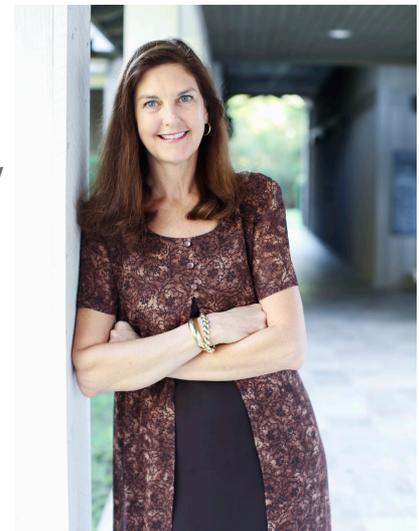




March 2016 Edition

## Letter from the Director

Spring is in the air and the Tree House children are busy learning and having fun. It is so nice to enjoy the good weather as we welcome the spring season. The Garden Committee started seeds with the children a few weeks ago and we all look forward to planting them in the garden boxes soon. The children are excited to watch the seedlings grow and the teachers and I are full of anticipation as we look forward to the next few weeks.



We will start the month with our spring gala. Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Artful Night

Under the Stars is this Saturday, March 5th, at the Grayton Beer Brewery. This event is just as much a “Friendraiser” as it is a fundraiser. We encourage you to attend and bring some friends. The Artful Night committee has really worked hard this year and we are all in for a real treat. It will be so nice to catch up with each other socially as we dine on some delicious New Orleans fair, listen to a fun band and bid on some amazing donations to help build and continue to improve our children’s school.

We have an ambitious fundraising goal this year as we continue to strive to meet a matching grant that will double every dollar raised. Together, we have worked really hard and it is now time to celebrate. This fun fundraiser will be our last for the year and the funds raised will provide for curriculum development, teacher training, financial aid and building expansion.

Next week the lead teachers and I will travel to Chicago for the American Montessori Society Annual Conference. This conference is such an amazing learning opportunity for our teachers. We will come back with renewed energy and new ideas to add to and benefit our program.

Upon our return, we will celebrate the rebirth and renewal of Easter and then we will enjoy a rejuvenating Spring Break.

Easter Blessings to you and your family!

Maureen Paine

Founding Director, The Tree House Episcopal Montessori School

maureen@thetreehousectk.org / 850.622.9771

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## Administration Updates

- At the beginning of this new semester, we had a few staffing changes. We welcomed our new teacher Ms. Elizabeth Thomas to the Pre-Primary Classroom as an assistant teacher. Ms. Sarah has left the Pre-Primary classroom to spend more time at home with her one-year old daughter Lily, but stays on as the P.E. teacher.
- Thank you to all our families for submitting your student's registration information! The TADS admissions system for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year has been a success! We are accepting applications for the Pre-Primary and the Lower Elementary classrooms. We currently have a waiting pool for prospective students in the Primary Room. We are looking forward to

another great year!

- Financial applications for the 2016-2017 school year are due by **March 15th** for returning families. Please [click here](#) to login to your TADS family account and start the application process.
- Our librarian, the Rev. Emily Proctor has been busy preparing Dr. Tommy Fairweather and Ms. Barbara Torrey to help with library time while she is on maternity leave in April and May. Baby boy Proctor is due March 31, which is just around the corner!
- Don't forget to reset your clocks on Sunday, March 13th! You will turn your clocks forward one hour. Need a few helpful hints for making this transition easier for your family? Check out [this article on Today.com](#).



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## Upcoming Events



School-Wide Art Piece with Fran Adaro



One Week St. Maarten Dream Luxury Vacation



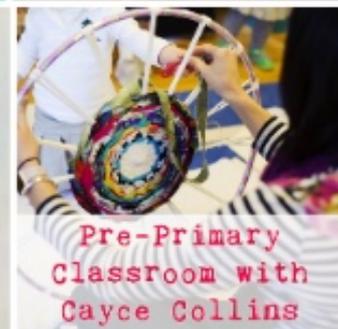
Alys Beach Gift Basket + Countless other Gift Baskets!



