

Tottenberry's Times

Tottenberry's Private School & Day Care

January/February 2019



Out With the Old, In With the New

Let's get organized this year! If you received a notice that something is missing from your child's file, please take care of this matter by the end of month.



Thursday Lunches

For only \$4, you can order a hot lunch for your child on Thursdays. Look for the "Thursday Lunch" box on the front desk and pull out an empty envelope. Write your child's name and class on it, list the dates you would like for your child to receive a lunch, put the money inside, and place the envelope back inside the "Thursday Lunch" box. You are welcome to pay for several lunches at one time. Once payment is made, we will take care of the rest. The menu for the next few weeks is as follows:

- 1/10 – chicken nuggets
- 1/17 – hot dogs
- 1/24 – chicken nuggets
- 1/31 – chicken nuggets
- 2/7 – pizza
- 2/14 – chicken nuggets
- 2/21 – hot dogs
- 2/28 – chicken nuggets



Check Out Inchbug

Are you tired of labeling your child's items all the time? Visit inchbug.com or namebubbles.com to view some permanent options. From personalized cup bands to dishwasher safe stickers, these two websites have all sorts of items that will make keeping track of your child's items a breeze!



January 21

MLK Day
Non-Academic

February 18

President's Day
Non-Academic

March 11-15

Spring Break
Non-Academic

April 10-12

Spring Pictures

April 19

Good Friday
School Closed

May 6-10

Scholastic Book Fair

May 24

The Last Day of School!

May 27

Memorial Day
School Closed



Changes with Remind

Verizon customers will soon not be able to receive text notifications through Remind. In order to continue receiving these messages, you will need to download the mobile app. Open your browser on your phone or computer and type: rmd.at/tottenb and follow the directions.



Many of you asked over the holidays if your tuition would be adjusted if your child misses some days. Please remember our handbook states: "In order to guarantee a space for your child at all times, tuition is still due when your child is absent." If you would like to review our policies, feel free to ask for another parent handbook at the front desk.



No One Likes To Do It But It Has To Be Done

Both State Licensing and the Health Department require that all food and personal items be labeled with the owner's first and last names. All homemade food items must also include the date it will be consumed. Please help us follow these rules by labeling all of your child's things. We don't like getting "in trouble"!



Tuition Due Dates

Please make note of the upcoming tuition due dates:

- ❖ Monday, February 4
- ❖ Monday, March 4
- ❖ Monday, April 1

A \$25 late fee will be charged per day if tuition is paid after Wednesday. We can take credit card payments over the phone.

Stranger Danger



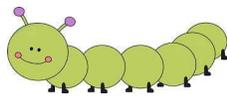
Parents, please DO NOT let other parents in the building! Only parents who know the code should enter freely. If you see someone standing at the door and feel like you should help them, let them know that someone will assist them in a moment.



Say Cheese!

Lifetouch will be here April 10, 11, and 12 to take pictures of ALL of our students. Yes, even the babies! They will also take sibling pictures for the parents who are interested. Be on the lookout for more details closer to the actual picture dates.

Check out our website!
tottenberrys.com



Caterpillars

Ms. Michelle, Ms. Evelyn, & Ms. Susie

6 weeks – 6 months

We hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We are looking forward to spending the year with our babies. We are always working hard to learn each baby's schedule and their likes & dislikes. Please be patient with us as we do this. All bottles and food items need to be labeled with the child's first and last names. You can order bands imprinted with your child's name from inchbug.com. Our 5-6 month old babies will be practicing sitting up, rolling, and holding their bottles. Please also practice these skills at home. If you have any questions, please ask us. We look forward to caring for and discovering the personalities of our Caterpillars.



Butterflies

Ms. Lupita & Ms. Whitney
6 months – 12 months

Happy New Year! We would like to welcome the returning and new babies to the Butterfly Room. We look forward to all of the fun things that will happen this year! We recently received some new books and have been enjoying reading them. The babies are so curious! Here are some reminders to help parents have a better understanding of the Butterfly room:

1. Please have your child/baby dressed for the day and in a clean diaper upon arrival.
2. Please do not walk on the rug with shoes on. Remove shoes at door or put on shoe covers located inside the door.
3. Please label all your child's items with his or her first & last name. This includes all food containers, bottles, sippy cups, clothing, & anything else you may leave at school.
4. All bottles need to come with a nipple. We are not allowed to reuse nipples.
5. In order to save time, we ask that all food & bottles be prepared and ready to use.

