941 and rosetsp1@yahoo.com.

A quick reminder that invoices are sent out on the 5th of each month and will include this month's tuition and last month's childcare. Payments need to be made by the 25th. Late fee will apply if payments are received after the 25th. Please let Rose know if you have any questions or difficulties.

School donations: Tamalpais Preschool is a Non-Profit Corporation. Any donation is tax deductible and is greatly appreciated. Please contact Rose for more information.


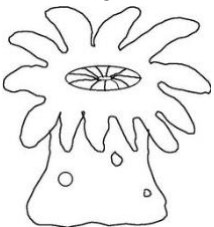
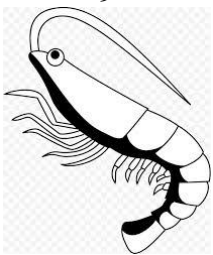
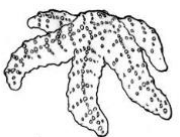
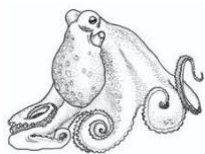

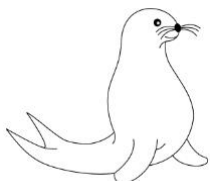


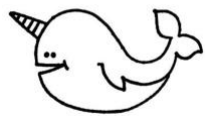
Special Calendar Dates:

- 3/4 and 3/18 - Drumming with Mika
- 3/12 - Photo Day
- 3/13 - Teacher in-service days (No school)
- 3/27 – Scott the Storyteller
- 4/6 thru 4/10 - Spring Recess (No school)
- 4/15, 4/16 and 4/17 – Ocean room Parent Teacher Conferences
- 4/18 – Annual Preschool fundraiser starting at 6:30pm
- Watch this space for a field trip “coming soon”
- 6/15 – 7/24 Summer Camp at Tam

Cambria, Cece, Michelle and Lindsey



Calendar March 2020

2 	3	4	5	6 
	Tide pools			
9 	10	11	12	13 
	Ocean life			
16 	17	18	19	20 
	Into the deep			
23 	24	25	26	27 
	Marine mammals			
30 	31	1	2	3 
	More on mammals			