

Love That Boy

Love that boy,  
like a rabbit loves to run  
I said I love that boy  
like a rabbit loves to run  
Love to call him in the morning  
love to call him  
“Hey there, son!”

- Walter Dean Myers

Poetry is like a snapshot - a snapshot of words about an emotion, an image or a private moment in time. My seven year old grandson gave me a child's anthology of poetry because he knows how much I love poetry and him. This particular poem spoke to me and reminded me of the reasons that parents and teachers do what they do for children. It is all about that deep down emotional gravitas of love for something fresh and new and promising and so filled with the joys of life.

I am sure that many of you wondered when you saw the theme for the year: **Spits, Spats and Spurts**. How could that silly phrase be a summation of a year's worth of learning? You never realize the

progress that's been made until you turn around and look back. The end is always a time of reflection and realization. As the year comes to a quick close, we see nothing but progress. The Memory Book you will be receiving next week is filled with snapshots and records the changes and growth that have taken place throughout the year.

We can help young children grow successfully if we give them the roots and support they need. The Ten Spits, Spats and Spurts of growing preschool success include: helping children understand their feelings, building trusting relationships, helping children stay in control, encouraging curiosity, helping children express gratitude, creating a sense of belonging, encouraging children to risk physically, emotionally and spiritually, cultivating wonder, avoiding stress and promoting hands on experiences.

Each child has grown physically. We need only look at the changes in their faces as they grow thinner and longer and begin to lose that wonderful baby fat. We see the evidence in growth with the rising hems of jumpers and pant legs. Moms keep their fingers crossed that they will just fit into

their clothes for a few more weeks. We are reminded of the beginning in September when we talked about the mystery of growth, like the hidden seed that sprouts and grows without us knowing how it happens. Slowly, and yet not so slowly when we look back, the young child grows.



Growing success with **Dayton** (M-W-F Lions).

Each child has grown in knowledge - knowledge about himself and the world around him. The children have mastered being with others away from mom and dad. The children continue to acquire an ever growing vocabulary, and some are on

the brink of mastering the skill of reading. All have discovered the delight of their own written name, something that belongs to them alone. Each child continues to explore the enjoyment of their very own creations through art materials or building materials. Many have found the satisfaction of collaborating with others to create. Imagination is embraced by all, and these children are not afraid to express it in boundless and free ways. To them, learning is a magical expression of their yearning for growth. And this growth has been tended and nurtured by a staff that cares about the interior life of each of these children. Along with the parents, we have witnessed the potential and promise of each and every one.

Each child has grown in love. Each has made new and lasting relationships with other children on the journey and with their teachers. They are beginning to understand that they are called to love one another. They understand because they have had an opportunity to fall in love with the living God. They hear His voice and know that He calls each by name. All of these gifts have evolved in

their own time, in their own space, in their very own unfolding, in spits, spats and spurts. We are so honored and blessed to be a part. "Hey there, son!"

♥ clp



## CLASSROOM CORNERS



The M-W-F court for our Marian Celebration.

May really couldn't have been merrier, but it was filled to the brim. We accomplished a great deal this month. Because Easter was so late, we hit the road running when we returned. There was so much to do and too little time.

After all we had a tea, a Marian Celebration and an event for dad. Gifts and cards and placemats and crowns and pizzas had to be whipped out on an assembly line. And despite the pressure, the children and the staff enjoyed every moment because we knew what we were working towards: to honor mom, dad and the Mother of God.

Of course, the very week of our return we held our Mother's Day Tea. We haven't forgotten about those promised pictures of our beautiful moms and their children. They just got lost in the shuffle of moving from this to that so quickly. They will be forthcoming. And I have to say, the event was a wonderful exercise in good manners. This was the best behaved group I have ever had. Do you know that not one banner was ripped down this year? I know you will agree that the children sang so beautifully. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