Primary Classroom West with Allison Wickey



Lower Elementary Classroom with Mary Hong



Pre-Primary Classroom with Cayce Collins



4 Club Level Tix Auburn vs. TX A&M 9.17.16



Fishing Charter Trip

Primary Classroom East with Liza Snyder



Blue Dog Silkscreen Print



Sinfonia Season Tickets

Our annual party "Bubbles & Brews" is coming up this weekend on March 5th, 6pm-10pm at Grayton Beer Company!

If you haven't already, please visit <http://artfulnight.com> to purchase your tickets. Individual tickets are \$60 and Group tables that seat 12 are available for \$600.

Get ready to bid on so many fabulous items! Our Artful Night Committee members worked extra hard this year to collect some pretty fabulous auction art pieces, services, gift certificates and gifts. Above is a quick highlight of just a \*few\* of the many items available at March 5th's Bids & Brews! We have a range of price points and even have a super fun raffle that involves spinning a wheel...Helllloo Vanna White! Come ready to P-A-R-T-Y sans the kids!



## Our School in the News

A big thanks to the Marketing Committee lead by Rebecca Balkcom and Jami Ray for not only creating such amazing graphics and posters for our school events and fundraisers, but also helping promote our school and happenings to the community! Check out these recent articles about Artful Night in the Stars in our local newspapers and online sites:

- [SoWal.com](http://SoWal.com)
- The Walton Sun (this week's paper and hanging on Ms. Maureen's office door)



# News from The Mighty Oaks



This year's School Easter Party on **Thursday, March 24th** will have an egg hunt for the kids during school hours. We kindly ask parents to send a dozen eggs (per child) stuffed with *non-edible treats* by Tuesday, March 22nd. The day of the Easter Egg hunt, please send your child to school with a basket for the hunt (be sure to label your child's basket with their name on the bottom). The Easter Committee will focus on the party for the kids only. Parents and families are welcome to attend Christ the King Episcopal Church for the Easter services and egg hunt on Sunday, March 27th! [Click here](#) to learn more about Sunday services at CtK.

# SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Pre-Order

Our yearbook committee is already hard at work to capture the memories from this school year. If you have any photos you may have taken at field trips, parties or fundraisers so far this year, please share so we can use in the yearbook. You can upload your photos to this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/uZ82lbZ4FxNlIPB4ImUz> Questions? Contact our Yearbook Chairmen, Brittany Godbee (Harper's Mom) or Susan Vallee (Victor's Mom) at [brittany@marlaandshane.com](mailto:brittany@marlaandshane.com) or [editor@susanvallee.com](mailto:editor@susanvallee.com). Look for yearbook pre-order forms and information coming to your student's folder later this month.

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## Classroom Happenings



This month our Lower Elementary and Kindergarten students visited the Emerald Coast Science Center in Fort Walton for some hands-on learning! Can you tell that the Hurricane Simulator was their favorite? {Fun Fact: Two of the Lower Elementary students helped make this video!} [Click here](#) to view the video from the trip. (Scroll down on the Facebook page until you see it - note: you do not have to have a Facebook account to view this video).



Happy Chinese New Year from The Tree House! Leading up to Feb. 8th, our classrooms collaborated to create an "artistic dragon" for our Chinese New Year Parade! The dragon was made out of endless art supplies, cups, paper plates and a bucket. For the parade the Lower Elementary students carried the dragon and the Pre-Primary and Primary classes showed off their Chinese themed art work and homemade lanterns. [Click here](#) to view a video of the parade (scroll down on the Facebook page to the Feb. 8th post with the video; you do not have to have a Facebook account to view).

## Enrichment Programs



### Music & Spanish Lessons

Ms. Anne-Marie is preparing a special Mother's Day song with the students using her ukulele! Get ready moms for a wonderful surprise at the upcoming Mother's Day Tea! Do you know how to say 'foot' in Spanish? El pie! Ask your students what Ms. Digna has taught them in their weekly Spanish lessons!

