



# Kids R Kids Cinco Ranch

March 2014



Suites 100 and 150  
make crafts for  
Mardi Gras and St.  
**Patrick's Day!**

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**"Tell me  
and I forget.  
Teach me  
and I remember.  
Involve me  
and I learn."  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**



Students and teachers  
celebrated Go Texan  
Day by dressing up  
and participating in  
horse races!



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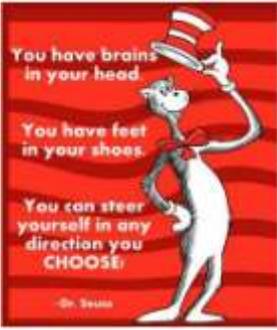
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# Classroom Highlights



Students love participating in a variety of activities in their classes!



Suite 200 says good bye to Ms. Yadi. We will miss you!



Students in the after school program enjoy learning about gardening using hands-on activities

## Enrolling Preschoolers in Extra-curricular Activities

No matter the age, extra-curricular activities take form in many ways. From community groups to painting to dancing to sports to playing musical instruments, these activities can take place daily, weekly, or even monthly. There are numerous merits to allowing children to engage in a wide variety of activities.

There are many lessons to be learned outside of formal academics. Children learn routine by attending regular practices or lessons. They learn the rules of competition and the importance of sportsmanship by performing and competing against peers. They learn about perseverance and hard work to gain the results that they want. Teamwork is learned by working cooperatively with others, and celebrating the successes of all. Extra-curricular activities allow for creativity and exploration; when engaged in different activities, children are able to broaden their horizons and explore their interests and

talents. All of this can be achieved when enrolling children as young as preschoolers into different activities. In the long-term, students who continue staying active outside of school learn valuable skills such as time management, prioritizing, and making long-term commitments.

There are many considerations to be made when enrolling children's activities. **Think about the child's interests and abilities, as well as the family's time and budget.**

Thoroughly research and tour the facilities, programs, and those who are running the activities. Remember not to overwhelm the child, taking into consideration the fact that preschoolers need unrestricted free play in **their schedules as well. And most of all, don't forget to have fun!** Extra-curricular activities are best when your child (and you) enjoy it!

## Technology in the Classrooms

In this day and age, technology is unavoidable. We are a society addicted to the convenience and availability of various forms of technology, and in order to keep up we must learn to navigate at an increasingly younger age. There are many merits to exposing students to technology; not only will they learn the workings of computers which will prove to be useful later, but computer and video games provide both learning and fun to children of all ages.

Video games are fun because of many key points. They teach challenge and strategy, which boosts critical thinking. The element of surprise in most video games keeps them interesting, and the replay ability allows for a game to be replayed

with varying results. Through the use of video games, students boost memorization and context skills, language comprehension, manual dexterity, and more.

**According to the NAEYC, "when used intentionally and appropriately, technology and interactive media are effective tools to support learning and development." As with most activities, medium is key.** Video and computer games should not replace interactive and live learning, and the time that younger children spend in front of a screen should be limited.

At Kids R Kids, we incorporate the use of smart boards into our weekly schedules. By using the ABC Mouse program, students work on a variety of skills including color/letter/

number recognition, and are able to listen to songs and stories pertaining to the weekly theme. Each class is given a time slot to go to the computer lab every week, and students are able to explore the many different activities that the computers offer.





may you always be blessed  
with walls for the wind  
a roof for the rain  
a warm cup of tea by the fire  
laughter to cheer you  
those you love near you  
and all that your  
heart might desire

*an irish blessing*

# Upcoming Events

March 10-14 KISD Spring Break

March 17 St. Patrick's Day



## Teacher Birthdays: March 2014



March 1: Ms. Yadi

March 14: Ms. Cynthia

March 16: Ms. Kathy

March 21: Ms. Elisa