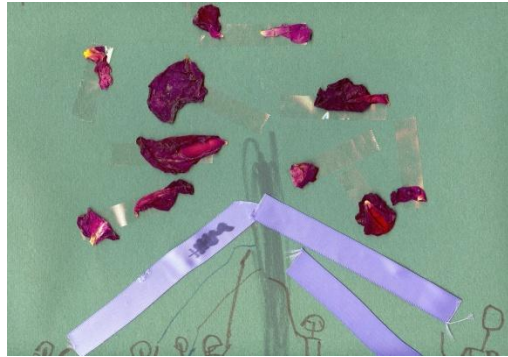
Music this month had our dads in mind as we began practicing for another opportunity to show you all of our gifts to you, including the songs that will bring smiles to your faces. Drama was the much loved tale of "Three Billy Goats Gruff". We

did a little improvising by adding three trolls to the story, instead of one. Add a couple of big ears and some hairy eyebrows so they could truly be the “biggest, meanest & hairiest trolls around”, and they really got into the role. We even included a rhythm stick accompaniment for the walk over the bridge.

Our Marian Celebration was beautiful as always. How can you resist a chorus of 3, 4 and 5 year olds singing “Ave” across the parking lot to the grotto? The kings and queens were adequately royal as they led the procession followed by their courts. We finished with our daunting dance around the maypole (“Keep on moving; keep on moving.”) My heart sang the following day when **Alex Segal** presented me with his illustration that he created at home.

True to form, the year always seems to race with the conclusion of the Fiesta with Friends. Although the camaraderie is still firmly in place, the time for learning letters and numbers has passed. We are already gleefully looking forward to the hot days of summer where you dawdle and don’t

take your pajamas off until noon on some days.



“Dancing Around the Maypole” by **Alex Segal** (M-W-F Dinosaur).



## THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

We have some real jewels for our last month of June. At clean-up, **Brynn Garcia** picked up the oversized stuffed cat and announced, “Sorry kitty, it’s clean-up time now and you have to go into the basket.” Inspecting his potted plant, **Drew Walton** spied a piece of orange balloon on top. “Mine is turning into a carrot!” he exclaimed. On his way up the hill to

school, **Eli Slattery** announced, “Mommy, mommy, I see the ferris wheel. I see the ferris wheel, and I see the super shot and I also see Jesus.” After sorting jelly beans, clean-up was announced. “Does cleaning up mean I can eat all the jelly beans?” asked **Ryan Silva**. “I am making a summer bucket list,” reported **Vincent Heilig**. “My mom is going to freak out after she sees it,” said **Joaquin Cinco** about the fruit salad the children made for the Mother’s Day Tea. **Alex Segal** was trying to build a block structure taller than him. “I can’t build them any taller than myself,” he quipped. “I’m tall for my age. I look like I’m 50.” During group meeting time, **Mia Alcantara** added, “My dad said, and he’s always right.” While making pizza dough, **Ella Watkins** added, “It feels like rubber.” Group meeting time had a discussion on colors. **Max Rottach** said his shirt was black. **Mitchell Heal** replied, “It’s navy blue.” **Dylan Jones** added, “That’s because it’s dark blue.” Rain in May? – Max announced, “It’s raining. We have to cancel playground.” Max also shared, “I got some new rocket shoes, but I can’t even blast off earth.” Max dominates this month. While eating snack, he said, “Can you tell my mom that I chew quiet?”



Brenna and Iva scrubbing those babies clean (T-Th Lions).

Wanting glue sticks, **Paige Van Coutren** asked, “Where are the glue pops?” **Makena Rittichier** was overheard inviting a friend to her house. “You can come to my house but first I have to clean my room,” she stated. **Samantha Von Waldburg** and **Tiffany Hostetler** didn’t play with the babies because Tiffany’s baby was missing. Cleaning the dramatic play area, Samantha discovered the baby in the oven. “Tiffany’s baby! Somebody cooked her!” she shouted. In a class discussion on how you get something someone else is using, **Lucas Gabriel** shared, “I know you say, ‘can I use that when you are done?’” **Matthew Mercier**

shared, “I’m a June bug. My birthday is June 5.”



## DAD'S PIZZA NIGHT



Maeve and Lauren (M-W-F Dinosaurs) work on the pizza dough for dad.

Now it’s dad’s turn. The children are so excited about this opportunity to come to school with dad. It’s a fun evening with a lot of energy. We need many all the help that we can get from our moms.