Please read the SmartCare notifications each day. This is sometimes our only way to communicate with you since teachers come & go at different times during the day. Because we are trying to get our Butterflies ready for Circus Room, we ask parents to bring a training cup filled with water so your child can become familiar with it. We enjoy each and every one of our babies and want to thank all of you, parents, for allowing us to give them our love and care.



Circus Room

Ms. Samantha & Ms. Griselda
12 – 18 months

Welcome to 2019! We hope everyone had a merry Christmas. Ms. Griselda and Ms. Samantha would like to thank everyone for all of the thoughtful gifts. We are excited to continue to watch your little ones grow and learn! We will join the Bumblebees every morning for circle time at 8:00. The children will learn a shape, color, number, letter, and texture each week. We will also have Show and Tell on Thursdays and, on Fridays, the children will wear the color of the week. Please check our bulletin board often to stay informed. Please remember to dress your children according to the weather. Also, remember to label all of your child's belongings: food, clothing, cups, etc. One more thing, please take milk and water cups home daily to be washed. Thanks!

Bumblebee Room

Ms. Marshonna & Ms. Jahmekia
18 – 24 months



Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a merry Christmas. Thanks again for all of the gifts. They warmed our hearts. To start the year off right, we are going to begin having Show & Tell again every Thursday. Please allow your child to bring an item, labeled with his/her name, from home that can be associated with the curriculum for the week. Please do not send anything valuable since we let the children pass and play with their items. Please also send a family photo that we can display in the classroom. We would also like for you to dress your child in the color of the week each Friday. This will help us have a creative circle time. For your child's safety, please send him/her in school appropriate shoes that stay on his/her feet. Finally, ALWAYS label all of your child's belongings. Thank you, parents, for all you do! Your participation is quite appreciated! We will be covering the following topics in January and February:

January	February
Dinosaurs	Groundhog Day
Winter	Dental Health
Martin Luther King Jr.	Valentine's Day
Polar Animals	Careers/Community
Kindness/Caring/Compassion	Citizenship
Blue & White	Pink & Red
Circle & Triangle	Diamond & Heart
I & J	K & L
The Texture of Dinosaurs	The Texture of candy hearts & toothbrushes



The Jungle Room

Ms. Carla & Ms. Julie
2 – 2 ½

Welcome back, Jungle kids! We hope everybody had a great time relaxing with their family and friends over the holiday break. First of all, we would like to welcome our new classmates to our class. We will all have lots of fun learning in the Jungle Room! During the month of January, we will study dinosaurs, polar animals, and winter. We have already learned what some dinosaurs ate and where they lived. We will also learn about F, G, H, & I; 7, 8, 9, & 10; pink & purple; and the square & triangle. The month of February will be about friendship and love. We will also learn about Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, dental health, and careers and community. We will study J, K, L, & M; review numbers 1 – 10; red & pink; and the heart. We will have a Valentine's Day party and card exchange on Thursday, February 14. We will post more information about this party on the door as the day draws closer. If you have any questions, just ask! Thank you!



The Fish Room

Ms. Daisy & Ms. Jeanine
2 ½ – 3

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a merry Christmas with their loved ones. As we enter 2019, we are going to step it up a notch. We want to encourage the children to grow and become more independent. Please check your child's cubby each day so you can see what we worked on during the day. Also, please make sure your child has at least one full change of clothes (top, bottoms, underwear, socks, & shoes). Accidents do happen and we always like to be prepared. February will be a fun month! We will exchange valentine cards and have a Valentine's Day party! More details will be posted at a later date. Thank you for all of your help!



The Elephants

Ms. Leslie

3 - 3 1/2

Happy New Year! This year will be a great year full of fun! We will start off by learning about dinosaurs, winter, polar animals, and Martin Luther King Jr. The colors of the month are pink & blue. We will also review the triangle, rectangle, square, and circle. The letters we will study are O, P, Q, & R and the numbers are 15, 16, 17, & 18. We will also practice our handwriting skills and writing our names. Many arts and crafts will also be completed. In February, we will learn about dental health, careers/community, Groundhog Day, and Valentine's Day. We will review all colors and shapes. The numbers for the month are 19, 20, & 0 and the letters are S, T, U, & V. If you have any questions, feel free to ask them. Go Elephants!



