

♥ Finger Prints ♥

February 2012

Points of Interest

- Classroom News
- February Sitting
- Registration 2012-2013
- Parent Association

Baby-Sitting Saturday Reminder

On February 11th, the childcare center will host a baby-sitting evening for parents in celebration of Valentine's Day. Moms and dads need a break sometimes from being mom and dad! The sitting will be available from 4 pm to 9 pm at a cost of \$45 for the evening. The sitting will be staffed by the center teachers and the proceeds will be divided between them. If you are interested, please let me know by Wednesday, February 8th so that I can ensure I have enough sitters.



Registration

It is one of the busiest times of year— registration for the 2012-2013 school year! Be on the look out for a registration form and tuition information in your child's cubby in the next week. I think you will be pleased, many activities have been added, with tuition becoming all inclusive— no more activity fees! In order for your child to continue with the program, registration forms and fee must be returned to the office no later than February 17th. If you have any schedule questions or changes for summer camp, please give me a call/send an email and I would be happy to talk with you about it.

Sweet Peas
Ms. Virginia, Ms. Carmen

Busy Bees
Ms. Sheree, Ms. Peanut, Ms. Sherry

Caterpillars
Ms. Donna, Ms. Angie

Butterflies
Ms. Debbie, Ms. Mary, Mr. Tim

Adventures & Explorers
Ms. Denise, Ms. Allie Ms. Krystina, Ms Sheree

Coming Up— Center Closings

Mark your calendars. The center is closed in observance of President's Day on February 20th. Summer and fall registration is right around the corner. This will be the time to make any increases or decreases in care, so start to think about what changes you may need.

Have a great month!
Melissa Delaney
Director

Dear Parents -

Thanks to all of the families who came out to escape the winter blues on January 21st with Mr. Peter! We raised 180.00 for the center, and had a blast doing it. A special thanks to Mr. Peter who donated his time. Please be sure to see the photo spread Ms. Sherry put together in the stairwell at school!



We are in full planning mode for our biggest fundraiser of the year - the Spring Auction and Dinner. The funds raised at this dinner will help in part to purchase a sink for one of the classrooms. The Parents Association will be holding a meeting from 7-8 pm to discuss solicitations and donations for the Auction Dinner on February 8th. Child care will not be provided at this meeting.

In an effort to bring relevant and interesting speakers into our CLCCC community, we will be hosting a Financial Planner from Charles Schwab who will come to CLCCC in late February to discuss 529 and college savings plans. We will email with a confirmed date shortly.

As a recap - below are a few dates for your calendars.



- **Wednesday, February 8th - 7 - 8pm Parents Association Meeting in the Big Room**
- **Late February Weeknight Charles Schwab Financial Planner to discuss 529 and College Savings**
- **Saturday, April 28th Spring Auction Fundraiser/Dinner**

Thanks and hope to see you on the 8th!

Kate Noel and Virginia Sayer
Co-chairs CLCCC Parent Association

Sweet Peas February Newsletter

This month's theme will be "Let's Play." This is one theme the Sweet Peas can handle since we already enjoy play time with each other. We will be in the process of changing our classroom around to make it a more spacious play area. With new centers for our older infants, allowing them to become a little more independent while broadening their learning experience with age appropriate toys, books, blocks, manipulatives and a new dramatic play center. These centers will be easy for our children who are becoming a little more mobile to access toys on their own. This will also allow our younger infants to have more space in the classroom to practice tummy time, crawling and pushing up. The color of the month is pink, the shape is a heart.

- *Week 1 will be "Let's Play"*
- *Week 2 will be "Valentine's Day and Being Loved"*
- *Week 3 will be "How Toys Work"*
- *Week 4 will be "Snowmen"*



Friends

I realized a few weeks ago that our class has formed such a wonderful bond. They really greet each other in the morning with smiles, nudges, claps and they even say "Hi" to each other and have even called out each others name to my surprise. During the day when we sit together to have carpet play there are times when kisses and gentle pats are shared and it is the cutest thing you would ever want to see. They are growing together, learning together and are really becoming good friends.

Valentine's Day

The Sweet Pea class will have their Valentines Day party on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Please dress your child in their fanciest formal outfit for a day of pictures, dancing, food and fun. Please look for our class party sign up sheet that will be located next to our sign in and out sheet. Please send in the item that you select to bring on Friday February 10, 2012.

Watch Me Grow

Listed below are some milestones your child should be working on for their age group.

Months 6-9

- Can roll a ball, will drop a toy and look for it, will repeat actions that make noise.
- Will stop briefly if told "no", can imitate sounds, when he/she hears name will turn head or look at you or smile.
- Can use a toy to amuse self, can imitate me (wave bye-bye, play "so big"), may want you to stay close by, will recognize a stranger.
- Can use a cup with help, can move things from one hand to the other, and can feed self (with fingers).
- Can sit up, can creep or crawl on belly, bounces on his/her legs (not stiff-legged), can pull up to stand.