Dads arrive at Knight Hall with their children at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, June 1. We have entertainment, food and

drink. The children have worked hard to bake pizzas with just the right toppings for dad: chicken, onion, olives, lots of cheese, etc. They have practiced their songs “Scat Like That” and “High Hopes”. Wait till you see our entrance with a Conga line. It will be a great night as we celebrate our wonderful dads.



## END OF THE YEAR PICNIC

It is already time to talk about the End of the Year Potluck and Picnic which will take place on Friday, June 10 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the Lantern Bay Park above Dana Point Harbor. We began the year with our Getting to Know You Picnic. It is only fitting we end the year the same way.

Each family is asked to bring a dish according to class to be shared by the whole school. Hamburgers, hot dogs and dinnerware will be provided by the school. Sign-up sheets will be available outside the classroom. Please note the following regarding food:

**Teddy Bears – Appetizers to serve 20–  
These should arrive at 4:00.**

**Kitty Kats – Drinks to serve 20 – Please  
bring your own cooler.**

**Lions – Salads to serve 15**

**Dinosaurs – Desserts to serve 15**

*Remember to collect your serving pieces before you leave the park. We cannot be responsible for items left. We highly suggest disposable trays and serving utensils.*

We have a special guest arriving for a show at 5:00. We will be eating at 6:00 pm. The park includes a play area and bathrooms. This is such a fun event to close the year. We look forward to seeing you.



**MEMORY BOOK**

The Memory Book will be available next week, and I promise you will love it. Our editor **Jill Jones** has worked long and

hard hours to bring you a book that highlights our busy year of **Spits, Spats and Spurts**. With the help of the teachers and generous moms, this book is a marvel to see. Each and every child is captured in all of their magnificence. And the best part, it is already paid for.

Our hope is that the book will be available for pick-up in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each will be labeled with your child’s name. All accounts must be paid in full in order to pick up the book.

Thank you Jill for a job well done!



**LAST STATEMENTS**

If you received a June statement, it is because you have an outstanding balance. We would appreciate your immediate attention to your obligation. The preschool strives to have an affordable tuition for our families which means we need families to be current. We run the preschool to break even, not make a profit.

Some of you may have received a fundraising charge of \$75. This charge is made if you have not fulfilled your fundraising obligation with the golf tournament, photo fundraiser, room mom or book coordinator volunteer commitment. ***If you did volunteer, please accept our apology, notify the office and the charge will be removed.***



**SUMMER PROGRAM**

We still have openings for our summer fun for Session 1 “Birds of a Feather” from July 5 – July 15 from 9:00 – 12:30 each day. We are taking names for the Session II If you are interested, please stop by the office. The cost is a \$50 non-refundable registration fee and \$150 tuition.



**NEW STAFF**

My Name is Marie Pickard and I grew up in Southern California. I have a Bachelors Degree in Economics from California State University Long Beach and will complete my Master Teaching Credential in Early Childhood Education this summer.

I am a longtime member of our school and church community. Many of you know me as a substitute teacher, a founding member of St. Anne's Circle Mothers Ministry and a 4 year cheerleading coach leading St. Edward to a first place victory at the Santa Margarita Catholic High School USA Spirit Competition in 2009.

In my spare time, I enjoy golf and spending time with family and friends. I am a volunteer for Santa Margarita Catholic High School Golf Team, Dana Point Youth Baseball, member of The Screen Actors Guild and National Charity League, a Mother Daughter Philanthropic League of which I am the Chapter Liaison of Journey Safe.

I am a true believer in our Catholic education; my three children have and continue to be blessed to attend St. Edward from preschool through eighth

grade. With this in mind, I share with you our school's educational success and look forward to teaching your children in our LINKS Program with great enthusiasm!



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Please make note of the following dates for the June calendar:

1. Dad's Pizza Night will take place on Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 pm in Knight Hall.
2. June / July Birthday Celebrations will take place on Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3 at snack time in the classroom.
3. The last PREP Meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday, June 8 at 1:00 pm.
4. The last day of school will be on Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10.
4. The End of the Year Potluck / Picnic will take place on Friday, June 10 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at Lantern Bay Park.