The Farm Room

Ms. Jennifer

3 1/2 - 4

Happy 2019 to all! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. I'm looking forward to what this new year brings for us. I have started behavior logs for our class so you can see how your kids are behaving during the day. I hope to have everyone writing his/her name by the end of the year so we will all be ready for Pre-K. The Farmers have been working on tracing their names daily, and I've seen good results so far; practice makes perfect! Since the start of the school year, we have been focusing on a new letter each week and conclude the week with Show and Tell on Fridays. I encourage all students to bring items to show. The kids love showing their classmates their items from home. Our letter of the week is usually shown on our bulletin board with a craft done earlier in the week, but if you don't see it, please feel free to ask what it is! In January, our main themes are dinosaurs, winter, polar animals, and Martin Luther King Jr. In February, we will cover dental health, careers/community, Groundhog Day, and Valentine's Day. The letters and numbers for January are O, P, Q, & R & 15-18 and in February they will be S, T, U, & V & 19-20. We will have a Valentine's Day party on Thursday, February 14th! We will exchange valentines and have special foods and treats. I hope all my friends are looking forward to it as much as I am!



Pre-K

Ms. Shawn & Ms. Caroline

4-5 year olds

Welcome back! We are so proud of our Pre-K classes and all the hard work and accomplishments they have made so far. We are very excited about the second semester. Listed below are the different topics we will be inquiring about for the next couple of months.

January:

Letters: D,P,B,R

Numbers: 13,14,15,16

Themes: Winter, Arctic Animals, bears and hibernation, birds and migration

February:

Letters: K,A,M,N

Numbers: 17,18,19,20

Themes: community helpers, Valentine's Day and Feelings, the importance of nutrition, fitness and hygiene, along with the 5 senses.

Special Dates:

January 17th-Pajama Bear Day

February 14th-Valentine's Day

More information will be sent out before these important dates arrive! Thank you for all your support! The children are having a blast and learning so much!

Please send your child to school in closed-toe shoes each day. Protect those toes!



Collect box tops and donate them to Tottenberry's. There is a drop box on the front desk. We want to buy a laminating machine!



Kindergarten

Mrs. Wiles

Happy 2019! Kindergarten cannot believe that 2018 is gone and done with! We have started the year off strong and are looking forward to the spring. For the month of January, Mrs. Wiles has a lot of things planned. First, we will "spiral back" to what we learned over the last couple of months. Then, we will jump into learning all about Martin Luther King Jr. Next, we will spend a week exploring the world of colors. This includes learning the color spectrum and reading our color words. We end January with the first week of our Texas unit. We will learn all about our great state and the men who fought to win our independence. This unit will include a field trip to the San Jacinto Monument! In February, our class will continue to learn about our great state. The Kindergarten stars really do shine bright deep in the heart of Texas. Also, during this time of learning about the friendliest state, we will start to increase our reading skills through some advanced reading practice; our class will be able to read small books by the end of the year! Next we will move to the big celebration of the 100th day of school! This is always a fun day where we get to dress up like we are 100 years old. It is also a fun time to learn about multiples of 10, and how many 10s make 100! Valentines week will be next, where we learn all about those adjectives that make us feel all fuzzy inside. Kindergarten will have a fun Valentine's Day party and show our love to our friends. President's week is after that; this is a great time to learn all about our past and current presidents! Also, during President's week, we will start our unit on coin money. We ARE starting the year out strong!! Mrs. Wiles cannot believe the year is almost over! Slow down, Time!



Art Class

Ms. Shante

1 year and older

Happy New Year! Welcome back to all of my friends! This month, I will introduce the color wheel and show the children how to mix colors to make other colors. We will also have fun with sensory activities and cool experiments. There is so much in store for this year! Let the fun begin!



Bible Class

Ms. Stephanie

3 years and older

Hello, Parents! I hope you and your loved ones had a great Christmas and a happy new year! 2019 will be an exciting time for my students. Our focus for the months of January & February will be developing a love for God's word. My mission is that your children will equate love with God. Our primary source of information will be the book of John which will teach us about God's unconditional love. My hope and goal for my students is that, as they grow in the new year, they will begin to reflect God's love onto people they interact with on a daily basis. "We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Update Your Child's Shot Records



If your child visits the doctor and receives any shots, please bring us a copy of the new shot record. We are required to keep updated records in each child's file. Thank you!



Spanish Class

Mrs. Juarez

3 years and older

Hola mis Padres! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas Break! I'm happy to see everyone back and safe! It is easy to forget a second language, when it is not practiced. So, we are going to be focusing and reviewing our basic skills. We will start with the ABC's, days of the week, the months, counting numbers, spelling our first and last names, colors, shapes, etc... For the month of February, I have planned to introduce Valentine's Day and a few Community Helpers. I am excited to get started! You should be absolutely proud of your little ones! They have been doing a wonderful job learning a second language!



P.E.