Sweet Peas Continued

Months 9-12

- *Can point at things, likes to bang things together or on a table, enjoys looking at picture books.*
- *Understands a few words besides “mama, dada,” will hand a toy to an adult if asked, can imitate sounds (clicking tongue, coughing)*
- *Will repeat actions to get a laugh, gives a hug, plays near other children, enjoys peek-a-boo.*
- *Can make chewing movements, is starting to push, poke at and pull things, is drooling less (except when teething).*
- *Beginning to stand alone, can crawl fast, can take a few steps, and can throw a ball or bean bag.*

Reminders:

- Parent Date Night on February 11th– make a reservation!!**
- February 14th, 2012:** Sweet Pea Valentine’s Day Party
- February 20th, 2012:** CLCCC will be closed in honor of Presidents Day
- Please keep sending in those warm hats, coats, and shoes for outdoor time.**

Hugs and kisses to our babies! Ms. Virginia and Ms. Carmen



Busy Bees Class

The New Year is really off to a great start, we are all having such a fun time learning and growing together. January's theme was Let's Pretend, team work, and ways to use your imagination. The children had so much fun pretending we were at the salon, on a train ride, playing doctors and my favorite, grocery shopping. It was a lot of fun to see how the children really got into each activity by using their imaginations. The children also did very well with team work and worked well putting puzzles and pegs together, passing pieces to friends. We also practiced making different sounds using paper towel rolls.

Our theme for February is **It Is Cold!** Our color is white and the shape is hearts. The character education is patience and our learning concepts are polar bears, penguins, snow, ice and Valentine's Day. The old saying patience is a virtue may be true for you and I but not for a busy little toddler!

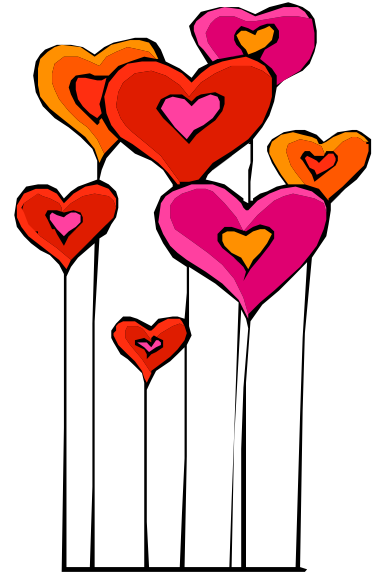
Children are constantly learning by watching and listening to the people and things around them. Young children don't quite understand how to recognize the needs of others or that waiting is an inevitable part of life, so patience is not one of their strongest virtues. As a child matures in age and development, their ability to display patience drastically improves. Some children are naturally more patient than others so we will always deal with each child on an individual basis, and we will always remember to take little steps for little people.

Practicing patience at an early age helps children to improve interpersonal relationships and social skill. Let's face it, no one likes to wait, least of all active toddlers who haven't learned why patience matters; nor have they developed the coping skills to be able to wait successfully. As the children's language skills develop and they gain more experience with waiting, you can expect them to be more patient. In the mean time remember, patience is a virtue.

PIZZA DAY

I would like for the Busy Bee's class to start having pizza every Friday starting on February 3rd. Also, if the parents can take turns providing a vegetable to go along with the pizza, all money and vegetables will be due the day before. At least once a month I would like to have a home made soup day where the children will help to make the soup in the crock pot in the morning and have it for lunch later that day. We will start off simple with chicken noodle soup, with each parent bringing in something to add to the soup. If the children really enjoy the soup day we can always add another day. I will post a sign up sheet on the Parent board.
Bon APPETIT

(continued)



Busy Bees Continued

ALL ABOUT ME

Henry- Always willing to give a helping hand , loves to sweep and help clean the tables

Ian – Really enjoys putting the pegs in the holes. It is a new activity in our room and Ian is already a pro at it.

Elena- Always has a hug and a big smile for her friends and when someone is sad she will give them a pat on the back.

Madeleine- Is always ready for circle time as soon as she hears the song ARE you READY she run and sits down for a front row seat .

Naomi- Really enjoys finger play time. You can always see her wiggling her little fingers or clapping her hands.

Shayna- When its time to go outdoors, Shayna likes to give everyone their coat and hat and even tries to zip them up.

Alexandra-Enjoys a good book! She will bring two or three books for you to read , and still say more after those books are read

February 20th PRESIDENT'S DAY CENTER IS CLOSED

For Valentines Day, the children will exchange cards and bring in a treat to share with friends. We will have lots of fun that day!

