



# OP TIMES

The Onionpatch  
Academy

March 2014  
Volume 3, Issue 8

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## Marching Into Spring



Spring is truly a time of new beginnings. Warmer weather brings butterflies and flowers! Yes spring is just around the corner, and your children can hardly wait to play outdoors. Before warmer weather arrives, we'll begin the month with lots of indoor activities based on books by our great friend Dr Seuss. As the weather warms up we'll move into fun activities with wind, butterflies, plants, and insects.

### Week One:

Unit theme – A Tribute to Dr Seuss  
Bible Focus – Jesus teaches us to love

### Week two:

Unit Theme – March Winds  
Bible Focus – Jesus teaches us to pray

### Week three:

Unit Theme – Birds and Butterflies  
Bible Focus – Jesus speaks to us

### Week Four:

Unit Theme – Spring Things  
Bible Focus – Jesus wants us to speak to him

### ONIONPATCH REMINDERS

A friendly reminder that fees are due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. If fees are not received by end of the day of the 5<sup>th</sup> a \$100 dollar late fee will be added to your fees.

Fees can be paid online, debit or credit or by cash.  
If you like to pay online our account number is HSBC  
# 010 836617 001

## New Students

We welcome to the Onionpatch Family:

Knox Roberts-Dunkley  
Bella Furbert  
Zaiden Howard Clarke-Lee  
Diondae Riley  
Luca Iorio  
Shale Nisbet

## Upcoming Birthdays

Taniah Simmons – March 1  
Kiahz Thompson – March 2  
Gabriella Denos – March 21

## Friday Hot Lunches



March 7 – Meat lasagna  
March 14 – Beans & Wieners  
March 21 – Chicken Fried Rice  
March 28 – Chicken Noodle Soup w  
Cheese & Crackers

## Field Trips



March 3 (lower level) – Bermuda Youth Library  
March 6 – (upper level) – Youth Library  
March 27 – Clearwater Beach Fun Day

## Dates to Remember:

14 March – Scholastic Book order due  
22 March - Parent Teacher  
Conference from  
10am – 12pm



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### Vocabulary – the Early Years make a difference

Here are some Spring book suggestions:

Vocabulary development is key as it provides the foundation for reading skills and contributes to general success in school.

Parents and teachers can build on what children already know and respond to their interests to introduce and reinforce new words. Here are some things you can do to help your child build their vocabulary:

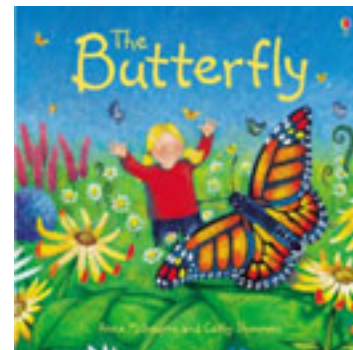
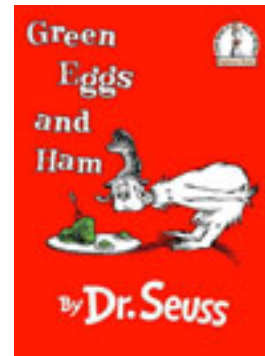
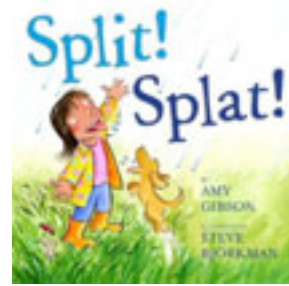
- Use new and interesting words in natural conversations. Try this at mealtimes or when presenting a new toy or material. Introducing a new word in context helps children learn what it means. For example, it's easier for children to learn what a ukulele is when they can see and hear it as well as listening to you say the word.
- Use gestures and facial expressions to help children make sense of new words. For example, when introducing the word joyful, you might smile and wave your arms about to convey what it means.
- Sing with children and recite poetry and rhymes to playfully introduce vocabulary.
- Talk with children and encourage children to talk with one another. Keep the conversation going by asking questions, making comments, and inviting children to think and share their ideas.
- Read to children daily, taking time to go over new words. Look for books with illustrations that provide clues to word meanings.
- Think about new vocabulary words that might come up on a field trip as part of the experience. A trip to an art exhibit could introduce the word landscape, while a trip to a pizza restaurant might introduce kneading dough.
- Give children ample time to learn the meaning and uses of new words before moving onto other words.
- It is important it is to talk with your children and share new vocabulary words.

At the Onionpatch Academy we encourage students to learn new words each day. Each lesson teachers provide an opportunity for students to engage in vocabulary development. Our strategies include:

- reading and meaning association
- singing
- word of the day
- show and tell
- conversation
- repetition
- interactive games using the White board
- review and retell at the end of story or the end of the day



"The limits of my language are the limits of my universe"  
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



### Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand then to be Understood

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak  
and slow to anger" ~ James 1:19

Covey Connection:

- I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.
- Children have a lot to say, take time to listen to them!