Coach Marcus

3 years and older

Hello parents. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas holiday and are excited about the New Year! For P.E., we will start the year with football and basketball. I would like to focus on hand-eye coordination early in the semester with these activities, along with others like Frisbee and bean bag toss. In February, we will begin to mix in more relay games. There will be lots of fun and new stretching activities before every class. I'm sure you will hear all about it! I'm looking forward to another great year with the students, and as always, thank you for allowing me to teach them! Happy New Year!

Fridays are always free dress!

Noteworthy

News

Mrs. Joanna

Everyone



The **Caterpillars, Butterflies, and Circus Rooms** have been enjoying our time together in music. The children have become very familiar with me and I get a lot of smiles from them when I enter each room. I play the bongos while I sing old children's folk songs to help reinforce steady beat. As usual, their favorite part of class is getting the chance to explore the shakers while listening to classical music and fun children's tunes.

The **Bumblebee, Jungle, Fish, Elephant, and Farm Rooms** started off the New Year in our music classes exploring the bongos, snare drum, boomwhackers, and ukulele. Each child had a chance to play each instrument. We will continue to work on learning to keep a steady beat, as well as using our singing and speaking voices. We will also focus on dramatic play with music. The children will get to use bells to practice AB form (music patterns). Another important concept for children to learn is audiation. Audiation is a term that was coined by Edwin E. Gordon, Ph.D. and he defined it as "the hearing and comprehending of sound that is not physically present." According to Gordon, "audiation is to music as thinking is to language." Just as children babble before speaking and thinking in language, they also progress through steps in music before they fluently think and speak in music (Gordon, Edwin. From www.giml.org, 2003).

The **Pre-K** classes started off the New Year in our music classes exploring the bongos, snare drum, boomwhackers, and ukulele. Each child had a chance to play each instrument. For the rest of January and the month of February, we will work on tempo (exploring fast and slow singing and movements). We will continue to focus on copy singing to enhance singing skills. The children will explore dramatic play and response to music. They will practice playing an instrument while singing. They will learn the music term staccato, which means to separate music sounds. The sounds are usually short and sometimes choppy.

Kindergarten started off the New Year in our music class exploring the bongos, snare drum, boomwhackers, and ukulele. Each child had a chance to play each instrument. The children will continue to work on keeping a steady beat by practicing clapping, tapping, and using rhythm sticks to play quarter notes. They will learn that a quarter rest gets one beat of silence and add this into some of the music patterns we will play. The children will learn the first three notes of solfege which is Do, Re, and Mi and how music can go up and down the scale. They will also learn and practice a rhythm and pitch ostinato, which are short, repetitive patterns.



Wanted: Water!

Please send your child with a water bottle, thermos, or cup each day. The children keep these handy during the day so they can quickly get a drink if they are thirsty. This is especially true when they are at recess. Playing and working hard makes kids thirsty!

Please place an ice pack in
your child's lunch box!



Pick-Up List Changes

If you need someone to pick up your child and he/she is not on your pick-up list, we will need written documentation. You can leave a note at the front desk, send a message via Remind, or send an email to tottenberrys@sbcglobal.net. If this person is only going to pick up once or twice, please do not tell them the code; we prefer to just let them in. The fewer people who know the code, the better. Thank you!



Put the Chef Hats & Aprons Away

If you provide your child's class with a treat, please remember, per state regulations, we are not allowed to serve the children homemade food items.



Do you have the lunch box blues?

Cheer up! Chef Gary brings hot lunches to Tottenberry's every day. You choose the lunches you think your child would eat, leave him a payment, and viola! Lunch is served! Pick up a menu at the front desk.

Checkerboard Play



In the mini story book titled My Friend, the two animal friends enjoy playing checkers together. This is a great opportunity to make a connection between the events in the story and checkerboard play that challenges children to use spatial reasoning and computational thinking. There's no need to teach children the rules of checkers to provide the benefits of checkerboard play. Simply using a checkerboard as a play surface will provide a provocation for learning.

What You Need

- Checkerboard
- Small blocks and/or toy figures

What You Do

1. Invite your child to play with you on the surface of a checkerboard with small toys, such as blocks or toy figures.
2. Allow your child to play in whatever way he/she chooses and observe him/her to see how play develops.
3. You will likely observe that when children play on a checkerboard surface, they tend to organize and move toys in a linear fashion.
4. After he/she has had some time to develop his/her play scenarios, ask him/her to reflect on and discuss the experience. "How is playing on a checkerboard different from playing on a plain tabletop?"
5. Ask follow-up questions that challenge your child to describe how he/she moved the toys from space to space. Was there a pattern? Were there rules?