Have a good month,

Ms. Sheree, Ms. Peanut, and Ms. Sherry



Caterpillars Class



We have entered the second part of the school year and we are off to a great start. Your children certainly have come a long way since September, learning so many colors, shapes and starting to count. They continue to clean up after themselves at lunch and now they push their own chairs in at the table when they are finished eating. Yes, this is your child! Way to go Caterpillars!

The Young Toddlers were busy as ever this month exploring the color blue and big machines. They had fun making blue Jell-O, it looked like a blue ocean. Painting with feathers; they really enjoyed that activity like real artist. They love to show their art work to their parents when they come into the room. They had fun seeing what happens when you blow threw a straw at cotton balls. That brought a lot of laughs.

The children really enjoy the reading center. They love going in and sitting either by themselves or they ask a friend to join them and they sit on the pillows reading to each other and have cute conversations.

The month of January

Anna is giving big smiles and saying “I Love You” and drinking from a regular cup. Way to go Anna. **Caroline** is enjoying her brother Colin and always includes him when talking about her family. Caroline is also our coat helper. Good job Caroline. **Cate** is using more words at school and came back from vacation as if she never left– no crying at all! Way to go Cate. **Emory** has a real love for animals. He enjoys playing with the polar bears and giving kisses. Maybe he will work with animals some day. **Jane** has become more verbal in class. We love hearing her little voice. **John** was excited to be learning about big machines and likes to explore the classroom trucks. **Norah** enjoys exploring the felt board and especially likes, “Five little Monkey’s Jumping on the bed. **Peter** likes to answer questions at Circle time and to make his friends laugh.

All the Caterpillars are doing WELL! Coming along nicely! Way to go Caterpillars! This month, we have a birthday in our class. Peter will turn two on February 12th. Happy Birthday Peter!

The Month of February brings us a new Theme **“Let’s Pretend”** The focus is on creativity. Children can use their imaginations for role-play, artwork, making music and exploring stories. Our new color for the month is **Pink**, our new shape is the **“Heart”** -just in time for Valentine’s Day. We will celebrate that day with a party. Ms. Angie and I have fun games and art projects planned. **The Center will be closed on February 20th – President’s Day**

Thank You,
Ms. Donna, Ms. Angie, and Ms. Tawnya

Butterflies Class

January has come and gone and we are hoping that February will continue to keep us healthy and safe. January started out very relaxed with all of us enjoying our winter break. It is neat to see how much the children have matured since starting way back in the summer. Their confidence is increasing and they continue to learn in leaps and bounds. Some highlights for January were the cool show-n-tells. All of the toys and story books were wonderful. We all loved our roller ball paintings in which the children enjoyed using roller paints to create their very own designs. Next we moved onto our kitchen art which was created by dipping some kitchen utensils into paint and then dabbing them onto the paper. Now this was different. Our messy project of decorating boxes was just that, messy! All of the children stayed focused and had fun painting and decorating the boxes and turning them into vehicles. Nice job butterflies!!! Our science projects continue to be a fun learning experience. The children enjoyed sprinkling confetti onto the floor to see if the vacuum or broom would clean it up the easiest. The children also explored how to change the volume of a CD player. Now this was exciting and everyone took turns seeing what would happen. We ended the month with all of the children getting involved in the Head Start fitness class with Coach Liz. Take a moment to look at all the great pictures, posted up on the classroom door.

Welcome to the month of February!!! This month's theme is LIGHT and DARK!! We are surrounded by light and dark every day. Shadows, reflections, and temperature are just a few of the things we experience all the time that relate to light and dark. Colors we see at home and elsewhere, both inside and outside, range from light to dark. There are many fun ways to connect to the topic LIGHT and DARK at home, such as looking at shades of the color while getting dressed, investigating shades of color on different foods, chasing and playing with shadows, or even checking out what it looks like outside while eating breakfast or dinner. Lighten up your child's day by being playful with light and dark.

Together we're better! Help us provide lots of hands-on experiences by assisting us in collecting some of the following items that might get thrown away or are easy to find. Cardboard boxes (various sizes and shapes) cardboard tubes, scraps of ribbon, fabric, and yarn, clean light and dark socks, and old CD's. Some special events that will be introduced are Valentine's Day and President's Day. The color for February is Pink. Please have your child wear something pink or bring in a pink item on Tuesday, February 28th. The shape of the month is a heart and number is 6. We will have a Valentines party on Tuesday, February 14th. Please be on the lookout for the signup sheet. Just a reminder please remember to dress your child appropriately for colder weather with hats, mittens and a warmer coat, it is still winter! Also please remember to sign your child in and out each day. In case of an emergency where we would need to evacuate the building, we grab those lists and they aid us with who's is in school or who has already gone home. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Happy Birthday to Dylan who will be 3 years old on February 6th.