### Art Classes

In preparation for the upcoming Artful Night Under the Star' Bubble & Brews party and

### Physical Education (P.E.)

This month the Kindergarten & Lower Elementary students have worked

auction, five local artists generously offered to donate their time and talent to collaborate with our students. A huge thanks to Fran Adaro, Allison Wickey, Liza Snyder, Mary Hong and Caye Collins in helping our students create five remarkable masterpieces! As you can see from the photos above, this was such a delightful process for all involved especially our school's 'budding artists' students! A HUGE thank you to our AMAZING Art Teacher Ms. Erin Bakker for coordinating and overseeing this artist partnership!



with P.E. teacher Ms. Sarah LaTour on the basics of basketball. The picture above is student Rykar Huston showing off his "backwards" throw in his "backwards" shirt (for the record, he made it!). For the month of March, the students will switch to the ultimate spring sport--- Soccer!



## Library Time

In February the Primary students focused on fiction vs. nonfiction books about lions (after learning about Daniel and the lions' den in chapel), holidays (especially President's Day), how to deal with bullies (after learning about David and Goliath in Chapel), and the Bible (see the picture above). They compared children's bibles and adult bibles and saw the Old and New Testaments in their original languages of Hebrew and Greek. In March we are especially looking forward to

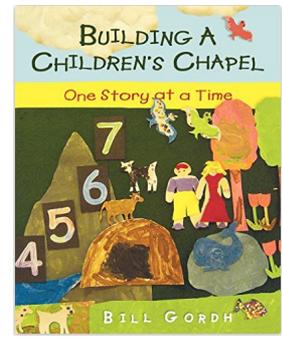
## Weekly Chapel

Every Wednesday from 8:30-9:00, the Primary and Lower Elementary classes join Fr. Proctor in the church for "Story Stick" time. He uses a wonderful book called "Building A Children's Chapel: One Story at a Time," by Bill Gordh, who is the Director of Expressive Arts for the Episcopal Church. Along with these Bible-based stories (which the kids seem to love), he also ties in the seasons of the Church Calendar with our lessons. So in Epiphany (January), we

celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday, exploring some different sections in our collection such as ABC books and Easy Readers, and reading books about Easter. The Lower Elementary students finished up C.S. Lewis's classic *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and are looking forward to a field trip to the Coastal Branch Library and Sundog Books on March 3.



discussed light, and now that we are in Lent, we are exploring what it means to refocus ourselves towards God. The kids are learning to be able to detect by that what liturgical season we are in by what colors they see in the church.



## Books of the Month

### MONTESSORI TODAY

A Comprehensive Approach to  
Education from Birth to Adulthood



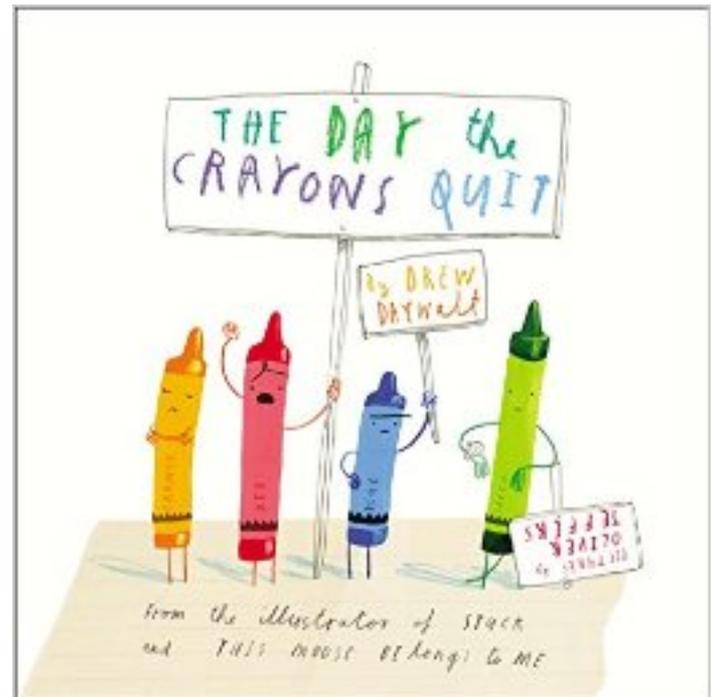
PAULA POLK LILLARD

### Recommended for Parents

Paula Lillard, director of a Montessori school ranging in age from 18 months to fifteen years, provides a clear and cogent introduction to the Montessori program. In detailed accounts, Lillard shows how children acquire the skills to answer their own questions, learn to manage freedom with responsibility, and maintain a high level of intellectual stimulation by using the Montessori method. This is an essential handbook for parents and teachers who have chosen a Montessori education for their child. You can order at your local bookstore or view online by [clicking here](#).

