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# TIGERS' DEN

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April 2024 Newsletter

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The background features a light grey sky with large, soft-edged grey rain clouds. Numerous white raindrops of varying sizes are scattered throughout the scene. At the bottom, there is a cluster of colorful umbrellas in shades of purple, teal, yellow, and pink, with raindrops falling from their canopies.

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# FRIENDLY REMINDERS

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## Pick Up

We will continue to have all pick ups ring the main doorbell (door on the right-hand side in the half circle). Pick-ups are allowed to park in the half circle. We ask that you have your child clean up the items they are using and change their card to "GONE HOME" prior to departure.

## Early Release

We ask that any children participating in a half-day with us either pack a lunch or order through the school. Tigers' Den does not provide lunches, just snack. Students will have lunch after dismissal from school or arrival to Russell street from Shaker Lane. Children who are not 5 Day PM will be charged a \$30 fee for 1/2 days whether they attend or not.

## Authorized Pick Up

Student safety is our top concern, we ask that you inform all authorized pick up persons to have their ID on them. If someone is not on your authorized pick up list and it is a last minute change, we ask that you call AND email us to inform us of the change. Authorized pick ups must be over the age of 18.

## Schedule Changes

If a student is changing their schedule, there must be a two week notice. Billing changes will go into effect the first of the following month. Students dropping the program must provide a months notice. Billing will go into effect the first of the following month.

## Attendance

Please notify BOTH Tigers' Den and the school when your child will be absent from Tigers' Den on his/her regularly scheduled day. We can be reached by email, phone, or ProCare message. Parents MUST contact us by 2:00 p.m. each day (11:00 AM on 1/2 days) with attendance, as staff needs to know prior to school dismissals. We need this information so we know which children are being bussed. Failure to inform us of an absence will result in a \$10 Missing Child Fee.

## Late Pick Up

There is a \$10 fee plus \$1 per MINUTE fee for all late pick-ups. If there are three separate occasions of late pick up, families will have to meet with the Director to identify a pick-up plan to make sure children are being picked up prior to closing. Failure to meet with the Director or continued late pick-ups will result in removal from the program.

## Drop Off:

This is a friendly reminder that parents should not be dropping students off before our 7:00 am start. We also want to remind you all that the latest morning drop off is 8:15. If the flag is not out, it means the kids have already left. If a student is dismissed from school, they cannot be dropped off to Tiger's Den later by a parent, they must come to Tigers' Den from school.

## Toys from Home:

All students are asked to leave any toys from home in their backpacks so they do not get lost. Thank you!

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# TIGERS' DEN UPDATES

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## Code Wiz STEM Club

Code Wiz has officially concluded for the school year! We would love to hear your feedback, if your child participated, on how the program went. We are always looking for ways to enhance our program as much as possible!

## Pokémon Club

We are continue to build up our Pokémon club to make it as fun as possible for our Shaker Lane students. We continue to have LOTS of students sign up each week. If your student is interested in bringing their Pokémon cards, please reach out via email. We will not allow trading during club time and students may only look at their cards, not take them out to play with or trade. We have our own deck to use for playing!

## Gardening Club

This month in gardening club has been exciting! We were able to plant seeds in plastic bags to observe sealed ecosystems. We also went out into the garden to complete a scavenger hunt and learn about the different aspects that make a garden grow. Students were excited (and a little grossed out by) our newest Tigers' Den pets: WORMS!

## Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment is **CLOSED** to both the public and our families. If you are unsure of your child's re-enrollment status, please email the Director at [jjohnson@littletonps.org](mailto:jjohnson@littletonps.org) to inquire. We had almost all of our families re-enroll for next year, and we are thrilled to have your students return next year. We are also so excited for all of the siblings who will be joining!

## Gardening Club

Gardening Club has been a huge hit with all of our students. As the weather continues to warm up, we will be heading out to the garden more often. Students in the morning program have been heading out each day with Mrs. Bowen to weed, prune, and transplant their fish tank flowers. Students in the Friday club with Ms. Johnson have done plastic bag planting, vermicomposting with worms, garden décor, and recently were able to get out to weed a couple of gardening boxes that will be home to pumpkins and watermelons! We recommend that your student, if attending, wear sneakers to participate!

