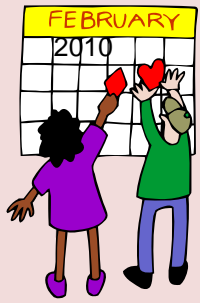


# The Reef

by Coral Reef Academy



**"The greatest compliment you can give us is the referral of family and friends"**

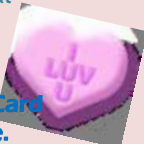
Karate is off to a great start. There is still time to sign your child up if you are interested. You can pay two different ways. By the semester-\$200 or by the month it is \$65. The children are truly enjoying this activity. Karate is every Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 in the cafeteria here at Coral Reef.

**Black History Month:**

February is black history month. All this month the children will be learning about the culture and history African Americans. If you or your family has any special traditions or items that they would like to share with the children please do so.

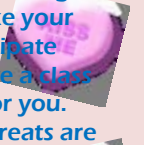
Have you moved recently?  
 Has your contact numbers changed?

Please make sure the front desk has any information that has changed recently.



**Valentine's Card exchange.**

On Friday 2/12 we will be having a card exchange. If you would like your child to participate teachers will have a class list available for you. Cards and small treats are welcome.



Theme: All About Me

Color: Pink

Shape: heart  
 number: 10

Letters: o,p, and q  
 opposites: day/night

value: making friends

Transportation: trucks

Other topics: family, friends,  
 my favorite things, feelings

Special Events:

Groundhog Day 2/2

Black History month

Dental health month

Valentine's Day 2/14

President's Day 2/15

**Teacher of the month:**

**Ms. Ebony**

Ms. Ebony is our transitional ones teacher. She does a wonderful job of preparing our babies for the one year old room. She helps them practice walking, introduces them to napping on a mat and not in a crib, eating at the table and not in a highchair and just being a "big kid."



**Birthdays:**

- Ms. Alicia 2/8
- Ms. Natasha 2/18
- Liliauna A. 2/1
- Elizabeth D. 2/14
- Helynn 2/24
- Weston 2/18
- Dino 2/26
- Kailyn 2/1
- Landon 2/14
- Liam 2/14
- Rome 2/27
- Paige P. 2/18
- Sofia R. 2/27

There is still time for you to sign up for Play Ball. This activity is for 2-5 year olds and is held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 10:00 at a cost of \$30.00 per month. Play Ball is a skill program set up to help in the development of your child's gross motor skills, life skills and sports readiness. The children truly enjoy themselves during this activity and look forward to it weekly.

**"Teaching kids to dream with their eyes wide open"**

Groundhog Day is celebrated in the U.S. each year on February 2nd. On this day in mid-winter, the groundhog awakens from a long winter's nap, and goes outside of his den to see if he sees his shadow. This tradition is big on an otherwise cold and dreary mid-winter's day. According to legend, if the groundhog sees his shadow (a sunny morning), there will be six more weeks of winter. He then returns to his den and goes back to sleep. If however, he does not see his shadow (cloudy days), he plays around outside of his hole for a while. If he does not see his shadow, spring is just around the corner.

The Groundhog's Day tradition travelled long ways. It comes from German roots. German immigrants brought the tradition with them from Germany. As they settled in hills of Pennsylvania, they began the tradition of using the Groundhog to predict the the arrival of Spring. The tradition is based upon Candlemas, the day that is the midpoint between Winter and Spring. A Candlemas poems goes:



If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
 Winter has another flight.  
 If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,  
 Winter will not come again.





## How to raise a child who listens well

Being a good listener is critical to your child's success at school. If he can't

follow directions, whether on the playground ("Pick a partner and pass the ball back and forth across the field") or in the classroom ("Take out a piece of paper and a crayon") — he'll have a tough time learning. Children who are good listeners also have an advantage socially — they tend to be very good friends to others.

Here are seven ways you can help your child become a better listener:

### 1. **Be a good listener yourself**

Don't interrupt your child when he's telling you a story. Give him your undivided attention when he's talking — don't read the paper or carry on a conversation with someone else at the same time. Turn your attention to him when he wants to tell or show you something. If you want him to listen to you, he needs to see that you will listen to him too. Children return the respect they receive — and children who are listened to tend to become good listeners themselves.

