

## SECOND/THIRD YEAR MARCH NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

### -February Highlights-

It is hard to believe that the shortest month in the year could have so many events packed into it. We really had to take a deep breath when we got to the 28<sup>th</sup> yesterday. But the events were all rich and abundantly enjoyable. The first in this long list was **Mardi Gras**, a very fun event indeed with lots of sparkly beads to wear, decorations all around, and the traditional King Cake. The cake this year "chose" to crown **Priashna Chand as 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Queen and Elijah Colmenero as 3<sup>rd</sup> Year King**, and they enjoyed a royally privileged day on Thursday.

Our **Valentine's Day** was another "big day." The children were of course very excited delivering their Valentines to all the awaiting "mailbags." We do wish to thank all the parents who sent so many lovely treats for us teachers and for all the children at the party. They were greatly enjoyed by all of us! The most anticipated, and we think most enjoyed, part of the celebration though was the "**Secret Valentines**." So many heartfelt thoughts went into them. It was very sweet to look at everyone, from our vantage point, as they sat and opened those special letters and read the caring thoughts someone anonymously wished to send them. A day to be long remembered in their hearts.

As part of our marking of **Presidents Day**, all the classes gathered to hear an outstanding talk and presentation by **Dave Zimring** (a professor of American History at Diablo Valley College...and Jo's son-in-law) about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. We all learned so much, and it certainly gave the children an even greater understanding and appreciation of what we discussed for **Black History Month**.

The **Asian Lunar New Year** celebration was also quite an event. The kindergartners of course had the spotlight, but 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years added their own special essential element to the parade...lots of NOISE. It was enjoyable to have that delicious lunch together afterwards too. Many thanks to **Isaac and Heather Gutfeld and Kiros Ghirmay** for helping with set-up and clean-up of the Hall. In class, children also enjoyed making lanterns for their desks (to guide the good spirits) and practicing writing "Gung Hay Fat Choy" in Chinese script.

In **Botany** we have been looking at where **leaf and flower buds** emerge from branches and how it all comes about. With the many beautiful blossoming trees even right here on our campus, it would be hard not to think about them. We've been getting reports from the children about spotting pink ornamental plums and tulip trees in their neighborhoods too. If you have any

flowering trees in your yard, take some time with your child and have a closer look at what is happening out there. Let him or her be your docent. In class we now have some botany/art projects to try in conjunction with this study.

In **Grammar the 2nds** have continued learning more about **Verbs**. Please remind them about marking them in their spelling homework sentences (as a large red circle, 2 lines high, just like a Noun). We always send home the corrected Spelling homework each week so that you can see how your child is doing with mastery of the grammar parts of speech. Be sure to look for it at the beginning of the week. If you don't see it, please ask either your child or us (or both...).

Because of all the above events and projects, our dear **Personal Timelines** got put on hold when they were so close to completion! We are now going back to them, so expect to see your child's life story definitely by Parent Conferences. (It will be worth the wait.)

### -Upcoming Events-

We're making good progress on our new poem, *Escape At Bedtime*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. It's lengthy and with some unusual descriptions, but a number of children have already memorized a good portion of it. The reward of being able to go outside and recite this poem directly to the night sky will be well worth all the effort.

In **Grammar** work this month, **Thirds** will begin their certainly challenging **Adverb** work. (An easy definition: adverbs "add" information to the verb, i.e. *describe* verbs, as in telling how, when, where, how much.) They will have a book to bring home after they finish this study. **Seconds** will work on irregular **Verbs**, and will also have a book coming home when they are done.

In **supplementary Math work**, the **2nds** will begin their work **with telling time**, starting with simple half-hours but eventually, after much work, to specific minutes. **3rds** will begin **weighing on a gram scale**. Both groups will also launch into the *fun* weekly world of **word problems** (no worrying allowed).

In **History** we will begin our study of the **Greek civilization**. It's always a popular one because of the children's keen interest in *Geometry* which they know comes from the *Greeks*. During this study I will be reading some of the *Greek* myths to them along with a simplified version of Homer's classic, *The Odyssey*. We will end our study with another one of our "Civilization Feasts."

For our **field trip for this month**, we will not have to travel far; only to the Church Social Hall. We will see the **Fairyland Puppet Theater's** production of "*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*." The

Puppet Theater shows are always a big favorite for all the Harder site classes, and we're sure this one will be too.

On **Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**, we'll have our annual **Easter Egg Hunt and Party**. The children may have free dress on that day if they wear pastel spring colors, or something with flowers on it. Before that, they will plant and then tend their own "living Easter baskets." The grass will be wheat grass and is edible. The children will know exactly how to take care of their baskets when they arrive home for Spring Break. The baskets can continue to grow for quite a while.

March also means it's time once again for **Parent Conferences**. They will be **Thursday and Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>** and will be 20 minutes in length. We'll update you on how things have been going since the Report Card, and answer any questions you may have thought about since receiving it. Please return your sign-up form as soon as possible.

May this month be one of lovely beginnings.

Sincerely,  
Mary Anne and Toni

### Calendar:

Fri.-Weds. Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Seuss Days; bring a Dr. Seuss book to share

Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> - Sharing Day, ("something green"); Book Orders due

Thursday and Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - Parent Conferences - no school

\*No Spelling or Math Homework Books turned in this week

**\*\*Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> - RE-ENROLLMENT FORMS DUE FOR 2018-'19\*\***

Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year's Parent-Child Night, 7-8 p.m.

Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day Celebration - free dress if you wear green

Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> - Fairyland Puppet Theatre visits MCH - "*The Sorcerer's Apprentice*"

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> - First Day of Spring -free dress if you wear pastel colors or something with flowers on it; 3<sup>rd</sup> Year's Parent-Child Night, 7-8 p.m.

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> - Easter Egg Hunt and Party - free dress

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - Spring Holiday, no classes and no daycare

Mon. - Fri. April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> - Spring Break, no classes; daycare available 7:30 - 6

...and once again, a pretty full month!

