

**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. The **Asian Lunar New Year** celebration was quite an event. The kindergartners of course had the spotlight, but 2nd and 3rd Years added their own special essential element to the parade...making lots of NOISE. They were especially excited about being able to "perform" in front of their parents. Thank you for coming! 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 and Vietnamese script.

Our **Valentine's Day** was certainly another big event. The children were very excited delivering their Valentines to all the awaiting "mailbags," and especially slipping their "Secret Valentine" into the Valentine box. So many heartfelt thoughts went into them. It was very sweet to look at everyone, from my vantage point, as they sat and opened those special letters and read the caring thoughts someone anonymously wished to send them. Thank you too for all the goodie bags and treats you sent which made this (rare!) class party so much fun for all of them .

Mardi Gras was also a very fun event. There were lots of sparkly beads to wear, decorations all around, and the traditional King Cake. Thank you for the extra snacks you packed in your child's lunch. We can't imagine any of them ate much dinner that night after feasting "on the hour" throughout our day. Congratulations to our 1st Year King, Ravtej Parmar, and 2nd and 3rd Year Queens, Phrancesca Martinez and Aaliyah Rocha, who each chose one of the 3 lucky pieces of cake.

One other event was the most enjoyable few days with our former student, now in high school, **Gabriel Rodriguez**, who not only helped the children with their work, but also gave us all a very big treat on his last afternoon. He brought his violin with him, and everyone was treated to not only learning about this instrument, but seeing and hearing what it sounds like as he played a number of pieces for us. The children were so excited, and many asked him how they could learn to play like that! It was quite a memorable afternoon and one I am sure they will not soon forget. He will be back with us again for two days later on this month (and hopefully with violin along with him!). Many thanks to Gabriel for all he gave to the children, both in work and in "play."

Academically speaking, our biggest event was having our **Personal Timelines** finally come to completion! Our room was "wallpapered" with them, and everyone spent a lot of time reading and learning about their friends' lives, and talking to each other about them. We're sure when those long timelines arrived home, you too enjoyed reading about the events of their lives as seen through their own eyes. Definitely something for the Keepsake boxes.

-Upcoming Events-

In **supplementary Math work**, the **2nds** after doing well with the challenge of quarter hours, have now started with **telling time by 5 minutes, and later single minutes**, focusing on where the hour hand will be in all of this. The **3rds are at the final step of money work** - with our little Safeway "store." We have a cash register (with real coins in it), items for sale, and eager customers with 2 dollars to spend. Both cashier and customer must always be careful to check that the correct change is being given and/or received for what is being bought. If you're in a store, you might want to give your child a chance to practice his or her paying and receiving change skills!

In **Geometry, 2nds**, after having completed their big project of *Triangles + Triangles = Bigger Triangles*, are now about to start work on **quadrilaterals** and will be taking the leap of discovering that certain triangles are the creators of these new 4-sided figures. **Thirds**, after completing the **Basic Elements** of all geometric figures: *Point, Line, Surface, and Solid*, will now be spending many weeks with **The Line**. Just a line?? Yes! There is so much to learn about "just a line"!

The **3rds**, as you saw last week, completed their study of **Adverbs**, capping it with a very nice booklet of work. It was quite a challenge, but one they really took to. They have now begun the next big step: **The Pronoun**. The **2nds** have been doing work with **Verbs**, and learning the correct words for the different tenses: present, past and future.

In Cultural, we began our study of the **Evolution of Life on Earth**. We started with the formation of the Earth, then the great rains creating the oceans, and now are discovering the development from early microscopic ocean life to the beginning development of invertebrate and then vertebrate ocean life. It's our afternoon's "Big Event," with the frequent questions of "Is it time for Evolution?" Maria Montessori, in all her wisdom, knew this was something children of this age should and would want to learn!

To honor **Dr. Seuss** (his birthday is March 2nd), there is a long tradition of having a "Read Across America" week. So we invite any student who has a favorite Dr. Seuss book

to share to please bring it for display in our Library corner, and everyone can enjoy reading some of Dr. Seuss' delightful creations. Please be sure your child's name is in it.

Parent Conferences will be **Thursday and Friday, March 23rd and 24th**. These will be 20 minutes in length. We will 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.

Best Regards,
Mary Anne and Amira

Calendar:

Thurs, March 2nd to Weds, March 8th - Dr. Seuss Week - bring a book to share

Friday, March 10th - Sharing Day, ("something green")

Sunday, March 12th - Daylight Savings Time begins

Friday, March 17th - St. Patrick's Day Celebration - free dress if you wear green

Monday, March 20th - Celebrating the First Day of Spring (free dress if you wear pastel colors or something with flowers on it)

Thursday and Friday, March 23rd & 24th - Parent Conferences - ***No school and No Daycare***

Thursday, March 30th - Easter Egg Hunt

Friday, March 31st - Cesar Chavez Day - ***No school and No Daycare***