

## The Nature Connection

By Tricia Wilson, Director

When a child has many opportunities to play outside, their minds are stimulated by nearly everything around them. They learn how to explore, concentrate, collect, sort, experiment, build and create. These outdoor experiences help to develop a child's curiosity, love of learning and discovery, the ability to follow simple instructions, promoting personal initiative and a nurturing sense of self. (Konradi, S. 2017).

Please see the list below of 10 simple ideas on how to integrate activities related to the natural environment into your child's everyday life.

- ☀️ Plant a butterfly garden in a corner of your backyard to encourage butterflies to make their home there. Find books on Florida butterflies and what host plants will attract them.
- ☀️ Research with your child how to create a vegetable/herb/flower garden on your porch, window sill or backyard.
- ☀️ Teach your child the steps for recycling and composting.
- ☀️ Take nature walks in your neighborhood and in local parks and gardens. Provide your child with a journal to draw the wildlife, plants, bugs and flowers they observe.
- ☀️ Visit a nature preserve or lake – go fishing, feed the ducks, sit on a bench and observe the wildlife, bring a journal for your child to draw what they observe.
- ☀️ Take day or overnight trips to a natural setting. For example: the beach, springs, a state park – collect shells, rocks, twigs, leaves etc. Show your child how to create a collage or a memory box with their treasures.
- ☀️ Go for a picnic in a natural setting, show your child how to observe the world around them. Point out the shape of clouds, different types of plants, flowers, birds and bugs. Talk about what lives in a tree and the importance of trees.
- ☀️ Camp in your backyard. Observe the night sky, listen to sounds...crickets, owls, frogs etc. Compare to daytime sounds.... birds, children playing, leaves rustling in the wind.
- ☀️ Take your child to visit your local farmers market, community garden or plant nursery. Bring home some plants and flowers to plant in the garden, talk about the different types of plants compare fruit, vegetable and flower plants. Teach your child how to water and take care of the plants and talk about the importance of sun, rain and wind.
- ☀️ Visit your local library, check out nature websites, and Google information to discover additional ways to help your child connect to the natural world. Main Topics: planting, collecting leaves, bird watching, composting, recycling, gardening, preschool nature and exploring the wonders of nature.

### Suggested Nature Guide Books for Grown Ups

The Green Hour: A Daily Dose of Nature for Happier, Healthier, Smarter Kids by Todd Christopher

Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life by Richard Louv

The Nature Connection: An Outdoor Workbook for Kids, Families, and Classrooms by Clare walker Leslie

The Kids' Outdoor Adventure Book: 448 Great Things to Do in Nature Before You Grow Up by Stacy Tornio

Fun with Nature: Take Along Guide by Dendy, Leslie, Burns, Diane

### Suggested Nature Books for Children

Butterfly Park by Elly Mackay

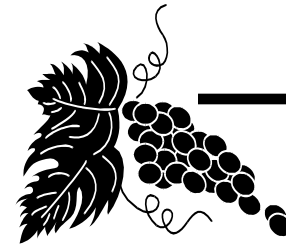
Why Do We Need Bees? By Usborne books

We Are the Gardeners by Joanna Gaines

Why Should I Recycle? By Jen Green

Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth

# The Grapevine



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## WPPP Boon Supply Fundraiser Is Coming April 5!

WPPP is raising money for a shade canopy for the car circle/nature center areas and we need your help. The preschool receives 40% of each sale! Ordering is easy from the new online catalog. Orders must be placed from April 5 through April 16. Boon Supply has cool reusable totes that we love from the former Mixed Bags fundraisers, kitchen gadgets, travel bags, water bottles, reusable zip storage bags, reusable silicone lids, storage containers, baking sheets, specialty pans, taco stands, household organizers and much more. Celebrate Earth Day with a few of these eco-friendly items.

The Boon Supply catalog is now digital, and can be accessed using the QR code or URL below. **Just SEND, SHARE & SHOP!**

**SEND:** Go to [boonsupply.com/73299](https://boonsupply.com/73299) and click the rocketship. Enter at least 10 emails of friends and family, then you can register as a seller.

**SHARE:** On our fundraiser page, share our fundraiser through text, Facebook, Twitter, and email. Send the link to everyone you can. The more who buy, the more we earn!

**SHOP:** Shop our awesome collection from the comfort of your home. Orders are shipped directly to the shopper, and 40% goes straight to our cause. It's that easy!

**TEACHER SPECIALS!!!** Boon Supply is offering a shopping spree per class of \$100 for 50% classroom participation or \$150 for 75% classroom participation based on 12 students.



[boonsupply.com/73299](https://boonsupply.com/73299)  
 Scan the code or enter the URL to go straight to our online store.

## Upcoming PAC Events



### Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream Wednesday, April 14 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream is coming to the preschool for another drive through fundraiser event! This time they will be bringing delicious new flavors Rice Krispie Cream, Chocolate Heath & Caramel, Cereal Milk, Nutella Swirl and Cherry Vanilla. YUM!!



Those who wish to participate will need to preorder by using the QR code. You will receive an invoice in 24-48 hours that will enable you to make your payment. Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool will receive 20% of sales.

### PAC Event Teacher Appreciation Week April 26-30

Our PAC is busy planning surprises for our wonderful teachers during their Teacher Appreciation week. If you would like to join in the fun with some awesome preschool parents, please email Kelly Seidl at [kelly.seidl25@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.seidl25@gmail.com)



### PAC Spring Clean-up Day Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Spring Clean-up Day has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be opportunities for painting tables, pressure washing, cleaning windows, nature center upkeep, raking, staining fence, planting, weeding and replenishing garden boxes.



If you have any questions please contact Amanda and Raisa at [garretnamanda@gmail.com](mailto:garretnamanda@gmail.com) and [raisahitchcock@gmail.com](mailto:raisahitchcock@gmail.com). If you are not able to make it the day of, there are many other ways to help. Please sign up using the QR code for the SignUpGenius.

# Announcements

## April/May Calendar Highlights

- ◆ **April 2** — Good Friday — **No school**
- ◆ **April 4** — Happy Easter!
- ◆ **April 5** — Boon Supply Fundraiser begins!
- ◆ **April 10** — Spring Clean-up Day Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- ◆ **April 14** — Kelly's Ice Cream Fundraiser 12:30-3:30 p.m.
- ◆ **April 16** — PAC Meeting via Zoom Friday at 10:00am
- ◆ **April 22** — Butterfly Encounter for 3s and VPK only
- ◆ **April 26-30** — Teacher Appreciation Week
- ◆ **April 28-29** — Picture Perfect Individual, Sibling and Class Photos
- ◆ **May 9** — Happy Mother's Day!
- ◆ **May 14** — PAC Meeting via Zoom Friday at 10:00am
- ◆ **May 31** — Memorial Day Holiday — **No school**
- ◆ **June 4** — Last Day of School — **No extended day**



## Butterfly Encounter

Thursday, April 22 is Earth Day and Mr. Lorenzo Zayas, an Entomologist from Nature's Way Butterfly Gardens, will come to our school to conduct 30-minute interactive butterfly demonstrations and encounters for 3s and VPK students. For several years he has visited our school to show his collection of caterpillars, butterflies, moths and other live insects, and the children love it!

There will be a small cost per child to attend. Families also have the option of purchasing a butterfly kit which includes one caterpillar, fresh food plant supply and instructions. Mr. Zayas will bring the kits the day of the presentation. Order forms will be sent home before the event. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity you can go to his website: [www.butterfliesandmore.net](http://www.butterfliesandmore.net).

