



# Our Classroom News

February 2010

Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me about your child. I was delighted to discuss your child's school experience and hope to have conveyed some insights to you as well as gaining some myself. We will set aside time again in May for conferences, but please don't feel you have to wait until then if you have a question or concern, or are just curious. I am happy to share our everyday accomplishments any time.

Our **doctor project** is well under way. We enjoyed an informative visit by Dr. Sinclair who did checkups on several children who posed as the patient. Giving checkups has become the new thing in our doctor's office, and when we take Max, the guinea pig out, naturally he gets his checkup, too. We are seeing some great writing from the children. Prescriptions are made out, instructions written, and appointments are written in the calendar. We will expand on this new-found interest in writing by extending our writing center with materials to encourage making cards and notes for our classmates, friends and family.

Our **daily sign-in** has changed to the children writing their name on a sign-in sheet. The names are displayed and a line drawn next to them for them to write on. The children have to find their name, then write next to it on the line. This teaches them to write left to right and to start as far left as needed to fit their whole name. This is harder for some of them because of the length of their name. We have seen great improvements in just the past few weeks and soon will take away the printed name leaving only a line if we think the child is able.

We will be starting a **letter journal** to practice writing each letter. Each day a letter will be drawn that we will write in our journal. We will talk about starting from the top and practice the sound each letter makes as well as what words start with that same sound/letter. This will introduce a new job: **Letter picker**. We will also be starting our **name of the day**. Each day we will also look at the spelling of a child's name.

Our **zipper club** is growing in size. The children have been working really hard to zip up their own coats. They are so proud to show us each time they do it. We understand that sometimes new jackets may pose a challenge so once a child is in the club, they will not be removed if they are unable to manage a new coat. We just encourage them to continue practicing.

We made **gingerbread** in conjunction with reading the Gingerbread Boy and the Gingerbread Baby. Luckily ours did not have such long legs and did not make it that far. We caught up with him in Mrs. Orndorff's office. We have been enjoying several of Jan Brett's books. Not only are the stories wonderful, the drawings are very rich and make for great repeated readings. You will find something new every time you look at them.

Thank you to all the **volunteers in January**. Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Scarola, Mrs. Pambid and Mrs. McAndrews all were great helpers facilitating play in the home or block centers, cooking, and taking photographs. If you have not had a chance to come in, look in the schedule at the end of this newsletter for February or e-mail me about another date.

The **classroom library** has been a hit. The children are excited to choose a book to take home and read. This may be your child's first hands-on experience to borrowing books from a library and thus a great opportunity to teach proper care of a book, as well as responsibility to return it on time. I will include library dates in my calendar and send out reminders every week. Reading books together is a great way to spend time together and gives exposure to all sorts of new vocabulary words.

In our Science center we have added **Mealworms**. They go through their lifecycle fairly quickly and thus lend themselves to classroom study. The children have already noticed them and we will be taking a closer look at how they change and what they need in their environment to live. We will be recording the changes they are going through as well as observing them.

As we prepare for **Valentine's Day** and Friendship month, there will be many reasons to communicate through writing. We will exchange valentine cards on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please follow the guidelines in Mary-Catherine's newsletter regarding not sending in sweets or treats, only valentine cards. There are 19 children in

our class. Please do not put names on the front of the envelopes. You may want to encourage your child to write his/her own name on the cards, but start early so they won't all have to be done at once. This is a great way to encourage them to write their name. The children will deliver their own valentines. Placing one card in each tote is a great exercise for one-to-one correspondence.

Please mark this important date on your calendar: **March 1st – Dad’s night** (from 7:00 – 8:00 PM). We will be giving you a snapshot of our day. Please bring your flashlights. Snack will be provided. It would be great to have 100% attendance.

Happy Valentine’s Day!  
Mrs. Occhiuzzo & Mrs. Laster

## February Calendar

### Fruit of the spirit: Friendship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Special</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Name/Word of the Day</u>
February 1st	School Spirit Day – wear your T-shirt & Parent Participation Monday	Zarafet Burrell	Audrey
February 3rd	Library	Jessica Arcega	Ben
February 5 <sup>th</sup>		Jenny Coleman	Brandon
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Music & Movement	Alicia Yeboah-Kodie	Caroline
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Drill - Library	Kimberly McAndrews	Charlie
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Day Celebration	Ethel Ut	Chelsea
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	- we will have school-	----	----
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Library	Nicole Berliner	Christopher
February 19 <sup>th</sup>		Heidi Mollo	Emma
February 22nd	Music & Movement		Isabella
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Library		Jaydon
February 26 <sup>th</sup>			Keegan

Please call me at 703-670-6110 or e-mail me at [ogzom@verizon.net](mailto:ogzom@verizon.net) to secure a date.

## Classroom Songs



### Playmate

Say, say oh playmate,  
Come out and play with me.  
And bring your dollies three,  
Climb up my apple tree.  
Cry down my rain barrel,  
Slide down my cellar door.  
And we'll be jolly friends  
Forever more, more, more.  
(Children can substitute other toys)

### Circle of Friends

Friends, friends, the more that we know,  
The bigger and better our circle will grow.  
Don't stop with just one more friends are more fun,  
Keep building our circle of friends.  
Each one in the middle  
Go find a friend and add to our circle that has no end.  
Each friend that we bring  
Will widen our ring and add to our circle of friends

### Magic Penny

Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.  
It's just like a magic penny,  
Hold it tight and you won't have any,  
Lend it spend it and you'll have to so many,  
They'll roll all over the floor, for:  
Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.



## Favorite Stories

The Gingerbread Boy - Paul Galdone  
Dr. DeSoto - William Steig and David Cromett  
The Mitten Tree - Candace Christiansen  
Lizette's Green Sock - Catharina Valckx