



Our Classroom News

February 2010

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your time at the conference. Keep in mind that you may always check on your child's progress through the year, no need to wait. Your child is working hard on the skills he/she needs to move up a step in his/her development. Knowing the letters of the alphabet are important but also knowing how to put on their coat, listening to directions, speaking up at group time and getting along with others are just as important if not more important at this age. Find out more on expectations at this age by joining us at St. Matthew's on Monday, **February 8th** (7-8:30pm) for Kindergarten Night. The presentation will offer information and insight from a Prince William County kindergarten educator. The meeting may help those of you with children who have summer or early fall birthdays to better understand the realities and expectations of all day kindergarten.

A child who learns through their interests is more motivated in their learning. So we decided to make a list of things we were interested in and then take a vote between two. We are interested in playgrounds, transformers, baking, fixing things, the store, cars, trains, planes and outside. We needed two to vote on so Mrs. Atkins chose one, baking, and I chose one, fixing things. The class voted and by just a few votes baking won. We will be learning a lot of our skills of motor, counting, estimating, writing, reading, sharing, taking turns, discovery, planning and dictating through our baking. We went to GIANT's bakery to do some research on baking. What tools will we need? What can we bake? What is a bakery? Do bakers wear special clothes? Does it take a long time to bake? Mr. Earl patiently answered all of our questions. The class will decide what we will bake and what the occasion will be. I can't wait to hear their ideas!

We will be having a **Valentine Exchange** on Friday, Feb. 12. We will not be having a party or sharing treats, but we *will* be exchanging cards, giving the children an opportunity to express friendship and practice one-to-one correspondence as they deliver their cards. If your child would like to participate please send in enough valentine cards for all the children in the class (including your own child). There are 17 children in our class. This is a great opportunity for the children to practice signing their name in whatever fashion they can (hint: it's recommended to start this activity a week ahead of time so that writing remains fun). To make distribution easier for your child we are asking that you do not put names on the fronts of the envelopes. The children will have plenty of chances to practice their writing and cutting skills at school. We will transform our Writing Center into a valentine-creating center. It will be supplied with heart

shapes, lace doilies and stickers as well as words the children can use to create valentines for their family and friends. If you and your child would like to donate any items to add to this popular center it would be greatly appreciated.

Dad's Night will be March 8 from 7-8pm. The children will be making the plan so be flexible. This much we know, you'll have fun, you will have a snack and you'll meet some dads. If dad is unavailable that evening, perhaps a grandpa, uncle, neighbor or even mom can come. We have several dads who have been called up to serve our country.

Meal worms! Have you heard about the new critters in our classroom -- the mealworms? A great science experiment to observe a life cycle and their changes- egg, larva, pupa and beetle. We can also count them, race them and feel their little legs while we hold them. Stop by to see!

We said goodbye to Jada and we have welcomed Abby into our classroom family. Stay warm and keep bringing your hats and mittens!

Tina Wyckoff & Amy Atkins

Important Dates

Feb. 8 Music w/ Parents (2:05)

Feb. 12 Valentine celebration

Feb. 15 **No School-** President's Day

Feb. 22 Registration for next year

March 8 Dad's Night

The Little Birds (song)

Way up in the sky,
the little birds fly.
While down in their nests,
the little birds rest.
With a wing on the left
and a wing on the right,
the little birds sleep all
through the night.
The bright sun awakes,
the dew falls away.
Good morning, good morning
the little birds say.

Favorite Books

The Mitten by Jan Brett

The Hat by Jan Brett

Gingerbread Boy by Jan Brett

Dr. Desoto by William Steig