

# Tottenberry's Times

Tottenberry's Private School & Day Care

January/February 2020



**January 2-8**

Winter Holidays

Non-Academic

**January 10**

Houston Texans Day

**January 20**

MLK Day

Non-Academic

**February 17**

President's Day

Non-Academic

**February 28**

Go Texan Day

**March 9-13**

Spring Break

Non-Academic

**April 10**

Good Friday

School Closed

**April 29-May 1**

Spring Pictures

**May 18-22**

Scholastic Book Fair

**May 21**

The Last Day of School!

**May 25**

Memorial Day

School Closed



## Always Be Prepared

Please send your child to school prepared for the day EACH and EVERY day. This includes but is not limited to: diapers, wipes, water cup/bottle, extra clothes, and ice packs in lunches. We cannot care for your child without the proper supplies. Also, the children notice when they don't have something that their friends do; they feel left out. Unfortunately, because many parents do not follow or simply ignore our requests and reminders, we will begin adding fines to accounts if a child is missing an item. These fines will range from \$1 - \$5/day depending on the necessity of the item. Please help us help your child.



## Chess Club

We are adding Chess Club to our list of extra-curricular activities! Starting in February, our after-schoolers will have the opportunity to learn how to play chess on Monday afternoons. The price is \$144 for 8 hour-long lessons. Get more information at the front desk if you are interested.

## Medicine Guidelines



If you would like for us to give your child medicine while he/she is at school, please be sure to send the medicine in the original packaging. Be sure to also include a medicine cup or syringe so we can measure the medicine correctly. Also, we will not administer any medicine "just because" or "just in case"; a child needs to exhibit some symptoms before we give him/her medicine.

## 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, January 6
- ❖ Monday, February 3
- ❖ Monday, March 2

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

Check out our website!  
[tottenberrys.com](http://tottenberrys.com)



## 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. Fines may be charged for failure to comply.



## Thursday Lunches

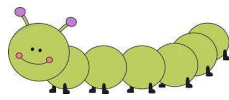
For only \$4, you can order a hot lunch for your child on Thursdays. Look for the "Thursday Lunch" box on the front desk and pull out an empty envelope. Write your child's name and class on it, list the dates you would like for your child to receive a lunch, put the money inside, and place the envelope 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:

- 1/2 - pizza
- 1/9 - chicken nuggets
- 1/16 - hot dogs
- 1/23 - chicken nuggets
- 1/30 - chicken nuggets
- 2/6 - pizza
- 2/13 - chicken nuggets
- 2/20 - hot dogs
- 2/27 - chicken nuggets



## Check Out Inchbug

Are you tired of labeling your child's items all the time? Visit [inchbug.com](http://inchbug.com) or [namebubbles.com](http://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!



## Caterpillars

**Ms. Michelle & Ms. Evelyn**  
**6 weeks – 6 months**

We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! It's hard to believe they are over. The caterpillars are enjoying their tummy time and some of them are even trying new foods. Be sure to also practice tummy time at home and introduce new foods there before sending them to school. We love using the SmartCare app! It's a great communication tool but it only works if you are checking it each day. Don't forget to label all of your child's personal belongings including bottles and food. The personalized bands mentioned on the front page of this newsletter are a great timesaver! We look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions or concerns. We are always happy to help! Happy New Year, Everyone!



## Butterflies

**Ms. Lupita, Ms. Judy,**  
**and Ms. Jeanine**  
**6 months – 12 months**

We would like to wish everyone a "Happy New Year"! We also want to welcome the new babies to the Butterfly Room. We look forward to all of the fun things that will happen this year! Please remember to label all personal belongings with your child's first and last names. Also include the date if it is a food item. It is also important that you tell us when your baby is switching from formula to whole milk. If your child brings a water cup, please take it home to wash each day. Most babies at this age really enjoy finger foods. If you haven't started your child on finger food, we recommend that you do so. We are planning to exchange Valentines. We will keep you updated with the details. Thank you for all of your help and support. If you have any concerns, please be sure to let us know. Thank you!

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



## Circus Room

**Ms. Samantha &  
Ms. Grisleda**  
**12 – 18 months**

Welcome to 2020! We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. We are happy to be back in school and look forward to all the exciting lessons we have coming up. We would like to thank everyone for all of the wonderful gifts. We are excited to continue to watch your little ones grow and learn! We will continue to join the Bumblebees every morning for circle time at 8:30. 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 and do not send anything valuable since we let the children pass and play with their items. Thank you!

