



# Mark Your Calendars



Sept. 2  
ECNS Staff returns



Sept. 9  
Open House for  
4s and 5s parents  
(5:30-7:30pm)



Sept. 16  
Open House for  
3s parents (5:30-7:30pm)



Sept. 17  
First day of school for  
3s, 4s and 5s



Sept. 22  
Open House for  
2s and 2/3s parents  
(5:30 - 7:30pm)



Sept. 23  
First day of school for 2s



Sept. 24  
First day of school for  
2/3s



Sept. 25  
ECNS closed for  
Rosh Hashanah



Oct. 13  
ECNS closed for  
Columbus Day

# Auction Winners!!



Tool Time w/ Rudy  
Shake Hands as  
Wendy for the Day  
Gingerbread House  
w/ Lily



Teacher Playdates  
**GALORE!!!**



# Lara's Twos

Our Twos came back from Spring Break raring to go and lost little time getting ready for Passover and Easter! We made daffodils, Passover cups, Easter egg wreaths, and baby chicks. We devoured the yummy haroset and marshmallow Easter egg nests we made ourselves. And it wouldn't be an Easter celebration without dyeing our very own eggs using tissue paper!

The Twos know how important it is to save our planet and took Earth Week very seriously. After collecting plastic bottle caps (with the help of our parents) for almost two months, we finally had enough to make a recycled art collage! It was a real treat to plant our own marigold seeds and we can't wait to watch them grow. Please help us to remember to water our plants!

"Cinco de Mayo was the time. The battle we won! Now we honor those brave men, each and everyone!" we sang while we celebrated the Mexican victory over the French! We made colorful maracas, delicious guacamole, and danced to traditional music.

The Twos made sure that Mother's Day would be extra special this year by making flowerpots and sweet sugar cookies for our sweet mothers! We even learned a special song to let our moms know how much we love them.

We had celebrated so many holidays since spring break that it was nice to step back and just enjoy spring! And after the winter we had, boy did we earn it! We made ladybugs and cherry blossom trees. We made a delicious spring time smoothie with fresh fruit that we all helped cut.

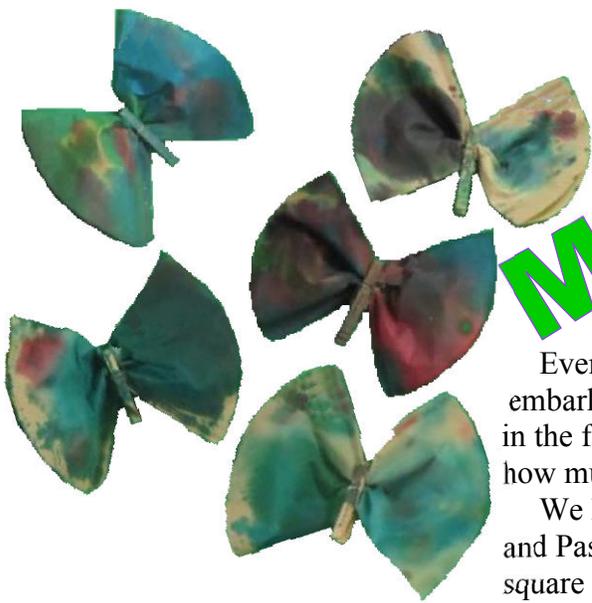
Before we knew it, our first year of school year is over! We had a great time and learned so many new things. We're so proud of how much all the children have accomplished in such a short time.

Can you believe that at the beginning of the year we only stayed at school for half an hour?

Have a great summer!

-Lara, Kathy and Leslie





# Michelle's Twos

Even as the end of the year approached rapidly, the Twos continued to embark each day with the same curiosity and zest for learning that they had in the fall. They are a most amazing group of children! We are very proud of how much they have learned and matured this year.

We had a few festive weeks in April. The Twos learned all about Easter and Passover. Our Passover unit mainly focused on matzo. In art we used square oak tag, q-tips, and brown paint to create our very own matzos. In cooking we made delicious matzo brei. We celebrated Easter by making Easter eggs decorated with construction paper spirals. We also worked on number recognition, picking numbers from a pile and then hopping like Easter bunnies that many times.

