

CONNECTION

Sharing the day-to-day learning experience

at

Community Homes & Services

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March is National Celery Month

with Jennifer



Bruce , Judy, Aidan and Cat created stamps out of celery hearts and stalks, as well as lemons from our tree, an apple, and some onions and bell peppers. After some trial and error, including “mummifying” some of the wetter fruits and veg, and a lot of questions about what was cooking, we think the final results look rather scrumptious!



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

We created a number of reading comprehension worksheets for a variety of reading levels. This is a 100 word basic reader.

St. Patrick's Day

Ready to Read READING COMPREHENSION

St. Patrick's Day is on March 17 every year. This day celebrates St. Patrick, who is the patron saint of Ireland. Long ago, he taught people about his religion. People say he used a three-leaf clover to explain his beliefs.



Today, people wear green on this day. Some cities have big parades with music and dancing. In some places, rivers and fountains are dyed green. A fun tradition is looking for lucky four-leaf clovers. Some people eat corned beef and cabbage. In Chicago, they turn the river green for the day. It is a happy and fun holiday.

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

St. Patrick's Day

1. When is St. Patrick's Day?
 - a. April 1
 - b. March 17
 - c. July 4
 - d. December 25
2. What color do people wear on St. Patrick's Day?
3. True or False: St. Patrick's Day is only celebrated in Ireland.
4. What kind of plant did St. Patrick use to explain his beliefs?
5. What is a popular food people eat on this day?
6. True or False: St. Patrick's Day is a sad holiday.

Reading Comprehension Worksheet Answers

1. March 17
2. Green
3. False
4. Clover
5. Corned beef and cabbage
6. False – it's a fun holiday!

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The Chicago river dyed green for St. Patrick's Day



Happy March Birthday!

- 3/10 - Cathryn
- 3/18 - Gina
- 3/19 - Rickina
- 3/20 - Aidan & Devlin
- 3/23 - Zoe



Nino Surveys the Situation

March is National Sauce Month!

What do you dip your nuggets in?

Rickina: Polynesian from Chick fil A
David: Sweet and sour
Tess: Ranch
Harold: BBQ
Rebecca: No dip for nuggets, but ranch for fries
Aidan: Ranch
Justin: Honey mustard
Devlin: Ketchup or ranch
Martha: Ranch
Andrew: Ketchup
Hayley: Honey mustard
Jennifer: Spicy buffalo or honey mustard
Connor: No sauce
Colliene: Sweet and sour sauce
Zachary: BBQ
Randall: Ketchup of course!
Nino: Ketchup
Michelle: Totally depends on where the nuggets come from



Don't eat our nugget keychain!



Do you like Nino's pumpkin pie hat?

March 14th is National Pi Day!

What's your FAVORITE PIE?

Zachary: Apple
Justin: Pumpkin
Dylan: Huckleberry
Martha: Pumpkin
Andrew: I don't like pie
Nino: Apple
Bruce: Strawberry rhubarb
Hayley: Lemon meringue
Matthew: Key lime, pecan, pumpkin
Randall: Lemon meringue

Judy: All of them
Katie: Apple
Devlin: Pumpkin or apple
Michelle: Banana cream pie, pecan pie, I like all fruit pies warmed up with vanilla ice cream, I like pot pies...
Jennifer: Strawberry rhubarb or pecan

MARCH 2025 NATIONAL DAYS

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Women's History Month

- 3/1 - Global Day of Unplugging
- 3/2 - Banana Cream Pie Day, Old Stuff Day, Dr. Seuss Day
- 3/3 - World Hearing Day, Soup it Forward Day
- 3/4 - Marching Music Day, Grammar Day, Fat Tuesday
- 3/5 - Ash Wednesday, Cheese Doodle Day
- 3/6 - Oreo Cookie Day, Frozen Food Day
- 3/7 - Cereal Day
- 3/9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins, Barbie Day, Meatball Day
- 3/10 - International Bagpipe Day, Napping Day, Mario Day
- 3/11 - Johnny Appleseed Day
- 3/12 - Working Moms Day, Plant a Flower Day
- 3/13 - Good Samaritan Day, Jewel Day, Earmuff Day
- 3/14 - Pi Day, Write Down Your Story Day, Learn About Butterflies Day
- 3/16 - Panda Day, Corn Dog Day, Artichoke Hearts Day
- 3/17 - Saint Patrick's Day, Corned Beef and Cabbage Day
- 3/18 - Global Recycling Day, Sloppy Joe Day
- 3/19 - Poultry Day, Chocolate Caramel Day
- 3/20 - Spring Begins, Ravioli Day
- 3/22 - International Day of the Seal, Goof Off Day
- 3/23 - Tamale Day, Chia Day, Puppy Day, Chip and Dip Day
- 3/24 - Cheesesteak Day, Chocolate Covered Raisin Day
- 3/25 - Tolkien Reading Day
- 3/26 - Epilepsy Awareness Day, Manatee Awareness Day
- 3/27 - National Joe Day
- 3/28 - Something on a Stick Day
- 3/29 - Pita Day
- 3/30 - Virtual Vacation Day, Pencil Day
- 3/31 - Crayon Day, Tater Day



STEVE FINE

CH&S STUDENT PPP

Like an exquisite onion, Steve Fine has many layers. The fact that he's a great listener makes him a great communicator. Indeed when Steve Speaks, people do listen. That is because he is wise, insightful, witty and real.

