

# Kid's Corner

## Summer Newsletter 2021

Summer is a time to have some FUN IN THE SUN, swim, play with friends, and explore nature. The sounds of insects buzzing busily fill the air. Did you ever wonder what all the noise is about? We say things like busy as a bee, and fly like a butterfly. Why are the insects so busy? Well, they are busy doing their job. They are the pollinators. Without them we would not have our ripe tomatoes, vibrant flowers, or lush gardens.

### How do Bees Help Our Plants Grow?

Many of us see bees and we automatically run and hide. We think that they are going to sting us, but bees are quite docile. Bees are responsible for pollinating over 75% of the world's crops. Bees are attracted to the colorful flowers of plants which tell them that inside is sweet nectar. When they enter the flower the pollen (a yellow powdery substance) rubs off onto its furry body. As the bee travels from flower to flower it moves pollen from one flower to another. This fertilizes the egg cells and that's how seeds develop. Without pollination we would not have as many plants to use for food, clothing, and shelter. Bees are amazing creatures!



#### Bee a Pollinator Experiment

##### Materials

- 3 cupcake liners •
- 3 cotton balls •
- 1 cotton swab
- • Kool-Aid packets of three different colors (or three different colors of glitter). Small amount of water in a cup

## Directions

1. Put one cotton ball in each cupcake liner.
2. Sprinkle a different color of Kool-Aid or glitter on the cotton balls.
3. Dab the cotton swab in water. Squeeze out the extra water.
4. Gently rub the swab against one cotton ball until it picks up color or glitter. Then go to a different cotton ball with the cotton swab. Finally go to the last cotton ball. Do this with all three cotton balls and all three colors. What do you notice happens?



## Ingredients for

## Honey Playdough:

- 2 c. flour
- 3/4 c. salt
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 c. water
- 1/4 c. honey
- food coloring

## How to Make Honey Playdough:

1. Combine all ingredients except food coloring in a large mixing bowl. Mix until well combined.
2. Lightly flour your work surface.
3. Place the dough on the floured surface, and knead for a few minutes, until the dough is soft and pliable, but no longer sticky.
4. Separate the dough into 3 equal amounts. Knead the color into the dough. Keep adding food coloring until you get the color you want.
5. Store in the refrigerator in a plastic baggie or airtight container.

## Goffle Brook's Birds of Summer

Goffle Brook Park is alive with the sounds of the season. Summer is a relaxing time of the year. It is the best time to go for a walk and take in the local bird scene. So, get your sneakers on and your binoculars ready and sneak a peek at our fine feathered Hawthorne's finest.



**Eastern Bluebirds have an orange breast. The males are more boldly colored than the females. They prefer to nest in an open habitat. They can often be found nesting in nest boxes. Their song is soft, rich warble given short phrases: tur, tur, turley, turley.**



**Gray Catbird is an elegant and slender looking bird. It is gray overall with a black cap and rusty undertail patch. It is one of the three mimic birds, which means it uses other birds' songs along with its own. It also produces a mewling call which is how it gets its name.**



**Black-capped chickadees like other chickadees have black-caps, but theirs are bigger and chunkier than other species. The Black-capped chickadee is intelligent. They grow extra brain cells to help remember where they store their seeds.**



**Red winged-black male birds are all black with a red and yellow shoulder patch. They enjoy singing as they fly. The females are dark and streaky with rust backs and buffy eyebrows and throats. The blackbird's song is a harsh, rising conk-a-reel! Females give an explosive, supporting call bee-bee-bee-prrrrtt!**