



Our Classroom News

February 2010

Dear Parents,

It's February already. The school year is going by so quickly. I enjoyed speaking with you about your children during parent/teacher conferences. Everyone has grown so much physically and socially since this school year began. I was pleased to see you at our **Parent Participation Music and Movement class today**. It was great to have you sing along with us. **As always, I just want to remind everyone to have your children wear appropriate clothing (i.e. hats, mittens, winter coats)**. We will continue to go outside when it's cold as long as the weather permits.

We started off in January by reading The Mitten by Jan Brett and made mittens along with the characters from the book. I hope you enjoyed hearing about this story. Being able to retell a story is an important pre-reading skill. We also enjoyed reading The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We discussed these books by talking about their similarities and differences. We ended January with Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale. The children made number wheels to go along with the story. We used them to count forwards and backwards as the animal characters fall out of the bed and get back in.

Everyone enjoyed checking out books from our classroom library. I will include library dates in my newsletters and will email reminders about returning the books on Wednesdays. Please take the time to read these books with your children several times. It's a great way to spend time together and gives exposure to all sorts of new vocabulary words. This library process promotes independence and responsibility.

This month, we will continue to focus on **recognizing numbers with our vote count** during circle time. We use vocabulary terms such as **more, less, same, equal, greater than, and less than**. We have also added a **riddle of the day activity** to our circle time. It gives the children a chance to use their creativity, problem solving skills and command of the language in coming up with the answers. Our class has begun working on writing our letters. I teach them using the **Handwriting Without Tears** materials and method. We focus on starting our letters at the top and use words to describe their shapes. Feel free to check out their website at www.hwtears.org. The focus of our science center this month will be on **magnets, absorption, and lights and shadows**.

We will have a class Valentine exchange on February 12th. Please send in a Valentine for each student. We have 21 children in our class. Just have your child sign their name on each card as they can. Do not write out the receiving child's name on the envelope. We prefer that no candy or treat bags be sent in.

Dates to Save:

In house registration will begin on February 22nd. Look for more information to come home.

Our Dad's Night will be on March 8th, from 7:00-8:00 pm. We hope all you dads can join us. Your children look forward to spending this time with you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Parente & Mrs. McCaw

Important Dates:

February 1st Parent Participation Music & Movement (Wear your St. Matthew's shirts.)
February 8th Kindergarten Expectations presentation and Q & A
February 12th We will celebrate Valentine's Day.
February 15th No School—President's Day
February 22nd Music & Movement
February 22nd In house registration begins for 2010-2011 school year
February 3, 10, 17, & 24 Library dates—remember to send books in
March 1st Music & Movement (Wear your St. Matthew's shirt.)
March 1st 2010-2011 school year registration opens to the community
March 8th Dad's Night 7:00-8:00 pm

Favorite Stories:

The Mitten by Jan Brett
The Hat by Jan Brett
The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale

Favorite Songs:

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear—See Music Newsletter for words
Aiken Drum—See Music Newsletter for words
Hands on Myself—See music newsletter for words

February Volunteers

1st Shelley Schilpp
8th Chris Verhar
12th Elizabeth Rogers
17th Andrea Hernandez
19th Keli Fisher
22nd Jessica Guilfoyle
24th Staci Weekes
26th Jeni Westhoff

February Playdough Volunteers

Kathy Chu
Dana DeSantis

February Birthdays

February 7th Peter Verhar
February 15th Elissa Rogers
February 28th Michael Clark