## Bumblebee Room

**Ms. Marshonna & Ms. Kristen**  
**18 – 24 months**



Happy New Year! Welcome 2020! The bumblebees will start the new year with a bright outlook! We will continue having Show & Tell every Thursday. Please participate and allow your child to bring an item, labeled with his/her name, from home that can be associated with the curriculum for the week and played with by the children during free play. Please do not send anything valuable since we let the children pass and play with their items. 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. We are planning to have a Valentine's Day party on Friday, February 14. Be on the lookout for more details. We will be covering the following topics in January and February:

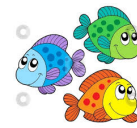
January	February
Dinosaurs	Groundhog Day
Winter	Dental Health
Martin Luther King Jr.	Valentine's Day
Polar Animals	Careers/Community
Kindness/Caring/ Compassion	Citizenship
White, Grey, & Orange	Pink & Black
Circle, Square, & Triangle	Heart
J, K, & L	M & N
10, 1, & 2	3 & 4
The texture of dinosaurs and things that are cold & wet	The texture of candy hearts & toothbrushes



## The Jungle Room

**Ms. Carla & Ms. Julie**  
**2 – 2½ year olds**

Welcome back, Jungle kids! We hope everybody had a great time relaxing with their family and friends over the holiday break. We certainly had a great time with our students during our Christmas party. They are such a joy to have around. We are excited to begin a new year of learning. During the month of January, we will study dinosaurs, polar animals, and winter. We will also learn about F, G, H, & I; 7 & 8; pink & purple; the square & triangle; and the Spanish words dinosaurio (dinosaur) & frio (cold). 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; 9 & 10; red, pink, yellow, & purple; the heart & rectangle; and the Spanish words corazon (heart) & cepillo de dientes (toothbrush). We will have a Valentine's Day party. We will post more information about this party on the door as the day draws closer. Please remember to label all personal items **ESPECIALLY** jackets and sweaters. Thank you!



## The Fish Room

**Ms. Daisy &  
Ms. Sandra**

**2½ – 3 year olds**

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a merry Christmas with their loved ones. As we enter the new year, we are going to be learning new things. We want to encourage the children to grow and become more independent. We are playing games involving letters, numbers, shapes, and colors to make learning more fun for the children. Please encourage your child to talk about his/her day when you pick him/her up from school. 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. Jill & Ms. Jordan**  
**3 – 3½ year olds**

Happy 2020 Elephant Families! We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas holidays and are ready to start the year with a fresh and renewed spirit. January will bring quite a few fun learning opportunities for the Elephants. We will start the new year with a combined unit study of winter and winter/polar animals. To honor the memory and dedication of one of our country's greatest Americans, we will spend some time learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions to the civil rights movement. As January comes to a close, we will embark on our favorite study of the entire school year: DINOSAURS! February is always a fast-paced month for the Elephant room. Of course, celebrating Valentine's Day is always fun and the "EleBellies" can expect to enjoy plenty of Valentine-themed activities during that week. We will start the month with a unit learning about dental health, which will include our annual visit with Tilly the Tooth! We will close out the month with a unit of study that focuses on the amazing work of our community helpers. As always, every themed learning unit includes activities that incorporate literacy, language, mathematics, social and emotional development, fine and gross motor skills, science and art. Cheers to a happy, healthy, and productive year of learning in 2020!

**The Farm Room**  
**Ms. Jahmekia & Ms. Zoe**  
**3½ – 4 year olds**



Welcome to 2020! We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. We are looking forward to what the new year will bring for the Farmers. The children have been working on tracing the letter of the week each day. We have seen some good results; practice makes perfect! During January, our main themes will be:

- Dinosaurs
- Winter
- Polar Animals
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The letters we will study are R, S, & T and the numbers 10 – 13. In February, we will learn about:

- Dental Health
- Careers/Community
- Groundhog Day
- Valentine's Day

The letters of study will be U, V, & W and the numbers will be 14 – 17. We will also have a special treat and exchange valentines on Friday, February 14. Please bring signed Valentine cards and/or candy for your child to pass out to all of the Farmers. Also, please bring a small box (cereal boxes work great) before February 11 that will be decorated and used to hold your child's valentines. We hope everyone is looking forward to the new year as much as we are!



**Pre-K**  
**Ms. Shawn & Ms. Caroline**  
**4-5 year olds**

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday! We have lots of fun activities planned for the second semester of Pre-K. Listed below are the topics we will cover in the upcoming weeks.

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:

TBA-Pajama Bear Day

February 14th-Valentine's Day

Please be on the look out for notes going home to confirm dates and details about "special dates". Thank you for all your support! We will continue to learn and have fun to make this the best year for our students.

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 2020! Kindergarten cannot believe that 2019 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 Pearland library! 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 those 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 half over! Slow down, Time!



## Art Class

Ms. Shante

1 year and older

Happy New Year! 2019 was such a wonderful year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. The new year will be filled with lots of crafty projects. This January, I will introduce the color wheel. We will learn about primary colors. February will also be a fun-filled month! We will make Valentine day cards and projects. Be on the lookout for these wonderful masterpieces!



