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## Spring Newsletter

**CURRICULAR NEWS** As you know we've been studying ponds and pond life. Well, we're digging deeper now! Over the next several weeks we'll be extending our studies with the following lessons and materials:

- Land and water forms studies
- Geographical features research guides
- North and Central America study kits
- South America study kits
- Continent research guides (I'm limiting them to Asia, North America, and South America for now)
- The Animal Kingdoms and Animal Kingdoms nomenclature cards
- Types of Mammals
- Types of Amphibian
- Animal Habitats (with a focus on those found in Asia, North America, and South America)
- Animal research guides

As you might gather from this list we're moving many of the children toward independent studies of specific information, with testing and reporting attached to their work. This is a very important step as children move on in the grades. Once a format for collecting and recording information is established the children can move in any direction with their exploration of the world. We want them to love this process, rather than just go through the moves, so initially we are very forgiving as to the level of information the children can get by with. Needless to say we'll raise our expectations as the children mature and gain literacy, numeracy, and handwriting skills.

Many of the students have also started and will continue to work on basic math word problems. All of the children have had handwriting added to their daily work list. Please continue to work on handwriting at home as well, and remember NO CAPS except for names and at the beginning of a sentence. We need lots of lowercase practice!

**SCHOOL VISITORS** You might have noticed new children and their families visiting us during the school day and after school. School visits are part of the process for selecting eight new students who will join us next year as we grow to sixteen students for the 2009-10 school year. All of us are excited about the benefits of a larger social group. But we're also very much aware that we must choose carefully those children who can benefit from our stated goals and who complement our current enrollment.

**FIELD TRIP ANYONE?** We'd really like to organize a trip to the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford to complement our Biology studies. We're thinking of the week of April 20th. Before we proceed to organize a trip, please let us know if you would be available to come, how many children you can transport, and on what days you're available. Please see Carmen if you'd like to come with us.

### IMPORTANT DATES

March 26th Progress Reports will be sent home.

March 27th and 28th Carmen will be holding individual parent meetings to discuss McKay expenditures for the current school year and make plans for next year. A separate letter is being sent home on this topic.

March 30th Returning student registration ends. Please make sure your Returning Student Registration Form is in by the end of day on the 30th. A separate letter is being sent home on this topic.

April 6-13 is Spring Holiday and the school will be closed. Please note that this is a variation from the public schools which are open on Monday, April 13th. At Chrysalis School classes resume on Tuesday April 14. We'll be sodding the playground during spring break, so rain dances and prayers for rain are welcome.