With the cold weather finally leaving us, we began our two-week "Spring" unit. The children enjoyed learning about all of the changes that happen during springtime including the warmer weather, baby animals being born, and all of the wonderful things that begin to grow as well as fun springtime activities! We made coffee filter butterflies using watercolors and clothespins. And we cooked sautéed spring veggies and pasta primavera. The children loved that the word "primavera" means spring! We learned a great spring song called "You Can Tell It's Spring" sung to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low".

We began the month of May learning all about "Mother's Day". We talked about what Mother's Day means, things we can do for our mothers on Mother's Day, why mommies are special, and the things we love most about our moms. We hope you enjoyed eating your heart-shaped pie pops as much as the children enjoyed making them for you.

The children in our Twos room really love their animals. We spent two weeks learning all about animals that live on farms and in zoos. We did a fun flannel board activity where we each had to pick an animal out of a pile then had to tell the class what kind of animal it was, what sound it makes and whether the animal lives in the zoo or on the farm. The children are creating more complexly textured crafts. They glued cotton balls onto big paper plates to make sheep and made lions by painting paper plates orange. They each put on their eyes, noses, and mouths and then added orange and yellow yarn for the lion's mane. We learned a new song called "Daddy's Taking Us to the Zoo Tomorrow" and sang an old favorite "Old MacDonald". We cooked "pigs in blankets" and baked a "panda cake". The children really enjoyed making predictions about what would happen before we began swirling the cake batter (marble cake).

The last week in May was spent learning about summer. We talked about what you can do in the summer, playing at the beach, the ocean and what animals live in the ocean. We talked about what happens when school begins after the summer. We even took a "field trip" to the third floor to visit the three year old classrooms.

We can hardly believe how quickly this year flew by. We want to thank you for allowing us the pleasure of teaching your children this year. We all had such a wonderful time even though there were some bumpy roads we had to cross. We wish all of your children the best of luck in either their new classes here at ECNS next fall or in their new schools. We will certainly miss you all. Please come back and visit!



Have a wonderful summer,  
Michelle, Chini, and Erica



## ECNS Staff Community Service Day

ECNS teachers spent the morning of March 31, 2014 doing volunteer work. Some of us (top) worked with The Carter Burden Center for the Aging on the UES to deliver meals to homebound elderly in the neighborhood. Others prepped and packed food for God's Love We Deliver, an organization that cooks and delivers meals to terminally ill New Yorkers.

### Looking for a summer babysitter or tutor?

**Becky Costello** (ECNS head teacher)  
Babysitting  
Available Fridays after 1pm and weekends  
516-669-1031 or [Beckyc@ecns.org](mailto:Beckyc@ecns.org)

**Mariel Levey** (ECNS assistant teacher)  
Babysitting / Tutoring  
Available Monday-Thursday after 3pm  
917-440-2882

**Daniela Tromba** (ECNS assistant teacher/  
NYS certified teacher)  
Babysitting / Tutoring in all subjects and Italian  
Very flexible hours  
917-680-2069 or [danielaa@msn.com](mailto:danielaa@msn.com)

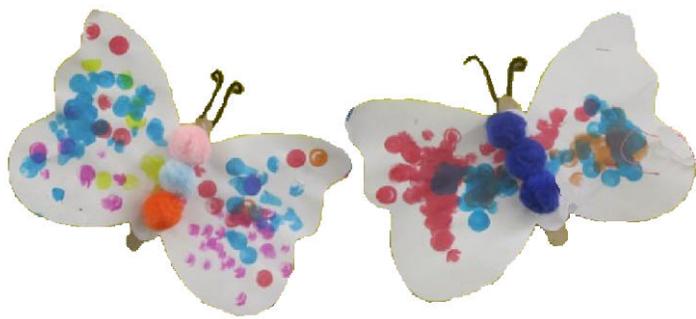
**Michelle Uffner** (ECNS head teacher)  
Summer Enrichment Classes  
Contact for availability  
917-806-7899 or [Muffner60@gmail.com](mailto:Muffner60@gmail.com)

**Alexis Wolfe** (ECNS assistant teacher)  
Babysitting / Tutoring  
Available on weekdays  
917-774-3999 or [alexisw.wolfe@gmail.com](mailto:alexisw.wolfe@gmail.com)

Thank you Parents for all  
the love you showed us during  
Teachers Appreciation Week.

