

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### January Highlights:

Hopefully your child's thank you letter has been received by now and was appreciated by its recipient. The mail carrier came to our classroom and each child handed his or her letter to a delighted mailman.

Journal writing has become more challenging, with longer and more thought-provoking entries. I am asking for more details, more complex punctuation, and more standard spelling. The January Journals will come out as soon as corrections are complete.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, January is an academic month, with lots of new material being introduced, and the work is becoming more challenging. The children have completed their Calendar Book, and their latest poem about the four seasons, and we have just begun fractions and half past time.

This entire month we have been focusing on our continent of North America, with wonderful stories, artifacts boxes, animals, music and food from our own country and those surrounding us. We just finished Mexico yesterday with a Corn Buffet - tortillas, tamales, papusas, tostadas, and chips! This was a big hit with everybody.

Finally, please do remember to sign and return your child's card.

### February Highlights:

We will be starting grammar lessons with the *noun* next week, and with the *article* soon to follow. Grammar will gradually be added to the spelling homework.

Now here come the many events and holidays that come in this short month. We will have our class **Valentine's Day party on Thursday, February 14th** (this is not a family party, so you don't have to make arrangements to come). If your child would like to give out valentines during the party, we ask that all children be included. A flyer about valentines (with a roster of names), and a flyer about party treats will be coming.

Our **Dragon Parade** for the year of the Pig is scheduled for **Friday, Feb. 15 at 11:30 am**. Once again the Kindergartners will stir the dragon to life. Among the hundreds of red felt hands that form the dragon's scales will be two hands that are your child's. Our class will be the lantern parade following the dragon. The 2nd/3rd year class will be the most excellent noise makers. **WEAR RED!**

Do make plans to come and watch the noisy fun and to join your child for the **Chinese Luncheon** after the parade. Get your tickets soon. **Reservations and money are due on Feb. 12.**

While all this is going on, I'll try to squeeze in as much as I can about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. I have some great books about each of them that I will be sharing with the class. Last year, Prof. Zimring came to give the elementary classes a lively talk about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He is returning to talk about George Washington and the Revolutionary War. Professor Zimring comes dressed in character to make history come to life.

So who could possibly want more than this? Well, the **San Francisco Chinese New Year's Parade is Saturday, Feb. 23rd**. The parade starts at 5:15 pm, and is just spectacular for children. There are the dragons of course, and the wonderful lion dancers, but there are also so many children dancing and singing in the parade.

You can take BART there. The Montgomery Street Station is right at the beginning of the parade. Bring foldable chairs or a blanket and find a spot on the parade route of Market to Grant St.. Getting there early is recommended, but I assure you the wait is worth it.

Jo