Steve is a brilliant thinker with a remarkable memory and a deep and valuable understanding of life. He possesses many intelligent insights into a vast array or topics, including current events, jokes, history, and music.

He is also THE MAN to talk to about Bay Area Sports!

Steve is:

Positive, professional, and patient

Extremely knowledgeable

Hilarious!

Cool, calm, and collected

Charming, caring, and compassionate

Respectful and highly respected

Go Giants, go Steve!

Watch Steve's PPP Instagram

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7R5V_4pcY9/?](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7R5V_4pcY9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

[utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7R5V_4pcY9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)



Happy Birthday Elton John

Elton John's birthday is March 25, 1947. He is a legendary British singer known for hits like "Rocket Man" and "Your Song." With over 300 million records sold, he is famous for his flashy outfits and incredible piano playing.

One of his most emotional songs, "Candle in the Wind 1997," was a tribute to Princess Diana. Originally written in 1973 about Marilyn Monroe, Elton John rewrote the lyrics after Diana's tragic death in 1997. Amy reminded us that Diana died because paparazzi were chasing her when she was with her boyfriend—the chase ended in a car accident.

Heartbroken fans, including Amy, remember how deeply the world mourned Diana's loss. Elton performed the song at her funeral, and it became the best-selling single of all time. He donated all proceeds to charity, supporting causes Diana cared about.



Amy and Thea searched for a picture for this article that is in the public domain, but of course, all photos of Elton, Princess Diana, and Marilyn Monroe are copyrighted unless they are drawings done by others such as the picture to the left.

We looked for a picture of a candle in the wind and when we saw this one (above), we laughed so hard we decided that we HAD to use it!

Amy recalls watching a movie about Elton John and learning he once married Renate Blauel to please his mother. She also knows he has been concerned about Diana's son, Prince Harry, over the years.

Through his music and philanthropy, the Rocket Man continues to make a lasting impact on the world.



The Orient Express

Darnell presented an accelerated learning class on the Orient Express. Justin, Cat, and staff Judy and Jennifer came over to the Project Center to learn more about this legendary long-distance luxury train service that originally operated between Paris and Constantinople (now called Istanbul). It was inaugurated in 1883 and the train became synonymous with elegance, romance, and intrigue.

The original route took passengers through major European cities, including Paris, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest, before reaching Istanbul. It was a preferred mode of travel for aristocrats, diplomats, spies, and wealthy adventurers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



The Orient Express was famous for its opulent carriages, exquisite dining, and high-class service. It featured beautifully decorated sleeping compartments, fine cuisine, and plush interiors, making it one of the most prestigious trains in history.

The original Orient Express stopped operations in 1977 (with some routes continuing under different names until 2009).



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Coloring Pages

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Mardi Gras is a celebration before Lent, known for its parades, music, and festive spirit. People wear masks and decorate in purple, green, and gold, which represent justice, faith, and power. In places like New Orleans, crowds enjoy throwing beads, dancing, and eating king cake.

Happy Joe Day!

with Jennifer

The month of March offers more than one way to celebrate the Joes in our lives—March 18th is National Sloppy Joe Day, and the 27th is National Joe Day.

Joe Idioms: Average Joe, Mojo, Joe Schmoe, Eat at Joe's, Cup of Joe, Regular Joe, Joe Mama, Joe Job, Joe Sixpack, Say it ain't so Joe, Joe Public

Joe can be short for: Joseph, Joel, Jolene, Josepine, Josette, Joanne, Joanna, Joey, Jocelyn, Joelle, Jodie, Jonah, Jonas

Famous Joes:

Joe
Joe Dimaggio
Joe Pesci
Joe Rogan
Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Joey Pantoliano
Joseph Barbera
Joe Biden
Joey Lawrence
Joey Lauren Adams
Joey Fatone
Joel McHale
Joe Jonas
Jojo Siwa
Joe Montana
Joey Ramone
Smokin' Joe Frazier
Joe Namath
Joe Walsh
Joe Strummer
Joe Cocker
Joe Mantegna
Joey King
Joseph Stalin
Joseph McCarthy
Joseph Haydn

Fictional Joes:

