

The PreSchool at Holland Hall



February News



2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to February! The children enjoyed learning about "Animals in Winter" and "Mexico". The children really enjoyed "Fiesta Day." Dressing up and having lunch at El Tequila was a highlight of our study of Mexico.

Our next unit of study will be Valentine fun and how to be a good friend. I will be reading literature that demonstrates appropriate and inappropriate interactions between friends such as Share and Take Turns. These kinds of stories will serve as a springboard to discussing how children could handle these situations. We will also discuss how to act your best by behaving: "Friendly, Helpful, Respectful, and Responsible." As you know, we have been having "buddy day" throughout this school year to encourage the children to play with different friends. I will be having "buddy day" weekly on every Wednesday. The children will be assigned a Buddy to play with outside, work on classroom jobs, and sit by during lunch. This activity will help the children become more familiar and comfortable with other classmates.

Valentine's Party

Our Valentine's party will be Wednesday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. The children should bring **20** valentines to school by Wednesday, February 8. Please only have your child sign his or her name on each valentine. This activity may need to be broken down into several short periods of time. **Please do not address the cards to specific children.** It takes too long to distribute individual cards. We will be eating cookies that we bake on Tuesday, February 8. Our parent volunteers will be bringing drinks, strawberries, grapes, and paper goods to complete our party. As always we appreciate your continued support in not sending additional treats at holidays.

Occupations Unit

During the last three weeks of February, we will be learning about different occupations and careers. If you have a job or a special talent that is interesting to preschool children, we would love to have you come and share this information with our class. It should only take 10-15 minutes, pictures, hands-on experiences, and real objects will enhance the children's understanding of your presentation. We will be setting up our pretend center like "Home Depot". If you have anything we can use to put in this pretend center during our study of careers, we would greatly appreciate it. We will be sending home an information sheet for each parent to fill-out about his or her jobs.

If possible, we will be taking a field trip to a local business later in the month. I will let you know if we will be going somewhere to visit. If weather

permits, we will take a walk to the upper school to see where some of our student's parents' whom are teachers at Holland Hall work.

On **Wednesday, February 29**, the children are encouraged to dress up in clothing appropriate for a favorite occupation. This is not a requirement if your child is uncomfortable participating, so please just have them wear their regular school uniform if they choose not to participate. This will be a great deal of fun!!

Curriculum Update

Our daily calendar activities provide a quick math lesson that reaches different skill levels. We count the days on the calendar and predict what number will come next. At this time, we are keeping a button collection that represents the date. The buttons are grouped in a clear pocket by 5's and then made into a 10's necklace. For instance, on February 23, we will have two necklaces of 10 and three buttons. We sing a song for the days of the week then update our sign. "Today is _____." The children are learning to identify the day by looking at the first letter in the name. During the month, we count how many days until a special holiday, birthday, or class event. We use the calendar to play games, such as "What number comes before 12? What number comes after 25? What number does the calendar start with?" At this time of year, we have a pattern with our calendar pieces. The children are asked to identify the pattern as it emerges and predict what part of the pattern is coming on that particular day. In addition, the helpers get to identify the weather for our monthly weather graph. We add weather symbols to our graph for the entire month, and we often compare which symbol has more, less, or equal amounts.

Conference Sign-up

I will have a conference schedule posted at the Valentine's party on Wednesday, February 8th. If we already have a conference scheduled in the next few weeks, I do not need to have another conference; however, I will send home an updated assessment before Spring Break.

Pick-Up Reminder

Please remember that our class dismissal time is 2:50. It is very helpful if you are in line by this time as to avoid getting caught up in the kindergarten pick-up line.

Snow Boots

Please send snow boots along with your child's regular shoes on days there is snow on the ground, so we can still explore outdoors.

Calendar Dates

Wednesday, February 8

Friday, February 10

Monday, February 13

Saturday, February 25

Wednesday, February 29

Valentine's Party 2:00

Winter Holiday—No School

Professional Day—No School

Holland Hall Book Fair

Occupation dress-up day- parade

We are so thankful for all of these precious children in our class.

Sincerely,

Stacey and Leslie