



March 13, 2014

National Irish Heritage Month



St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner, but did you know that the entire month of March is also National Irish Heritage Month? It was designated by Congress in 1995! Instead of one day of "Wearing of the Green," you and your family can have a month of Celtic celebrations instead! In the kindergarten classroom, I make sure we use the whole month to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. By the end of March every child is an honorary Irishman! Here are a few ways you can celebrate too!

Lucky the Leprechaun



Much like Christmas's "Elf on the Shelf," Lucky the Leprechaun is something that I came up with to bring a bit of flare into the classroom during the month of March. Every day, at some point in the day (it doesn't have to be first thing in the morning) Lucky will come into the classroom and create a big mess somewhere when the kids aren't looking. On St. Patrick's Day he even turns our milk green (food coloring)! As part of our math lesson, we devise a trap to try and catch luck, but so far he has been very evasive! You can do this at home as well!



Bake: Here is a great Irish Soda Bread recipe:

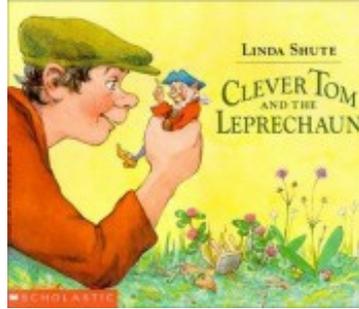
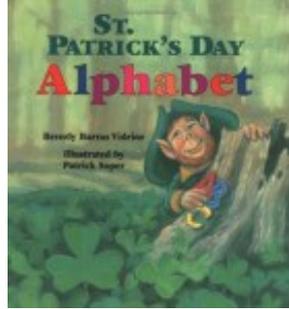
- Original recipe makes 1 1 1/2 pound loaf Change Servings
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup margarine, softened
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- Directions
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease a large baking sheet.
- In a large bowl, mix together flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt and margarine. Stir in 1 cup of buttermilk and egg. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead slightly. Form dough into a round and place on prepared baking sheet. In a small bowl, combine melted butter with 1/4 cup buttermilk; brush loaf with this mixture. Use a sharp knife to cut an 'X' into the top of the loaf.
- Bake in preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Check for doneness after 30 minutes. You may continue to brush the loaf with the butter mixture while it bakes.
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Music: Irish music has a very unique sound. Introduce your child to Irish music and compare it to the music your child listens to everyday. How is it

similar? How is it different? If you really want to get educational you can also talk about the various instruments used to make the different sounds!

Take a look at “What’s on Our Bookshelf” for various books about Irish heritage!



Important Notes from the Center:

- Our Spring Fundraiser – Gertrude Hawk Chocolates – is underway! Please help our school by asking your family, friends and co-workers to place an order. Orders must be in by March 14th. We appreciate the support!
- Our thanks to the Parent Advisory Council for sending “Peas & Carrots” to entertain the children.
- **Reminder:** The Turrell Center will be **CLOSED** on Friday, April 18th in observance of Good Friday.
- The final sessions of Music, Karate and Gymnastics will be starting soon. Keep an eye out for registration forms.
- **Holiday and School Breaks...We've Got You Covered!** We are available year-round during school breaks and holidays to help with your childcare needs! Registration materials are available at the front desk.
- It's not too early to start thinking about **summer camp!** Camp Kaleidoscope is available to children ages 5-9 for the months of July and August. This year's theme is “A Cinematic Adventure.” See Sheryl if you or someone you know needs a camp application.
- There are still spots available to register for **September 2014 Kindergarten.** To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before Oct. 1st. There are a limited number of spaces in our Kindergarten program. Please see Sheryl for further details or to pick up an

application.

- Save the Date! School pictures will be taken on Monday, April 28th and Tuesday, April 29th.

Dance Marathon to benefit the Turrell Center.

Make a donation for the Turrell Girls!

We are hosting a dance marathon fundraising event to support our services for Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center and Children's Aid and Family Services.

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2014

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: William Paterson University, Student Center, 300 Pompton Road, Wayne, NJ.

We need your help to make this a fun event. If you love to dance the night – and day – away, register at www.Dance4Autism.kintera.org or call the Development Office at 201-261-2800. We need both individual dancers and teams, as well as sponsors. You can also donate to the Turrell Girls team online at www.Dance4Autism.kintera.org and ALL proceeds donated to that team will go towards the needs at Turrell Childcare and Early Learning Center.

Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center is affiliated with Children's Aid and Family Services. Children's Aid and Family Services has a 110-year history of helping vulnerable children and families. Our services include adoption, foster care, child care, and early education, alcohol and drug abuse education and prevention, eldercare and community educational programs and workshops. There are so many ways for you to get involved and make a difference.

Adopt.

Foster.

Donate.

Volunteer.

For more information, call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.

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