GI Joe
Joe Cool
Joey Tribiani
Joe Dirt
Ashita No Joe
Jo March
Josie & the Pussycats
Joey Russo (Blossom)
Joey Potter (Dawson's Creek)
Joe Friday
Joe vs the Volcano



Joe Songs:

Hey Joe, where you goin' with that gun in your hand?
Jimi Hendrix
Cotton Eye Joe by Rednex
Happiness is a a Thing Called Joe by Tony Bennett
Hey Joe by Wilson Pickett
Joe the Lion by David Bowie
Hank and Joe and Me by Johnny Cash
Joe Kirby Blues by John Fahey
Old Joe by The Guess Who
Daryll and Joe by Run-D.M.C.
Joe's Turkey by Fatlip
Poppa Joe by The Sweet
Say it Ain't So Joe by Murray Head
Walkaway Joe by Trisha Yearwood
Sleepy Joe by Smog
I Had a Dream, Joe by Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
Viva Bobby Joe by The Equals
Jolene by Dolly Parton

Leprechauns

Leprechauns are small, magical men from Irish stories. They wear green clothes and have red beards. People say they hide gold at the end of a rainbow. If you catch a leprechaun, he might give you three wishes! Leprechauns are part of St. Patrick's Day, March 17.



We made leprechaun art to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



What's Happening at the Project Center? Dolphins!



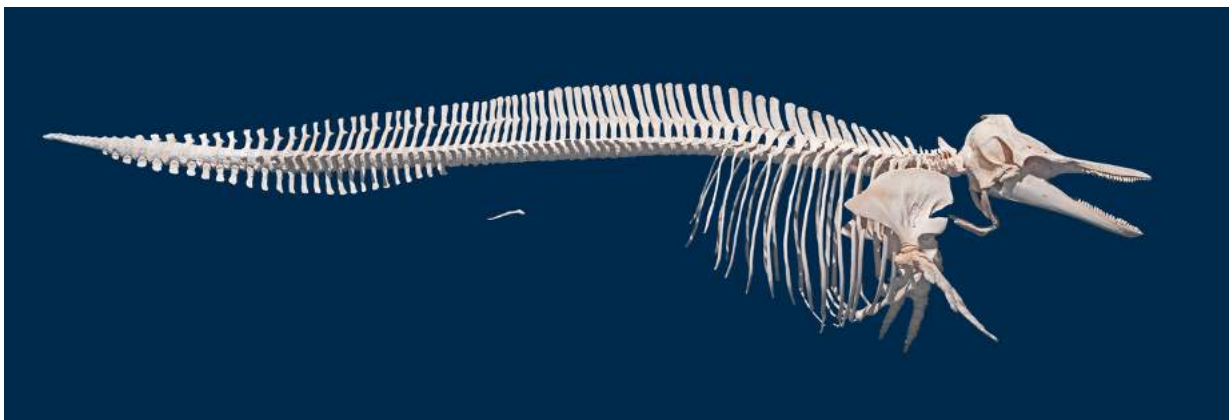
Happy March! It's starting to feel a bit like spring outside! Here in the project center Tess, Donald, James, Pam, Carolyn and Joe have been hard at work on our dolphins knowledge class. Considering how intelligent, beautiful, and fascinating dolphins are, the class is pretty lengthy. Here's a little snippet...

Dolphins / Facts & Talking Points

- Dolphin pregnancy lasts for an entire year
- A baby dolphin is called a "calf". Calves are born between 43 and 53 inches long, and weigh between 22 to 44 pounds
- Adult bottlenose dolphins can reach 6 to 12 feet in length and weigh 400 to 800 pounds. Full-grown males are slightly larger than adult females.
- Currently there are 49 dolphin and porpoise species which are grouped into six families: the oceanic dolphin family is by far the largest with 38 members; the porpoise family has seven members; and there are four river dolphin families, each containing just one species.