### 2. **Give clear, simple directions for everyday tasks**

Get in the habit of giving your child simple instructions. Make eye contact with him, and say, "Please go into your room and make your bed. Then get your backpack and meet me downstairs." As he becomes a better listener, you can add another task or two. In this way, you're not only teaching your child to listen well, but also to be independent.

### 3. **Praise good listening**

Saying "Thanks for being such a good listener" will reinforce your child's desire to listen. Make a special point of praising him when he follows directions the first time.

### 4. **Say what you mean**

If you tell your child "You can have two more cookies," then give him two cookies — not three or four. Once your child figures out that you don't stick to your word, he'll tune you out.

### 5. **Be consistent about consequences**

If you tell your child that you will leave the grocery store if he continues to stand up in the cart, follow through without giving him another chance. Your child will be more inclined to do what is asked of him when he understands that his actions have clear, enforceable consequences.

### 6. **Read aloud together**

The time you spend reading together will help prepare your child for story time at school. He'll be expected to sit still for longer and longer periods so anything you can do at home to help him increase his tolerance for listening will help. But don't force your fidgety preschooler to listen to books he's not interested in — this will make him less rather than more interested in reading.

### 7. **Play listening games**

**Make up silly rhymes.** The more absurd, the better. ("The fat cat ate the hat. Then the rat ate the fat cat who ate the hat...") This activity will teach your child to listen for words that sound the same and to identify rhyming patterns.

**Ask your child to predict how a story will end.** Read a book aloud to your child and stop just before the last page. Ask her to guess how the story will turn out, based on what she's already heard. Then finish the story and discuss the ending with your child. Was her prediction accurate, or was there a surprise ending? If the latter, were there any clues to the ending planted earlier in the story?

And other ways such as: **Make reading an interactive activity, Listen to stories together, Listen to music cds, Play listening games, Cook together, Use puppets or a tape recorder to relay instructions, "Read" a song together...get creative.**





**Instructions:** Place two pieces of string licorice between two sticks of gum, taping the top and bottom closed to secure the antennae in place.

Next, cut two heart-shaped wings from construction paper, write your valentine message on them, and secure them to the top stick of gum with a heart sticker. Add other stickers to give personality to your butterfly.

Substitutions: Clothes pin instead of the gum.

Pipe cleaners in place of the licorice.



What did the finger say to the ink?

*You're my 'prints' Charming*



What did the baker say to his sweetheart?

*I'm dough-nuts over you!*

Give some Love to our local animal shelter for the month of February. Coral Reef Academy will be collecting the following items for the Brevard Humane Society:

- Blankets (baby or adults) towels
- Dry/canned dog and cat food
- Dog or cat toys

Please join Coral Reef Academy in helping out the humane society.

There are boxes in the lobby for all the donations!

Thank you in Advance!



## Sweet Heart Krispie Treats

*Ingredients :*

- Cooking spray
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 6 cups mini (or 60 regular-size) marshmallows
- Red food coloring
- 9 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Plastic bags, yarn

Instructions To begin, lightly coat a 10- by 15-inch baking sheet with cooking spray and set it aside.

Melt the margarine in a large pot over low heat. Add the marshmallows, stirring them continuously until they melt. Remove the pan from the heat. Stir in drops of red food coloring until the color receives a thumbs-up from the chef.

Add the Rice Krispies, stirring until they are evenly coated with marshmallow. Spoon the mixture onto the baking sheet.

With waxed paper (or lightly buttered hands), smooth out the mixture, spreading it to an even thickness.

Cut out hearts with the cookie cutter. Place each heart in a clear plastic bag, tie on a yarn bow, and they're ready for giving. Makes seven 5-inch hearts.