We LOVED all the  
sweets and treats,  
cards and flowers,  
hugs and kisses!

XXOO  
ECNS Teachers



# Young Threes

The Young Threes have been busy talking about Spring and the holidays we celebrate in Spring, Passover and Easter. The children each made a Seder plate, which they decorated with cupcake holders and felt pieces to represent the ingredients on a Seder plate, which is used for the traditional Passover dinner. We also made tulips out of different colored tissue papers. Some fun books we read for Passover included The Matzo Man by Naomi Howland and What is Passover? By Harriet Zierfert.

To celebrate Easter the Young Threes made a beautiful Easter basket, which we displayed outside the classroom. They used crepe paper and cut up pieces of foam. The eggs that went into that basket were made with pastel colored ribbons and paint. The children also loved hearing the story Little Bunny Foo Foo by Michael Rosen. Then they had a fun time singing the song of the same name.

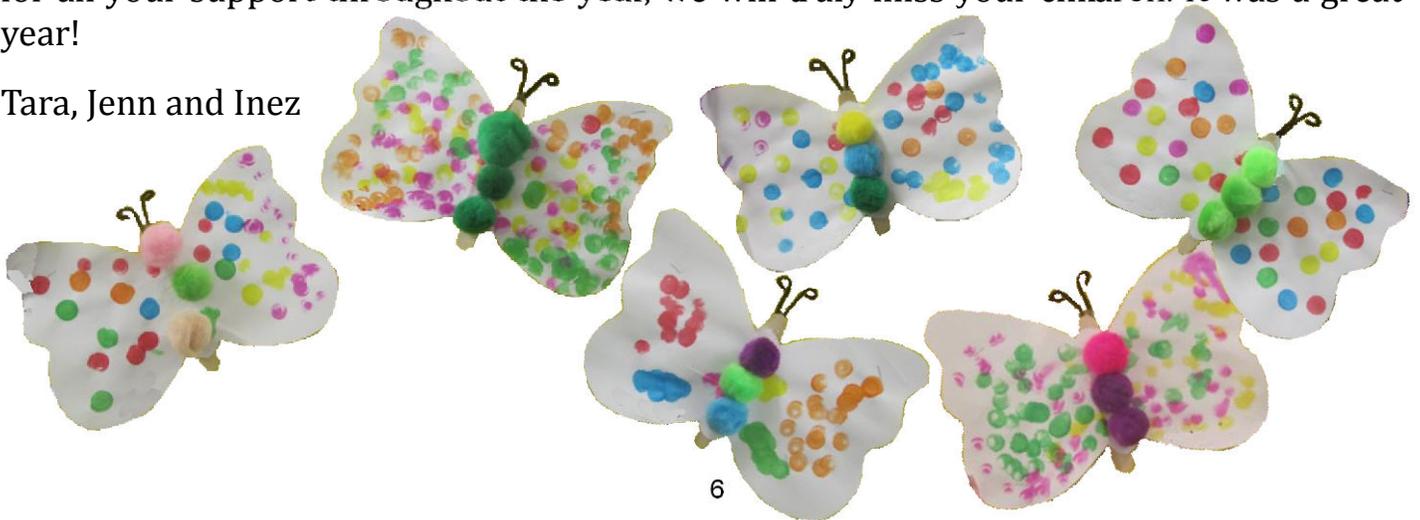
“Transportation” and “Community Workers” were two units of study that the children especially enjoyed. The children each made an airplane, all shiny with aluminum foil. Together we also made a school bus. We painted the bus yellow, attached windows and photos of each child in the windows. We spent some time discussing how each of us gets to school in the morning and then made a chart so we can see the results.

Our trip to the firehouse was a big hit! The children especially loved learning about the firehouse and being a firefighter. This led us to talk about what we want to be when we grow up. Firefighter? Doctor? Teacher? Police officer? So many choices!