Courtesy of education.com

BBQ Chicken & Brussels Sprouts Sheet Pan Dinner



Ingredients

- 4 bone-in, skin-on thighs
- 2 small sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 6 to 8 wedges each
- 1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 t. chili powder
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3/4 pound (about 3 cups) Brussels sprouts, halved and quartered depending on size
- 1/4 c. barbecue sauce

Make It

1. Heat oven to 425°F and line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Place the chicken thighs skin-side up on one side of the baking sheet, spacing them evenly apart. Roast until they turn opaque on the outside, 15 minutes.
2. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and place the sweet potato wedges in the center. Drizzle the potatoes with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil and sprinkle with chili powder and some salt. Use tongs to toss the potatoes so each piece is evenly coated. In the remaining open area of the pan, toss the Brussels sprouts with the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Arrange the Brussels sprouts cut-side down on the pan and brush each chicken thigh with barbecue sauce on all sides.
3. Return the baking sheet to the oven and roast until the chicken is completely cooked through and reads an internal temperature of 160 degrees F, and the Brussels sprouts and sweet potato wedges are tender and charred in spots, 25 to 30 minutes more. Toss the vegetables with the accumulated juices on the tray before serving.

Courtesy of Food Network



When Your Child Is Sick

When a child begins to run a fever or exhibits other unhealthy symptoms at school, we must send him/her home. We are also not allowed to let sick children return until they are symptom free for 24 hours without the help of medicine. Please help us follow this state mandate so we can keep everyone healthy. Also, do not send your child back to school until he/she is able to follow the regular classroom schedule along with the rest of the class, including going outside. We cannot keep a teacher inside for only one student; this affects our teacher/student ratios. Thank you!



Friendly Reminders

- Please leave ALL toys at home.
- Label all personal belongings including lunch items with first and last names.
- Children 3 years and older need to wear uniforms Monday – Thursday and tennis shoes on Fridays for P.E. class.
- Breakfast is served from 6:30 – 8:00. If you arrive after 8:00, your child can have his/her breakfast at snack time.



Dancing Stars

Tuesday Mornings
2.5 – 5 years

This educational and developmental dance class incorporates ballet techniques, skills, and posture; balance; gross and fine motor development; flexibility; grace; and poise. Designed to give our little ones a foundation for dance and ballet, the class includes on-site recital performances twice a year! The class meets every Tuesday at 9:00. Tuition is only \$40 a month. Register and get more information at houstonsng.com.



Tuesday Mornings
3 – 6 years

Snapology offers fun themed classes that are educational AND affordable. The ABCs & 123s (age 3) class will teach colors, shapes, letters, and numbers using DUPLO blocks. The Junior Engineers (ages 4-6) will experience pulleys, levers, gears, wheels, and axles while exploring energy, buoyancy, and balance by playing with and manipulating the models. Visit snapology.com/houstonsouth to get more information and register. Classes begin in February.



Wednesday Mornings
3-5 year olds

TOT is a creative and unique way for a student to learn, experience, and master all sorts of ball handling tricks! TOT teachers will model, encourage, & inspire your child to be the very best that they can be! Your child will attain many new skills that will instill a drive and motivation that will carry over into all areas of your child's life. Give your child the TOT advantage! Learn more at teamssoftomorrow.com.



Microwave News

Please do not send items that need to be heated up longer than 1 minute for lunch. When we warm up things that take 2 or 3 minutes for several children, tummies start rumbling and the kiddos get impatient. Thank you for your help with this. (The kids thank you too!)



Soccer Superstars

Thursday Mornings
3 years and older

GOOOOAAAL!! Soccer Superstars is a professionally designed program that uses a variety of creative games and activities to introduce children to the wonderful game of soccer. The program not only teaches children about the world's most popular sport but it also emphasizes and promotes health, fitness, teamwork, and most importantly FUN! All of the instructors are extremely passionate about soccer and kids. They hope to pass on their passion to the next generation of Soccer Superstars. More information is available at the front desk or online at soccersuperstars.org.

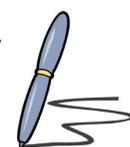


Tumblebus

Mon., Tues., Wed., or Thurs.
After Lunch
18 months – 5 years

Cheerfully decorated inside and out, the Tumblebus provides a unique & fun way for your child to receive the physical fitness that is so important to his/her development. Trained instructors with “special hearts” make the experience memorable as well as educational. Students twist, jump, bounce, and flip while listening to their favorite music. Healthy children are happy children! Tuition is \$40 a month and information is available at the front desk.

Use Only Blue or Black Ink



If you write a check to Tottenberry's, please use only blue or black ink. These are the only colors bank scanners can read. Thank you!