

**The PreSchool at Holland Hall**  
Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Everley's Class  
February 2012

Dear Parents,

For the next two weeks, we will be talking about Valentines and how to be a good friend. I will be reading children's literature that demonstrates appropriate and inappropriate interactions between friends such as, Two Is Company, Me First, It's Mine, and Best Friends. These exaggerated stories will serve as a springboard to discuss how the children could handle these situations. We will resume our Special Friends' Day and work classroom activities with different classmates. Our letter-sound focus during our current unit is /Vv/, and then we will introduce /Dd/ (dentist, doctor, dancer) during our occupation unit.

### Valentine Party

Our Valentine party will be Wednesday, February 8, at 2:15 p.m. The children should bring **11** valentines to school on Monday, the 6th or Wednesday, the 8th. Please have your child sign his/her name on each valentine. This activity may need to be broken down into several short periods of time. **Do not address the cards to specific children, please.** It takes too long to distribute individual cards. If your child is attaching a small candy treat to the valentine, please check for peanut products or possible cross-contamination at the factory. This information is listed at the end of the ingredients.

### Occupation Unit

Beginning on February 15, we will be learning about different occupations. If you are in an occupation or have a special talent that is interesting to preschool children, I would like to set aside 10-15 minutes in our day for you to share this information with our class. Pictures, real objects, or hands-on experiences will enhance their understanding of your presentation. On **Wednesday, February 29**, the children are encouraged to dress up in clothing appropriate for a favorite occupation. (I consider being a mom or dad an important occupation!) Your child may wear his/her uniform if he/she doesn't want to dress up.

### 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 January 23, we had two necklaces of 10 and three buttons. We sing a song for the month and a song for the days of the week; then we 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 number games such as, "What number comes before 12? What number comes after 25? Can you find a tricky teen number on the calendar? What number does our 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. We record the final weather tally at the end of the month and compare the numbers to previous months.

### Calendar Dates

Wednesday, February 8	Valentine Party -- 2:15 p.m.
Friday, February 10	Winter Holiday -- No School
Monday, February 13	Professional Day -- No School
Wednesday, February 29	Occupation Dress-up Day

Have a great month, and thank you again for your support. Your child benefits from a positive home-school relationship. We could not do our job well without you! Please contact me if you have any questions.