



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 2018

- 4/10 Petting Farm with [Ponies Plus](#)
- 4/12 - School Pictures with [Teddy Bear Portraits](#) (*See Page 2 for Picture Schedule*)
- 4/13
- 4/18 Kindergarten Field Trip to [Frying Pan Farm Park](#) (Herndon, VA)
- 4/19 JK1 Field Trip to [Dulles Town Center Kids Club](#) (Dulles, VA)
- 4/20 Parents' Appreciation Day
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 4/26 JK2 Field Trip to [Dulles Town Center Kids Club](#) (Dulles, VA)

MAY 2018

- 5/7 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/11
- 5/11** Mother's Day Performance @ 3 PM (**Please Join Us**)
- 5/14 Mother's Day
- 5/18 JK1 and JK2 Field Trip to [Frying Pan Farm Park](#) (Herndon, VA)
- 5/23 Kindergarten Field Trip to [Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum](#) – Simple Machines (Sterling, VA)
- 5/24 [The GoodLife Theater "Going Buggy"](#) Performance at GBS
- 5/28 **SCHOOL CLOSED** (Memorial Day)

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KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS PLANT A TREE AS PART OF A CLASS PROJECT

Have you met "Jerry G. the Apple Tree" (AKA "Jerry")? You've probably seen him hanging out near the GBS playground.

Mr. Mizak's Kindergarten students helped plant "Jerry" the apple tree last September, as they were learning about Johnny Appleseed and the life

cycle of trees. Mr. Bruce and Mr. Mizak decided to turn a run-of-the-mill science lesson into a hands-on, creative learning experience that incorporated science, math, and social studies.

Turn to [Page 2](#) for a Q&A with Mr. Mizak about this awesome project!





Q&A WITH MR. MIZAK: “JERRY G. THE APPLE TREE”

Did you know Mr. Mizak’s Kindergarten class planted an apple tree, affectionately known as “Jerry,” last September? Read on to learn more about this creative hands-on project!

Q: When did your class do this project?

A: We began this project in September 2017 with my current crop (no pun intended ☺) of Kindergartners.

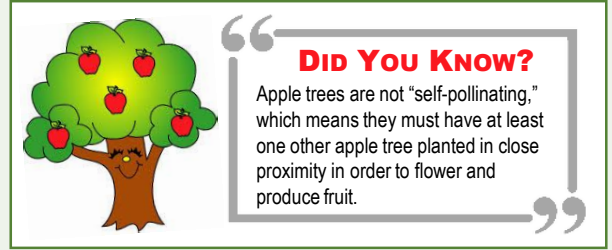
Q: How did this project come about?

A: Mr. Bruce thought it would be special for GBS to develop a sustainable source of food that could one day be used to feed the students. When he asked if the Kindergartners would like to be a part of the project and make it an ongoing part of our curriculum, the class jumped at the opportunity!

Q: What did students learn from this project?

A: This project tied in multiple lessons:

- **SCIENCE:** As our class learned about plant life cycles—specifically, the life cycle of an apple tree, and Johnny Appleseed—Mr. Bruce and I felt it was the perfect time to create a hands-on experience for our students. As our tree grows, the boys and girls will continue to be involved in the care and maintenance of the tree.
- **MATH:** We learned about measurements and reading a tape measure, as trees need space to grow and flourish. However, they must also be planted within a certain distance of other apple trees in order to produce fruit, so we had to be fairly precise when choosing the location for our tree(s).
- **SOCIAL STUDIES:** The Kindergartners suggested possible names for the tree, and then voted on their favorites!



Q: How did your students choose the name Jerry?

A: This was probably the most fun part of the project! I fielded name suggestions from the Kindergartners, who then voted on their favorites. Jerry’s full name is “Jerry G. the Apple Tree,” which was then shortened to “Jerry.”

Q: What has been your favorite part of this project?

A: From a teaching perspective, I was excited to see how engaged my boys and girls were (and still are) in the entire process. They helped dig the hole, place the tree, and fill in the hole with potting soil. Each time we water Jerry, two children are selected to empty the water bucket as we all sing “Drink up, Jerry!” to our “pet tree.” Lately, the students have been excited to observe Jerry’s new growth.

Q: Students are encouraged to return to GBS to pick apples when they’re ready... How long will this take?

A: Jerry is a semi-dwarf Gala tree. Dwarf and Semi-Dwarf trees typically bear fruit in 3-4 years. This year’s class will be able to enjoy apples from Jerry (and his soon-to-be-planted companion) when they are 3rd or 4th graders. I hope they have a lot of patience!





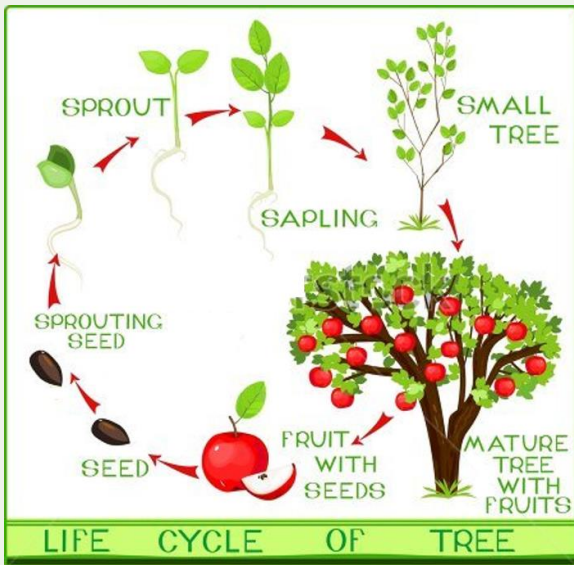
CELEBRATING OUR MOTHER EARTH!

Earth Day, which is celebrated on April 22nd each year, is a day to inspire awareness and appreciation for Earth's natural environment. A key to teaching Earth Day concepts to young children is to help them realize that, even at a young age, they can be part of making the Earth a healthier planet.

Here are some ways children can help:

- Learn how to recycle paper, glass, plastic, and aluminum cans
- Ride a bike (or rollerblade, skateboard, etc.)
- Plant trees and flowers
- Join in on community cleanups
- Use recyclable bags when shopping at the grocery store

We hope this special day inspires, empowers, and educates young people to make changes that will help protect our Mother Earth.



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY IS APRIL 12-13

[Teddy Bear Portraits](#) will visit GBS on April 12-13 for school pictures. Here's when you can expect your child to have his/her picture taken:

- **Apr 12** – Junior Kindergarten 1 (JK1), Kindergarten, and any siblings. Kindergarteners will also take cap and gown pictures.
- **Apr 13** – Infants, Toddlers, Early Preschool, Preschool, and Junior Kindergarten 2 (JK2). Any siblings who are both scheduled on this day will also be done.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IS MAY 7-11

Teachers provide so much to our students—inspiration, knowledge, and motivation! Teacher Appreciation Week is a special time to recognize our teachers for the vital role they play in our students' lives.

Please help us celebrate and #thankateacher:

DAILY THEMES

"Make It Monday"
(Mon. 5/7)

"Tulip Tuesday"
(Tue. 5/8)

"Sweet Wednesday"
(Wed. 5/9)

"Thankful Thursday"
(Thu. 5/10)

"High Five Friday"
(Fri. 5/11)

IDEAS

Create artwork or a poem for your teacher... Use your imagination!

Bring a flower for your teacher... Pick it, make it, buy it, *draw it!*

Be sweet or bring in something sweet for your teacher!

Bring or make a *thank you* card for your teacher!

Give your teacher the best *high five* ever!



* APRIL BIRTHDAYS *