## Bible Class

Ms. Stephanie

3 years and older

As the year comes to an end, so will our time to learn about the events that led to the birth of Christ. The children have done a fantastic job trying to understand the key roles of all the important figures I've been teaching them about. The new year will consist of answering questions such as "Who is Jesus?" and "Why do people remember him?" These are important questions to ask and learn about in order to appreciate what Jesus has done for us. The children really are growing in God. It's great to see!

## 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!

Fridays are always free dress!



## Spanish Class

Ms. Susy

3 years and older

Feliz Año Nuevo a todos! (Happy New Year, Everyone!) I am wishing you the best in this new year! In Spanish class, we will be starting the year with new and interesting topics.

### January

- We will be learning how to make a **piñata** and decorate it.
- We will go over the parts of the body.

### February

- the 5 senses
- Clothes
- "Cómo te sientes hoy?" (How are you feeling today?)
- "Qué te gusta comer?" (What do you like to eat?)



## P.E.

Coach Marcus

3 years and older

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas holiday. I'm looking forward to a new year of games, sports, and fitness. This spring semester, we will continue our regular activities, but I will begin to include relay races. My hope is that we will have nice weather so the kids can have more room to run around and participate in outdoor activities. Also, I want to remind everyone to have the kids wear tennis shoes on Fridays. We do a lot of running and jumping. Having the appropriate shoes helps prevent tripping and falling. Thank you for your support and I wish you all a Happy New Year!



## Noteworthy

### News

Mrs. Joanna

Everyone



The **Caterpillars, Butterflies, and Circus Rooms** have been hearing nursery rhymes, folk songs, and classical music focusing on a *steady beat*. They continue to explore playing an age appropriate rhythm instrument. I love seeing how excited they get when they see me bring the shakers out. I also occasionally play other fun children's songs for them to play their instrument to.

The **Bumblebee, Jungle, Fish, Elephant, and Farm Rooms** are having so much fun doing pretend household chores to music that they don't even realize they are learning high and low and a steady beat. They love to "dust, dust, dust" and "scrub, scrub, scrub" with small scarves and colorful washcloths. They are also learning to sing *ostinatos* (a short repeated musical or rhythmic phrase). As always, they continue to get to explore playing rhythm sticks, one-bell jingles, and egg shakers.

The **Pre-K classes** are still enjoying our pretend trips to the toy shop while learning fun, new songs that help us explore our imaginations. The children will use rhythm sticks to build a pretend boat to sail in and will mimic the sounds they "hear" while "using" different tools. Listening and mimicking sounds are a great and fun way to learn music!

**Kindergarten** continues to learn about music through the eyes of Mozart Mouse, Beethoven Bear, and Clara Schumann-Cat. They will learn how to play Do, Re, and Mi on a small xylophone and sing the "Do-Re-Mi Tapping Song," using their whole bodies to show the steps they make in music. They have been getting more familiar with quarter notes and quarter rests by playing rhythm patterns containing these notes with and without music.



## 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](http://houstonsng.com).



## 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](http://soccersuperstars.org).



## 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!



**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 [teamsoftomorrow.com](http://teamsoftomorrow.com).



## 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.



## 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!)

## Chicken Bacon Ranch Tater Tot Casserole



### Ingredients

- 1 t. vegetable oil
- ½ c. chopped onion
- 1 can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 c. sour cream
- ½ c. milk
- 2 c. shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 pkg. ranch dressing & seasoning mix
- ¼ t. black pepper
- 3 c. shredded cooked chicken
- 1 bag (32 oz.) Ore-Ida Tater Tots frozen potatoes
- ½ c. chopped cooked bacon
- ½ c. chopped tomatoes
- ¼ c. sliced green onions

### Make It

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Spray a 13x9 inch glass baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In 8- or 10-inch nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Cook onion 3 to 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until tender.
3. In medium bowl, stir onion, condensed soup, sour cream, milk, 1 cup of cheese, 2 T. of the dressing mix, and the pepper until mixed well; stir in chicken.
4. Place half of the frozen potatoes in a single layer on bottom of baking dish. Spoon and spread chicken mixture on top of potatoes. Sprinkle ¼ c. of the bacon on top.
5. In a large resealable plastic bag, add remaining potatoes with remaining dressing mix. Seal and shake bag to coat. Arrange on top of casserole.
6. Bake 40 minutes. Top casserole with remaining 1 c. cheese and ¼ c. bacon.
7. Bake 10-15 minutes or until cheese is melted and potatoes are lightly browned. Top with tomatoes and green onions.

Courtesy of Betty Crocker