

**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 28th on Friday. But the events were all rich and abundantly enjoyable. The first in this long list was our **Asian Lunar New Year** celebration which was as always quite a spectacular event. The kindergartners of course had the spotlight, but 2nd and 3rd Years added their own special essential element to the parade...lots of NOISE. It was enjoyable to have that delicious lunch together afterwards too. In class, the children also enjoyed making lanterns for their desks (to guide the good spirits) and practicing writing "Gung Hay Fat Choy" in Chinese script.

Valentine's Day was our next "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.

Last week **Mardi Gras** came to Rm 5, a very fun event indeed with lots of sparkly beads to wear and decorations all around. We ate and ate (hourly). A special thanks to **Margaret Kennedy's mom, Laurie, and Puja Kumar's mom, Pravin,** for the special snacks and treats they also sent. The grand finale of the day was the traditional King Cake. The cake this year "chose" to crown **Tavnoor Gill as 2nd Year Queen and Logan Pereur as 3rd Year King,** and they then enjoyed a royally privileged day on Wednesday.

February events then came to a spectacular close with our trip to the **San Francisco Symphony** which was such a rich experience as always. We listened beforehand to all the music the orchestra would play, courtesy of the CD they send us. The children then knew each piece *so well*, and with that, the joy of hearing the music LIVE was

beyond comparison. I'm certain it made an indelible impression; and of course not just the music, but the whole experience of this grand hall, and all those musicians and their instruments. A special treat was a piece featuring their organ, one of the largest in the world, whose pipes cover most of the back wall and which we learned has 8,000 more pipes behind it which we can't see! We are so fortunate to live where we do and be able to have experiences such as this. Thank you so much to all the parents who volunteered their time to drive and make this possible.

Academically speaking, our biggest event was that our **Personal Timelines** finally came to completion! Our room was "wallpapered" with them, and everyone spent a lot of time reading and learning about their friends' lives. We're sure you enjoyed them too when they arrived home. Definitely something for the Keepsake boxes.

Third Years finished their long sequence of **Money** having worked through many different and varied activities. If you give them an opportunity to pay for something in a store, including making change, I'm sure they will be proud to show what they can do. Thirds have now begun learning how to **weigh items on a gram balance scale**.

Second Years are finishing up quarter hours in their **Clock** sequence of activities, which will leave only telling time by the minute still to be mastered. This is all done in analog time (not the simple digital format) - so, much more challenging.

Other supplementary math work for both 2nds and 3rds now is having weekly **math word problems** and learning how to format them. The math is not difficult, but finding the numbers you need and what to do with them, which is buried in all those words, is the challenge. Always look for those papers coming home on Mondays.

-Upcoming Events-

Our **latest poem, *Escape At Bedtime*, by Robert Louis Stevenson** will have its debut performance this week when we present it to the Kindergarteners and First Years. The children with much effort have done very well with this lengthy poem and its unusual words and descriptions. Even the art work demands patience, as you will see! But 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** have now begun 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 **Verbs**, and will also have a book coming home when they are done. (Verbs are large red circles. Adverbs are small orange circles.)

In **Geometry**, the **2nds** who have been working on identifying triangles by their sides and angles will by month's end see that those triangles can be joined in ways that not only change their shapes and names, but also can create a completely new shape, the quadrilateral. For the **3rds**, they will move from the "basic elements" of geometry, point, line, surface, and solid, to focusing only on the line. A simple line?! Ah, but how much and how varied are the ways that line can be, and what it can create.

In **History** we've started our study of the **Greek civilization**. It's always a popular one because of the children's keen interest in *Geometry* (see above..) 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 SIAC Multi-Purpose Room. We will see the **Fairyland Puppet Theater's** production of "*Peter and the Wolf*." The Puppet Theater shows are always a big favorite for all the Kindergarten and Elementary classes, and we're sure this one will be too.

This is the month to come and stay awhile in Rm. #5 - It's **Parent-Child Night!** How the children love to show you the work they do, and most of all to be your teacher, so that you know how to do it too. Be sure to mark your calendars.

March also means it's time once again for **Parent Conferences**. They will be **Thursday and Friday, March 12th and 13th** and will be 20 minutes in length. I'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.

May this month be one of lovely beginnings.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne

(Calendar on back)

March Calendar:

Mon.-Fri. March 2nd-6th - Dr. Seuss Days; bring a Dr. Seuss book to share

Friday, March 6th - Sharing Day, ("something green"); Book Orders due

Thurs and Fri, Mar 12th & 13th - Parent Conferences-no classes, but regular daycare hours
*No Spelling or Math Homework Books turned in this week

****Monday, March 16th - RE-ENROLLMENT FORMS DUE FOR 2020-'21****

Tuesday, March 17th - St. Patrick's Day Celebration - free dress if you wear green,
2nd Years' Parent-Child Night, 6-7 p.m.

Friday, March 20th - First Day of Spring -free dress if you wear pastel colors or
something with flowers on it

Monday, March 23rd - Fairyland Puppet Theatre visits MCH - *"Peter and the Wolf"*

Tuesday, March 24th - 3rd Years' Parent-Child Night, 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, March 26th - Baseball Day! Celebrating the opening of the new season,
Wear a team shirt and/or cap

Monday, March 30th - Cesar Chavez Day, no classes, no daycare

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