



## A Visit From the Fire Department

By Teacher Lisa

February and March were busy months at King Street as children raced around the gym on their wheels, explored various modes of transportation, and learned about some of our community helpers.



We also learned about staying safe in an emergency. The most important thing is to get out fast. Don't worry about your shoes or coat, or any special toys. These are all things that can be replaced, but we can't get a new you! We practiced gathering quickly and exiting the school through the back emergency exit.



There's a great book on fire safety called *No Dragons for Tea* that we read in the classroom and I highly recommend checking out a copy to read at home periodically in order to keep these fire safety concepts fresh. It's an engaging picture book written for young children. It deals with a scary topic in an empowering way by putting the young child in the role of expert, helping a frightened dragon to escape a fire and make safe choices.

Finally, we had an opportunity to meet several real firefighters when they came to school for a visit. We gathered out front on the steps of St. Peters and watched intently as one of the firefighters introduced her gear piece by piece, talking about its role in keeping her safe before putting it on. She slowly transformed herself from a regular-looking person to a strange and noisy being, completely covered and breathing through her mask. She then invited the children to come closer to touch her, her gear, and to give her high-fives. She showed us that it was still her. She was the same person and, even though she looked a little funny and perhaps a little scary, she was there to help.



In March, we turned our attention to firefighters and fire safety. In preparation for our visit from the Seattle Fire Department, we learned important fire prevention strategies and how to be safe in an emergency.

We discussed the difference between toys that are safe for kids and adult tools that kids should only use with a grown-up's help. Children sorted pictures of toys like crayons and a shovel and bucket, apart from adult tools like matches, lighters, and barbeques. We talked about why adult tools aren't safe for kids to touch or use on their own, and we practiced what to do if you should come upon one of these tools while out in the world:



1. Don't touch it! Leave it right where you found it.
2. Go and get your grown-up and tell them what you found.
3. Let your grown-up take care of disposing of the item safely.

Another firefighter taught us about getting low when there's



smoke and how to STOP-DROP-AND ROLL if fire gets on your clothes. They planned to also show us their fire truck out back but unfortunately, they were called away on an emergency and had to leave. It was disappointing that the

visit was cut short, but the children were glad that they were going to help people in need.

Please continue to support your child's learning and safety at home by practicing the difference between things that are ok for kids to play with and things that are adult tools, make a game out of finding exits in your home, and designate a safe outdoor meeting spot near your house so you can find each other after an emergency.

As our unit came to a close, we read Officer Buckle and Gloria about a community police officer who comes to schools to discuss safety tips. We asked the children to share their safety tips and here's what they came up with:



1. Be careful not to fall.
2. Don't paint on the floor.
3. Walk, don't run, across the street.
4. Upside down
5. Always be with your adult when crossing a road.
6. Don't slip on the mud.
7. Hold hands when crossing a road.
8. Hold your toys (don't play with them) when you cross the street.
9. Don't put mud on the floor.
10. Don't hit.
11. Cross at the crosswalk.
12. Always look before crossing a road. Creep to peek around a bus.
13. Keep the wheels of the motor on the ground.
14. Hold onto ropes when you swing.
15. Don't put paint on the grass.
16. Look up and forward (when crossing the street).

So many great ideas!



*Our Night in Wonderland was a huge success!*



*Thank you all for your contributions to our annual spring fundraiser! We don't have firm final numbers quite yet, but it is clear that we were able to significantly surpass our fundraising goals. I want to extend my tremendous gratitude to this year's fundraising team for your incredible dedication and hard work. You all planned and executed a wonderful family event! Thank you Colleen for leading your team so successfully for a second year in a row, and managing to balance it all while parenting, working full time, and contributing in the classroom as a parent teacher.*

*This success belongs to all of us as a community as well. All of your hard work, procuring items, selling tickets, working your auction shifts, and bidding on items has a direct impact. Because of your efforts, we will be able to continue last year's trend of awarding an unprecedented amount of scholarships and to enrich our program with new and engaging classroom materials and experiences.*

*Thank you!*







# Community Events

## Cartoon Happy Hour

WHEN: Thursdays Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

WHERE: Central Cinema, 1411 21st Ave.