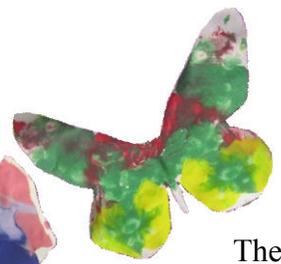
Mother’s Day was so much fun! It was so nice seeing all the moms and grandmoms who came for the festivities. Thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed the special tea that we had prepared.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer! We look forward to seeing you next year. Thank you for all your support throughout the year, we will truly miss your children. It was a great year!

Tara, Jenn and Inez



# Middle Threes



The Middle Threes have had so much fun this year learning about so many

different things, doing art and cooking projects, dancing, singing and playing music and of course our Friday Dance Parties. The Teddy Bear Party was just one of our huge successes. All the children enjoyed the festivities. It seems like so long ago, but they still talk about it. "Remember when we brought in our teddy bears to class?" "Do you remember when we danced with them?"

All of the children have loved taking Red Bear home with them. Red Bear has had many adventures going on planes, trains, using skis, making pizza and, of course, going to parties. Thank you all for making your children and Red Bear so happy.

The Middle Threes mystery of Shorty Pointy Toes continues on. Why can't the children catch that funny little person? We'll never know!

In the last two months, we had a great time discovering and learning about our bodies from the five senses to what happens when you eat a bowl of pasta. Where does it all go? How does it fuel our bodies? What are the foods that make you "big" and "strong"? What are the foods that are so yummy but should only be eaten in small amounts? And what are those carbohydrates anyway? These are just a few things we have studied. As a class we want to thank all the parents and relatives that came into the classroom to enrich our discussions about the human body. Thank you also to Dr. Jain for coming into our classroom to

discuss our bodies, brains and to hear our hearts. The children also enjoyed our dentist visit and playing dentist.

We continued to explore the timely theme of growth (how people, animals, bugs and plants develop). The children have worked very hard on all of our projects. To continue the study we planted marigold and grass seeds. The children have tended to them over the weeks observing how they grow; how much water they needed and how many days it took to sprout leaves.

Of course, we had to discuss bugs in great detail. We did have a long discussion about the differences between a butterfly and a moth. One big difference is that one spins a chrysalis and "sleeps" in the nest while the other builds a cocoon. We watched our caterpillars grow, spin chrysalises and butterflies emerge. Our painted lady butterflies were so well received that the children wanted to do the experiment again.

We hope all you moms had a good time on Mother's Day enjoying the cooking, art and singing. The children loved to have you in our classroom and it was so delightful to see each of you with your children.

In closing, we wish all of you a happy healthy summer. We will miss all the children and will remember them fondly.

- Linda, Joni & Mekenzie



# Ladies Luncheon



2014 Mother  
of the Year  
Dara Theodore!!



**ECNS Mother's  
(and Grandmother's)  
Day  
Moms are the  
BEST!!!**



It's hard to believe, but our school year is sadly but truly at its end. Just about all the activities we have been doing this last month were for the end of the year. We have spent the last three weeks

# Fours



completing our alphabet books and making covers for various other books that will be going home. We practiced a lot for our Moving-on-Ceremony. The new songs (chosen from hits in our popular culture) were not so easy to learn. The children really did a good job with them!

This month has been also a time to talk about goodbyes. For many of the children, especially the ones who have spent most of their lives here, it can be a time of mixed feelings. While most of the children are so happy that summer is upon us, it is also a bit sad that many of the friends they have come to know and love will not be with them come September. We've explained to the children that any and all of what they might be feeling at this time is fine. And when they miss their friends, they can just write, call or have a playdate to stay in touch.

We now would like to say a big THANK YOU to Heather Tarifi and Tara Bishop, for doing such a wonderful job as our class moms this year! You both exemplified what an experienced and well balanced team looks like - handling all that was put on your plates with an amazing amount of ease, dedication and skill! You have both been truly so helpful and we know we speak for ECNS and all of our class when we say thank you for all that you have done!

We would also like to say thank you to all the Fours parents who took time to join ECNS committees and the numerous fund raising events as well as all those who helped by volunteering time in our classroom. You all have helped make our school a truly dynamic and interesting place. Thank you Parents for being a part of our lives this year and for the pleasure of letting us get to know your children.