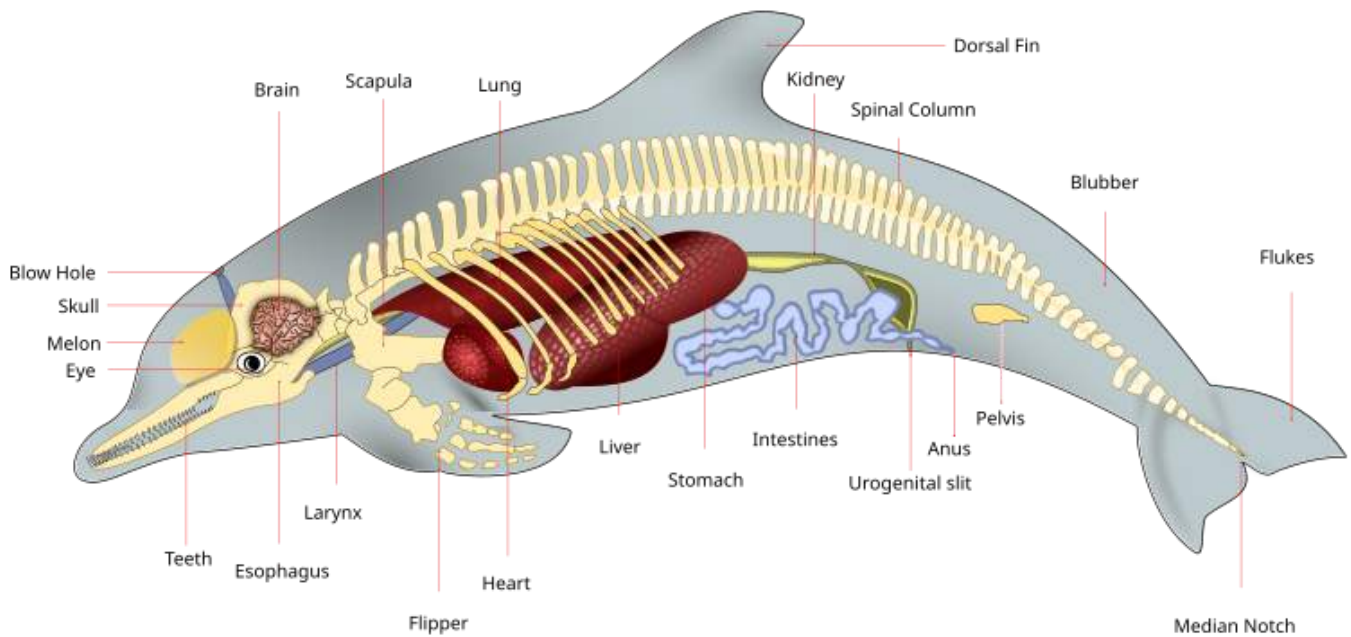
Check out the dolphin skeleton below.



Dolphins!

- Like us, dolphins breathe air. The average dolphin can hold its breath for about 8 to 10 minutes. However, some species can remain submerged for up to 15 minutes or more. They breathe through a blowhole on the top of their heads

Anatomy of a Dolphin
(Delphinidae)



- Dolphins do not have hair.
- Some dolphins can jump up to 15 feet out of the water!

How high can you jump?



Dolphin Color-by-Numbers



Weird Food Taste Test

with Jennifer

We found a souper weird flavor of instant noodles and felt compelled to give them a try: Maple Syrup Pancakes, Sausage & Eggs! Ramen for breakfast... who'da thunk it? So we fired up the kettle and threw some boiling water into a couple highly suspicious looking cups of dehydrated shelf stable scrambled eggs and sausage. Turns out the picture on the package wasn't just a helpful serving suggestion—there really were bits of meat and eggs in there! Chef Jen had to take a break to sort of dance around the kitchen getting the willies out.



The maple syrup smell was bizarre, as Judy described it, and definitely wafted its way through the whole building. The brave taste-testers included Cat, Martha, Justin, Jennifer, and Michelle. Michelle thought it was overly sweet, and Jennifer found herself avoiding the bits of solids because they totally freaked her out. While they agreed it wasn't exactly



good, and they didn't finish their servings, the instructors thought it wasn't that bad. Students were decidedly more enthusiastic! Cat said, "It was so good, I liked it a whole lot! Who cooked it? They did a good job." Justin "felt pretty good about it! Are we gonna have more today at lunch? I'll have some more!" Martha, Cat and Justin all slurped their sample cups clean—no noodle left behind!





St. Paddy's Day

Amy tells us that she remembers when her mom cooked corned beef and cabbage for St. Paddy's Day.

Amy: She's added big chunks of carrots to the corned beef.

Thea: Did you eat the carrots?

Amy: No, I don't like carrots so I left them on my plate.

Thea: I like carrots cooked or raw but I've never had them with corned beef.



Corned beef and cabbage is a beloved dish often associated with St. Patrick's Day, though its origins are more American than Irish.

Thea: Do you like corned beef and cabbage?

Amy: Yes, when my mom made it. I have eaten other people's corned beef and it was just okay. It's nice to eat, but it's not as good as the way my mom made it because it took a lot of work and she made it with love.



"This dog (left) reminds me of my dad's dog P2 (stands for Puppy Two)," said Amy, "she was a sweetheart!"



Irish immigrants in the 19th century adopted corned beef as a substitute for traditional Irish bacon, pairing it with cabbage for an affordable and hearty meal. Today, it remains a staple of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the U.S., symbolizing Irish heritage and culture.

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March 2025 Connection Magazine



March 16 is National Panda Day.

Pandas are so cute and interesting. Did you know...?

- Baby pandas are born pink and blind, and are about the size of a pencil.
- Giant pandas eat almost nothing but bamboo shoots and leaves, and spend about 12 hours a day eating.
- Pandas are genetically similar to racoons, but are part of the bear family.