## Field Day on May 24th

May brings two half days to the month, and two of the final three left in the school year. On May 24th, we will be holding our annual field day! Ms. Johnson has sent out an email to families asking to confirm if your student will be attending that day. Please be sure to respond so that we can get an idea of the numbers ahead of time. We are also requesting volunteers! We have had quite a few families reach out after Carnival, asking if we accepted volunteers for those times of events and we loved the idea! If you have had your CORI completed, please submit your interest to Ms. Johnson by **MAY 15TH, 2024.**

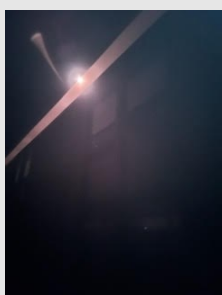
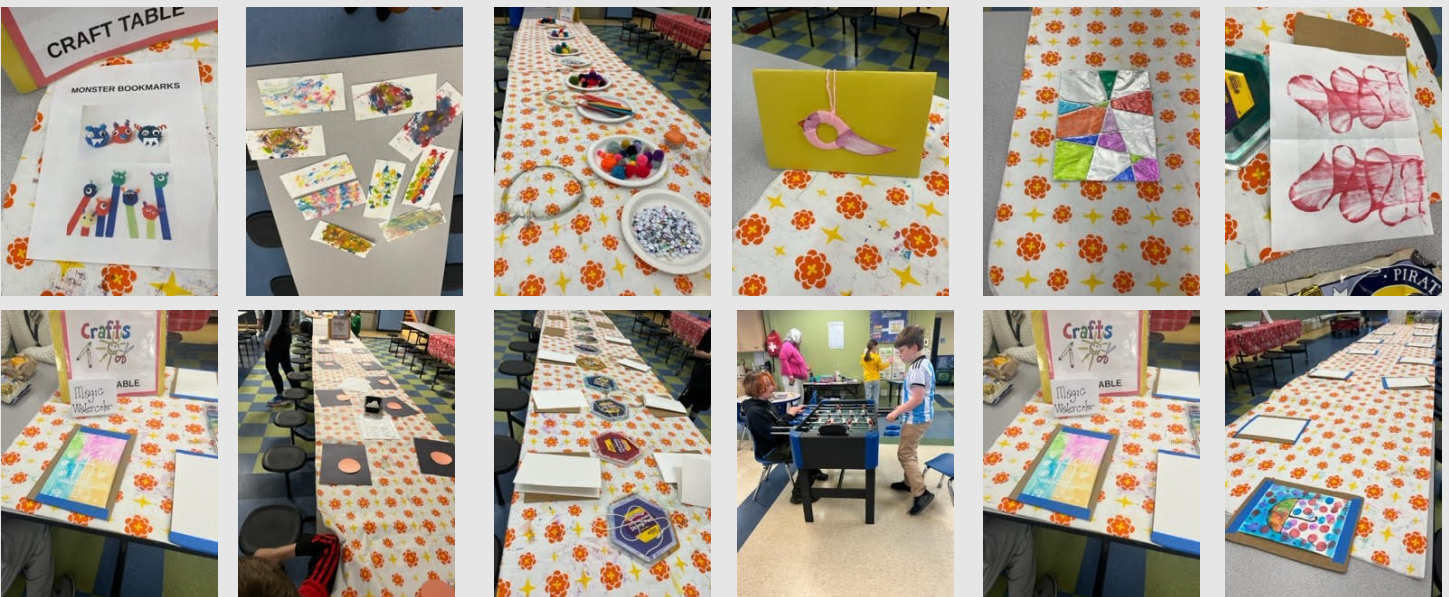
## Half Day May 1st, 2024

We will be hosting Inca Son on May 1st. Inca Son is a highly acclaimed Andean quartet that is dedicated to preserving indigenous Andean culture and heritage. Tigers' Den submitted for a grant to host New Inca Son through the Littleton Cultural Council and our application was chosen! We are using all of the funds we were awarded to supplement the cost of this presentation. We are thrilled to have students experience this unique and exciting presentation.