As we say this final goodbye, we would like to leave you with this short quote from *Winnie the Pooh*. It has been on a wooden plaque just above our door for a few years now and, like many things with wisdom and value in our world, can easily go unnoticed. We would like to dedicate it to the Fours as they set out on the next phase of their journey.



You Are Braver Than You Believe  
And Stronger Than You Seem  
And Smarter Than You Think

We hope you all will have a wonderful and restful summer! We send you all best wishes and thoughts for the years to come! And please feel free to come back and visit!

With love from,  
Liza, Daniela, and Alexis



# Old Threes



The Old Threes were happy to return from Spring Break and dive back into the world of learning! We were busy exploring spring, Passover and Easter, butterflies, community workers, and the ocean. We loved sharing stories about how our families celebrate the holidays and exploring different art projects. We made afikoman bags, decorated Easter Eggs, and created spring paintings. We also discovered a new favorite story, *Peter Cottontail* by Kristen L Depken!

Investigating butterflies was an exciting time in our classroom! The Old Threes were amazed as they watched the process of caterpillars turning into butterflies. Each day we would talk about the changes we were noticing and hypothesize what we thought would happen next. Many of the hypotheses ended up being correct! We have some very smart bananas in this class! We also enjoyed acting out the life cycle of a butterfly and were so proud to share that with our moms at our Mothers Day celebration!



Community Workers was also an intriguing theme in the O3s room. A special thanks to Kari Saitowitz and Jason Deblinger for coming in and sharing their knowledge with

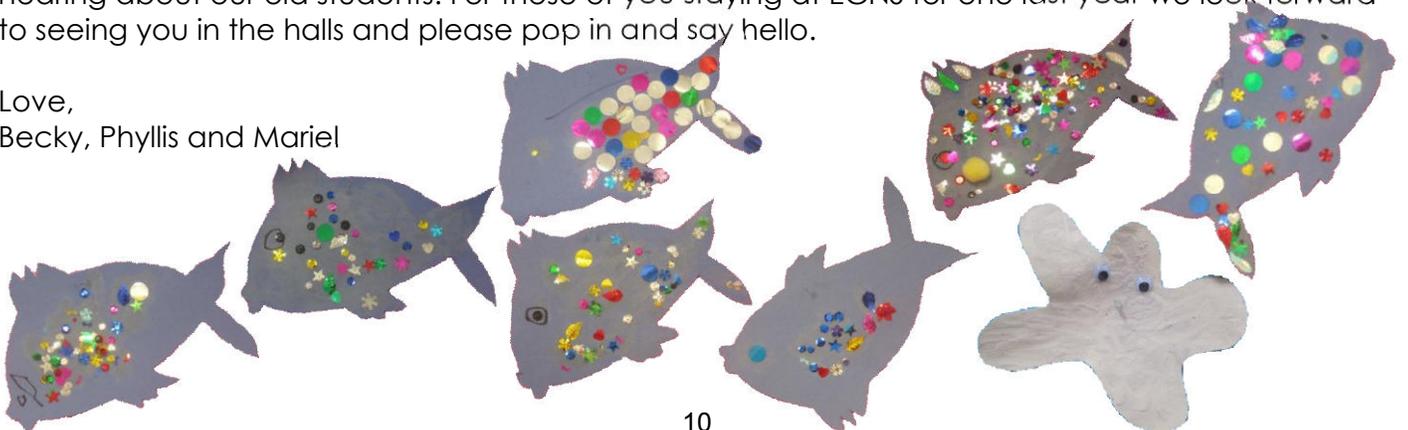
us. We loved exercising and discovering different ways we can take care of our teeth! We also had a blast on our field trip to the local firehouse. Thank you Janet Mick, Tara Lowenberg, Joanne Scott, and Mary McCluskey for helping us that day.

Mothers Day was a very special celebration and we were so happy all our moms were able to attend. The children worked hard on their performance and were thrilled to share their classroom.

During our ocean theme we discovered different sea creatures and investigated the ocean. We learned about starfish and octopi. We also further explored the importance of friendship and being kind with *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister.