LINK: <http://central-cinema.com/happy-hour/>

## Caspar Babypants Performance

WHEN: Saturday, Apr. 11, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Land of Nod at University Village, 2660 N.E. 49th St.

LINK: <http://www.babypantsmusic.com/shows>

## International Children's Friendship Festival

WHEN: Saturday, Apr. 11, and Sunday, Apr. 12 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Fisher Pavilion at Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St.

LINK: <http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/>

## Whirligig!

WHEN: April 3 - April 19, 2015, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

WHERE: Seattle Center Armory, 305 Harrison St.

LINK: <http://www.seattlecenter.com/whirligig/>

## Bellevue Arbor Day-Earth Day

WHEN: Saturday, Apr. 18, 2015, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lewis Creek Park, 5808 Lakemont Blvd. S.E. Bellevue WA 98006

LINK: <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/11669.htm>

## Free National Park Day

WHEN: April 18 - 19, 2015

WHERE: All national parks

LINK: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>

## Sheep Shearing

WHEN: Saturday, Apr. 25, 2015, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WHERE: Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Pl. S.E. Bellevue WA 98005

LINK: [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/COBCalendar/UserFiles/Parks/kelsey\\_sheep\\_shearing\\_flyer\\_2015.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/COBCalendar/UserFiles/Parks/kelsey_sheep_shearing_flyer_2015.pdf)

May 7 is the first Thursday of the month, so many museums are FREE!

**Did you know** you can visit many museums for FREE at any time, courtesy of the Seattle Public Library? With a valid library card, you are eligible to “check out” a pass to visit a participating museum. Go to <http://www.spl.org/library-collection/museum-pass> for more information and to “check out” your pass!

### PARTICIPATING MUSEUMS

- The Burke Museum
- The Center for Wooden Boats
- EMP Museum
- Henry Art Gallery
- The Living Computer Museum
- The Log House Museum
- Museum of Flight
- Museum History & Industry
- Nordic Heritage Museum
- Northwest African American Museum
- Seattle Art Museum
- Seattle Asian Art Museum
- Seattle Aquarium
- Wing Luke Museum

# April Art

## Materials Needed:

- Neon paint
- Egg carton
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaner
- Paintbrush



## Materials Needed:

- Cardboard
- Various colored yarn
- Popsicle sticks
- Green marker
- Vase (optional)



## Materials Needed:

- Green and blue food coloring
- Shaving cream (not foam)
- White construction paper cut into a circle
- Cookie sheet
- Squeegee





April showers also bring lots of wind! Do you know the best places to fly a kite in Seattle? According to Red Tricycle, here's where to be to catch the best wind:

1. Gas Works Park - Good to Know: Kite Hill will be closed until May 2015 for soil repair, so your best bet for kite flying will be below the hill along the shore.
2. Discovery Park
3. Magnuson Park - To get to Kite Hill, enter the park at N.E. 65th St. off Sand Point Way. Go straight ahead to the lake, then left (north) along the shoreline. Park next to Kite Hill and the Fin Art Project, near the swimming beach.
4. Lincoln Park - Park in the south lot for the easiest trip down to the beach. Head north along the water to Colman Pool, where the wind is the strongest and the views are the best.
5. Seward Park - Seward Park has multiple spots for you and the kidlets to spread your wings and fly. The grassy field next to the swimming beach at the park's west entrance, the sandy beach along the north end of the paved trail overlooking the I-90 Floating Bridge, or the meadow in front of the amphitheater at the top of the park's loop drive (enter to the north of the Audubon Center) are all great locations.
6. Carkeek Park - The beach below is an awesome place to let the string out on your kite (and do some beach exploring), or stay in the green space adjacent to the parking lot and playground for your kite-tastic adventures.
7. Jefferson Park
8. Golden Gardens
9. Alki Beach - the sandy beach is ideal for little feet to run with their kite aloft, and the grassy area north of Salty's is a perfect place to get the wind in your sails.
10. Ella Bailey Park - a perfect breeze for the under 5 set is at this Magnolia Bluff park.
11. No Wind? No Problem! If calm skies (or drizzly ones) are keeping your kite flyers grounded, never fear - Crossroads Community Center has indoor kite flying! Check it out on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 6 p.m.-7:45 p.m., year round. BYOK (bring your own kite), anyone under 18 must come with an adult. Call ahead for details: 425-452-4874.