# WHAT WE DID IN APRIL

# LEGO COMPETITION

We hosted a month long Lego Competition through the month of March. We hosted our award ceremony at the beginning of April. Shaker Lane student submissions were voted on by Russell Street students and Russell Street Student submissions were voted on by a panel of staff judges. All students were awarded a recognition certificate. The top three students were awarded prizes.



## ECLIPSE

Students were treated to an extra special eclipse treat on Monday, April 8th. We served students golden (sun) Oreos and regular (moon) Oreos, to represent the total eclipse. Russell Street students were also able to go outside to experience the change in light as we reached totality. We also kept a live stream playing in the café of the entire eclipse.

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# HALF DAY WEDNESDAY

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## Yoga Fit Kids!

On our half day Wednesday this month, we had Yoga Fit Kids join us for some relaxing stretching and peaceful meditation. This program came to us highly recommended by Chelmsford Public's after-school program. Students were lead through a series of stretches that worked all of the different muscle groups. Students learned how yoga is used by different sports professionals to help them enhance their playing skills and how important it is to stretch each muscle group regularly. Students were able to learn different mindfulness skills, such as deep breathing and utilization of the senses. Our younger crew of students had an especially enjoyable time mimicking the different types of animals reflected in each pose. We were incredibly impressed by all of the students who gave this presentation a try. We know yoga may not be for everyone, but we were so grateful all of our students gave it a shot before knocking it completely.

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# SHOUT OUT

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We will be celebrating our AM students with our  
Annual Morning Breakfast!

**TIGERS' DEN MORNING PROGRAM BREAKFAST!**  
**JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 7:00-8:00 AM**

We will be hosting our annual family breakfast to  
recognize our wonderful morning students.

We will also be recognizing our dedicated  
morning staff!

If you have a morning student, and would like to  
attend our breakfast, please RSVP to the morning  
program at [tigersden@littletonps.org](mailto:tigersden@littletonps.org)



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# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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## **NATIONAL AFTERSCHOOL PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK**

Tigers' Den wanted to give a spotlight all of our hard-working staff members. April 22nd-April 26th is National Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week.. We are so unbelievably lucky to have such a wonderful variety of staff members who are so dedicated to the work we do. Our staff work so hard to ensure that your students are getting the very most out of this program. Whether it be creating arts and crafts projects that are developmentally appropriate for each grade level, engaging students in different games that challenge them, wipe tears, sharing laughs, or supporting the crucial development of socialization skills! The love that each staff member pours into their daily schedule is so apparent by all of the happy faces we see each day.

We will be celebrating our staff from May 6th to May 10th.

A big thank you to ALL of our staff:

Mrs. Morrissey– Assistant Director.

Mrs. Bowen– Activities Coordinator.

Mrs. McCarthy-Assistant Site Coordinator SL.

Mr. Miller-Assistant Site Coordinator RSS.

Our TD 3, 4, 5 Group Leaders: Mrs. C, Mrs. Raposa, Mrs. Behan, and Ms. Drinkwater

Our Shaker Lane Group Leaders: Mrs. Cole, Ms. Cusano, and Ms. Angelo.

Our Morning Program Group Leaders: Mr. Bowen and Ms. Kirkpatrick.

Our Highschool Group Leaders: Eric, Moss, Keira, Rebecca, and Kaitlyn.

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## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN MAY

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**May 1st –Half-Day**

**Presenting Inca Son.**

**May 24th– Half-Day Field  
Day**

**May 27th– School Closed.**

**Tigers' Den is Closed.**





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# CONTACT US

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**ProCare:** Send us a message through your account!

**Follow us on Social Media!**

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550856681562>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/tigersdenextendedday/>