## Children's Book Spotlight

Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun. What can Duncan possibly do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best? We have a copy of this wonderful book (and the sequel!) in our Tree House Library! Swing by one day before or after school to read this delightful book with your child- we promise it's a child AND parent favorite.



## Ask Ms. Maureen (anything!)

THANK YOU

I'M SORRY

PLEASE

EXCUSE ME

*Question: How do I teach my child to be more gracious and courteous at home?*

Teach and (more importantly) *model* the way you want your children to act. This is not the time for “do as I say, not as I do.” Use polite manners and speak respectfully. Make eye contact, get down on their level, but don’t talk “down” to them. Talk about patience, kindness,

honesty, sharing, helpfulness, and any other principles you value. Don't interrupt, and teach children to do the same.

*Have a question for Ms. Maureen? Swing by her office anytime to chat or email her directly at [maureen@thetreehousectk.org](mailto:maureen@thetreehousectk.org).*

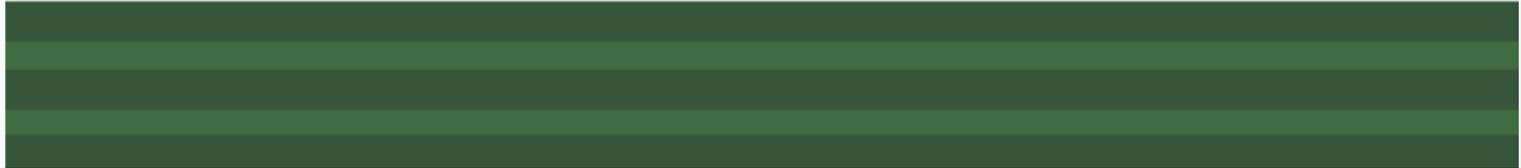
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# School Calendar

- **Wednesday, March 2nd:** Dr. Seuss's Birthday- Read Across America Day
- **Thursday, March 3rd:** Lower Elementary School Field Trip to Coast Branch Library, Sundog Books and Modica Market
- **Saturday, March 5th:** Bubbles & Brews ~ Artful Night Under the Stars Party at Grayton Beer Company, 6pm-10pm, [Buy tickets here](#)
- **Tuesday, March 8th:** The Tree House Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, 3:30pm in Vestry Room
- **Thursday, March 10th:** Early Release Day, 11:30am, NO AFTERCARE
- **Friday, March 11th:** No School, Teacher Work Day (AMS Conference), NO AFTERCARE
- **Wednesday, March 15th & Thursday, March 16th:** Class Photos
- **Tuesday, March 22nd:** A dozen eggs stuffed with non-edible goodies due to school
- **Thursday, March 24th:** Easter Hunt for Students \*Send your student to school with a basket
- **Friday, March 25th:** Good Friday, Early Release at 11:30am, NO AFTERCARE
- **Monday, March 28th - Friday, April 1st:** No School, Spring Break

*To view the complete school calendar, [click here](#).*

- The Tree House Website: <http://thetreehousectk.org>
- The Tree House Parent Password Protected Site: <http://thetreehousectk.org/parents> (Password: parent)
- The Tree House Facebook Page: <http://facebook.com/thetreehousectk>
- Christ the King Episcopal Church Website: <http://christthekingfl.org>
- The Tree House Google Calendar: [Click to View](#) or [Click here to Subscribe via iCal/Google Calendar](#)
- Parent Volunteer [Sign-Up Genius](#)
- Snack Calendar: [Click to View](#) or [Click to Subscribe via iCal/Google Calendar](#)
- Subscribe to Christ the King Episcopal Church's weekly newsletter by [clicking here](#). Each week The Tree House has a column about what's happening at our school. You won't want to miss this and all the fun events our church is planning this Spring. Be sure to subscribe!



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