We can't believe how quickly the year has flown by! We had a blast exploring our world with each and every one of you. We are sad to say goodbye to our friends but will always cherish our memories of this time together. To those of you moving on to new schools please stay in touch! We love hearing about our old students. For those of you staying at ECNS for one last year we look forward to seeing you in the halls and please pop in and say hello.

Love,  
Becky, Phyllis and Mariel





We  ECNS Babysitters!!





# Four/Fives



As we sit here and reflect, we can't believe that this year has already come to an end. The children have all grown in leaps and bounds and are all so prepared to take that next step to kindergarten. The friendships and amazing memories they have made while at ECNS may just last a lifetime.

Since we returned from Spring break it has been a whirlwind of activities. Winter lingered around so long that it made teaching about springtime a little tricky. We began with some fantastic ripped paper art of things that we see and want to do in the Spring. We all collaborated to create a spring time mural using many different materials and lots of teamwork. We have it proudly displayed at the entrance of our classroom and it makes some of those rainy days of spring seem brighter as we see our beautiful work. Of course after any rainstorm, what do we all hope to see but a beautiful rainbow, so the children created individual rainbows with scrunched up tissue paper. We used science to help us create our next spring project, the butterfly. We used only the primary colors to color coffee filters to see what would happen. The colors spread and blended into other colors creating new colors! When the coffee filters dried, we pinched the middle and made beautiful butterflies.



As the perfect conclusion to our year, the Four/Fives went on a very special trip to the Central Park Zoo and got to see many of the penguins we had learned about. A trip to the zoo is never complete without watching the amazing sea lion show which all the kids love and great ending to great day! Thanks to all who were able to join us at the zoo and help make it such a successful trip.

Mother's Day in the Four/Fives was a special day. The children and their important guests made vases, some one of a kind votive candle holders and delicious yogurt parfaits with a variety of fruits and granola. There were also different mini muffins and hand dipped chocolate covered strawberries for everyone to enjoy as well. When we passed out our gifts, many moms were brought to tears. We hope that you remember ECNS fondly each time you look at these gifts.

We've worked feverishly on our graduation songs and in preparation for the end of the year. We were so busy these past few weeks!

We wish you well on your new adventures and want to thank you for such an amazing year together! Have a great summer and always remember to come back and visit us at ECNS!

Love,  
Meredith, Amelia and Caroline



# CARRIE'S



# CORNER

We have some wonderful new selections in the ECNS library this spring.

Nest by Jorey Hurley (featured illustration in Carrie's Corner)

Mama Built a Little Nest by Jennifer Ward

The Watermelon Seed by Gary Pizzoli

Goodnight Baseball by Michael Dahl

This Little Piggy by Tim Harrington

Sing by Joe Raposo and Tom Lichtenheld

Why not share your favorite children's book with your child? I am sure it will bring back many happy memories. You might even pick a book together at the library or the bookstore.

Yes, I still am a dinosaur; I believe in holding and reading a real book. Set aside some time to read together, whether it be from the same book or not. Keep a diary of what you read. For our 4 year olds, purchase an ECNS journal at the school store and have your child draw and write in it about their summer experiences.

Books make wonderful gifts and if your child is invited to a birthday party and the family requests "no gifts", do consider donating a book to our library in the birthday child's name. We will put a "handy dandy" ECNS book plaque in the book and give a certificate to the celebrant.

I would like to extend a special "thank you" to Jill Jacobson and Elyse Herman who have so capably co-chaired our Book Fairs these past few years. They have worked very hard to build our library as well as to provide our families with a wonderful selection of books to choose from.

I always make two suggestions at the end of our final newsletter each year. Visit Van Saun Park in Bergen County, NJ (GW Bridge to Route 4 to Forest Avenue). It's a beautiful and well kept county park with a terrific zoo of animals from North and South America. There are playgrounds, picnic areas, ball fields, pony rides, tennis courts as well as a nice little train ride through the zoo. Go swimming, too. It's so healthy for you, not to mention refreshing and relaxing on a hot sunny day.

Have a terrific and restful summer!

Carrie

