

# Kid's Corner

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

After a long snowy fun filled winter, we are ready to give spring a huge welcome. Spring is an amazing time of year if you keep your eyes and ears open! The birds are chirping and busy building their nests to welcome their babies. The insects are crawling and creeping in the old decaying leftover fall leaves. The bulbs are sprouting beautiful yellow daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. Soon we will start to notice the pollinators and the cotton ball puffy seeds of the dandelions, and who can resist giving them a good blow! Hopefully all the April showers will bring us vibrant May flowers.

### What is so Great About the Dandelion?

You are probably wondering why I think dandelions are great. They are weeds and I am sure your thinking weeds kill plants. Did you know that you can eat them? Much like spinach and kale you can use them in a salad, or you can boil or sauté them. That is not the only reason they are useful. They are a great source of food for our pollinators such as butterflies, moths, and bees in the early spring.

#### Dandelion Art

##### Supplies:

Paper

Paint

Paper plate

Dandelions

##### Steps:

1. Gather your dandelions outside. Get at least 5-10. Make sure they are in full bloom and have a nice yellow head.
2. Using your paper plate make an artist palette of different colors. Make sure to spread the colors out.
3. Next take the head of the flower and dip the whole pom pom shape in the paint.
4. Now press it down on your paper. It will make a giant shape like a firework.
5. Be as creative as you want and create a beautiful painting.



## Water Cycle

When I think of spring I always think of “April Showers bring May Flowers”. Did you ever wonder what makes the April Showers? Well, the Water Cycle is responsible for those April Showers. The Water Cycle is how water moves around our planet. It is made up of 4 parts:

1. Evaporation- Heat from the sun causes water from earth to turn from a liquid to a gas. That water vapor collects in the sky and forms clouds.
2. Condensation- water vapor in the clouds cools off and again becomes water.
3. Precipitation- the water falls from the sky in the form of rain, snow, sleet, and hail.
4. Collection- Oceans and lakes collect water that has fallen. Water evaporates into the sky and the process starts again.

## Cloud Experiment

### Materials:

1. Glass mason jar, clear plastic cup, or clear glass cup
2. Shaving cream
3. Water
4. Food coloring

## Directions:

1. Fill your container at least 3/4 with water.
2. Then fill the top of it with shaving cream.
3. Beginning to put droplets of food coloring into your “cloud”.  
As your cloud gets full WATCH WHAT HAPPENS!

## **Goffle Brook Birds of Spring**

Goffle Brook Park is a bustling center of nature every season. Spring is an amazing time to explore the local birds that visit the park in the spring. Keep your eyes open and get out for a bird walk to see if you can see our feathered Hawthorne Spring Residents!



Blue Jays are one of the loudest and most colorful birds in the Eastern Woodlands. They are white or light gray underneath and various shades of blue, black, and white above.



Barn Swallows are graceful and love to chatter. Listen for their pit-pitpit-pit. The Barn Swallow is known for its forked tail.



The Great Blue Heron may not be known for its beautiful voice with its belch like bird call. It is however slow and stately in its movement. It is tall with long legs. It is grayish in color with a long, yellow dagger-like beak, which is used it to spear fish and prey.



This prehistoric dinosaur-like bird is the Double Crested Cormorant. They are dark matte-black birds with snaky necks. Their faces have a colorful orange-yellow skin and striking aquamarine eyes.

Happy Bird Watching!!!