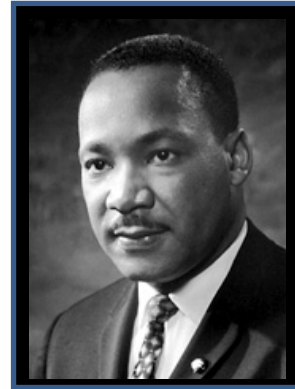
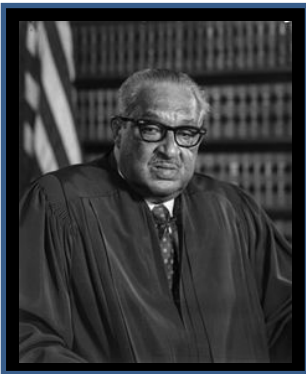
## History of Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual observance in February, celebrating the past and present achievements of African Americans. In February 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, proposed the establishment of "Negro History Week" to honor the history and contributions of African Americans to American life. Dr. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History", chose the second week of February because it commemorates the birthdays of two men who greatly affected the African American community: Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). Negro History Week became Black History Week in the early 1970's. In 1976, the week-long observance was expanded to a month in honor of the nation's bicentennial.

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s challenged racism in America and made the country a more just and humane society for all. Below are a few of its many heroes.

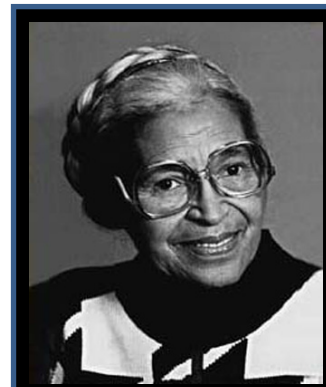
Martin Luther King, Jr.

It wasn't just that Martin Luther King became the leader of the civil rights movement that made him so extraordinary—it was the way in which he led the movement. King advocated civil disobedience, the non-violent resistance against unjust laws: "Non-violence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennoble the man who wields it." Civil rights activists organized demonstrations, marches, boycotts, strikes, and voter-registration drives, and refused to obey laws that they knew were wrong and unjust. These peaceful forms of protest were often met with vicious threats, arrests, beatings, and worse. King emphasized how important it was that the civil rights movement did not sink to the level of the racists and hate mongers they fought against: "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred," he urged. "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline." King's philosophy of "tough-mindedness and tenderheartedness" was not only highly effective, but it gave the civil rights movement an inspiring moral authority and grace.



Thurgood Marshall

Read about Plessy v. Ferguson, the Supreme Court's "separate but equal" doctrine that was overturned by Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Thurgood Marshall was a courageous civil rights lawyer during a period when racial segregation was the law of the land. At a time when a large portion of American society refused to extend equality to black people, Marshall astutely realized that one of the best ways to bring about change was through the legal system. Between 1938 and 1961, he presented more than 30 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29 of them. His most important case was Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954), which ended segregation in public schools. By law, black and white students had to attend separate public schools. As long as schools were "separate but equal" providing equal education for all races\*segregation was considered fair. In reality, segregated schools were shamefully unequal: white schools were far more privileged than black schools, which were largely poor and overcrowded. Marshall challenged the doctrine, pointing out that "separate but equal" was just a myth disguising racism. He argued that if all students were indeed equal, then why was it necessary to separate them? The Supreme Court agreed, ruling that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Marshall went on to become the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in American history.



Rosa Parks

On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African-American seamstress, left work and boarded a bus for home. As the bus became crowded, the bus driver ordered Parks to give up her seat to a white passenger. Montgomery's buses were segregated, with the seats in the front reserved for "whites only." Blacks had to sit at the back of the bus. But if the bus was crowded and all the "whites only" seats were filled, black people were expected to give up their seats—a black person sitting while a white person stood would never be tolerated in the racist South. Rosa had had enough of such humiliation, and refused to give up her seat. "I felt I had a right to stay where I was," she said. "I wanted this particular driver to know that we were being treated unfairly as individuals and as a people." The bus driver had her arrested. Martin Luther King Jr., heard about Parks's brave defiance and launched a boycott of Montgomery buses. The 17,000 black residents of Montgomery pulled together and kept the boycott going for more than a year. Finally, the Supreme Court intervened and declared segregation on buses unconstitutional. Rosa Parks and the boycotters defeated the racist system, and she became known as "the mother of the civil rights movement."