Sincere thanks,

Ms. Debbie, Ms. Mary, and Mr. Tim

Adventurers Class

The Preschool Adventurers had a great month of learning, growing and creating. This past month's theme was "Creations & Innovations". The Adventurers experimented with the color blue, discussed things that move and make sound, learned the meaning of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and found out about teamwork. They also discovered the number 8 and the letters J, C & H. Here are some highlights of our month:

To help learn about things that move, the Adventurers brought in all sorts of moving things from home, like scooters, bikes, cars, helicopters & trains. While learning about the color blue, the Adventurers made a blue collage (some even wrote the word BLUE), painted blue H's, and made blue ice paintings. To learn about sound and ways to communicate, the Adventurers loved tapping on water-filled glasses to hear the tinkling sound, playing a "match the sound" guessing game with musical instruments enclosed in paper bags, making Rain sticks, and communicating in sign language by learning a few words & letters. While learning about teamwork & Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the Adventurers helped put together a "Celebrate Diversity" poster by making handprints. They also used their handprints to make "helping hands" where they volunteered to help friends in need with their helping hands.

In the coming month of February, we will learn all about Light & Dark. While exploring this theme, they will come to realize why light is important and explore different ways to experiment with light and dark. In addition, the Preschoolers will learn about the concept of patience, recognize the shape of a heart, identify the color pink, learn the letters F, W & K and their sounds, work with the number 9, and understand the meaning of Valentine's Day.

Along with these learning concepts, the Adventurers will continue their work they have begun with classroom routines, language and literacy concepts such as using words to communicate needs, and personal skills such as buttoning coats and packing away linens. As always, all concepts are presented in a fun-filled developmentally appropriate approach through the use of learning centers, circle-time songs and games.

As a reminder, library day is every second and fourth Tuesday. Please be sure to return your child's library book in a backpack and dress warm on these days.

Homework and Show 'N Tell are ALWAYS on Wednesdays and Fridays. Be sure to check lesson plans so your child will know what to bring. Please do not send toys or other items from home on any other days.

We are looking forward to a great month of working with your child!

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise and Ms. Krystina

Explorers Class

In January, the Explorer's had a terrific time learning about "Eating Healthy, Growing Strong!" We learned about all the foods on the Food Pyramid and where they belong. We discussed what healthy habits are, like exercising daily, eating healthy, covering our mouths when we sneeze and cough, and washing our hands properly. We even created fruit smoothies and our own pizzas for "Pizza Day!" Also in the month of January we discussed Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Explorers learned a little history about all the wonderful things Dr. King did for this country, and they created "dream clouds" on what they wanted to be when they grew up. The Explorers also used their imaginations to travel to China to learn about the Chinese New Year. We celebrated this interesting holiday by ordering take-out from *Cin Cin* and learned how to eat our Chinese food with chopsticks. We also had a wonderful guest who taught us songs about Chinese New Year. We had fun creating a giant dancing dragon craft that we danced around the Big Room with! We learned how to write our names in Chinese as well as count to ten in Chinese too! We definitely learned a lot in January!

The Explorers are definitely ready to "Blast off into Space!" in February. We will be accomplishing this by learning about the nine planets, space travel, stars, astronauts, and constellations. We will be trying "space food," making our own versions of constellations, planets, rockets and stars. But by far what the Pre-Ks are looking forward to the most is our field trip to the Franklin Institute's Planetarium on February 21st! We will be taking a train downtown and spending the day looking at stars and other fascinating space artifacts! February will also cover "Black History Month," and learning about all the important African-American men and women who contributed so much to our country throughout the years. For example, the first African-American woman in space was Dr. Mae Jemison. We will also be discussing and making crafts for Valentine's Day and Groundhog's Day! The Pre-Ks will be learning about the letters and sounds of "L,E,K,G", the numbers "11, 12, 13", the "heart" shape, and the color pink. We all can't wait to take off to a fun filled learning experience this month. We also have two Explorers who will be five this month! Happy Birthday to Olivia and Elliott!!!!

Friendly Reminders:

- Pizza Day will now be on THURSDAYS for the rest of the school year unless specified otherwise. Please don't forget your \$3.00!
- Show-N-Tell is every Wednesday and please keep on bringing in something that relates to what we are talking about.
- No toys from home please, especially no toys in your child's pockets.
- Don't forget to take your child to the bathroom before entering in the classroom as well.
- Please make sure to send in your child with the appropriate jacket, hats, and gloves.
- Library Days will be on the first and third Tuesdays in February! Please don't forget your books to return and your backpacks!

Important School Dates:

- The Center will be closed, Monday, February 20th for President's Day.
- Our field trip to the Franklin Institute will be on Tuesday, February 21st.
- On February 16th, the Pre-Ks will be having their Valentine's Day Party. Please look at our Parent Board for more information as that date draws near.

Can't wait to have a stellar month!
Ms. Allie and Ms. Sheree