

Upcoming Events!

February 27

Tuscan Party for Adults

This is a new event for us. We hope that it provides an opportunity for a fun party where KDD parents, guardians, and friends can enjoy a social time without children. There will be snacks, desserts, beverages, and live music.

A second goal of the evening is to begin building a fund raising opportunity to replace several smaller efforts to support the school's budget and keep tuition low. Our budget includes curriculum and supplies, indoor and outdoor equipment, professional consultants such as our school nurse, staff development, continued improvements to our facilities, and staff compensation and benefits.

This will take the form of a Silent Auction, an event used by many similar programs as a primary fund raising event.

We have two active parent sub-committees working on this event. They appreciate your support both with items or services for the auction, and your presence at the event. It will be a fun time. We will provide child care by reservation for a limited number of children.

KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

February, 2010



Director's Notes

Calendar

February

1, Monday

Community Registration Begins

Your friends and neighbors may enroll.

8, 9, Monday,
Tuesday

Valentine Exchange - Watch e-mail and folder for news.

10, 11,
Wednesday,
Thursday

Parent/Teacher Conferences

9:00 - 11:30

No Classes - Be sure to sign up.
Child care available.

12, Friday

No Classes - Staff Training Day

15, Monday

No Classes - Presidents' Day

27, Saturday

Tuscan Party and Silent Auction **It's a party!! 6:30 PM**

Bring your friends and family; limited childcare by reservation only. Last day to turn in auction items is February 11. Just be creative!

March

11 Clean-Up Day - 6:30-7:30 PM
Thurs. Come join other parents cleaning your child's classroom.

29 - 4/2 **No Classes - Spring Break**

**GROUND
HOG
DAY**



Preschool 3

February is a short but full month in Preschool 3! We will open the month with discussions of Groundhog Day, shadows, dental health, and Valentine's Day. For Valentine's Day, we will decorate bags in class, and children can bring their valentines to distribute Monday and Tuesday, February 8 and 9.

February is Dental Health Month, and we will send home a tooth brushing chart. The children really enjoy keeping track of this important activity.

Our art activities will include shadow art, lips and teeth, and finger painting hearts.

During the second half of the month, we will have our unit on dinosaurs. We will have a dinosaur dig in our classroom, and we will make our own

Toddler News

Wow, January flew by, and we are into February! Last month, we did some fun crafts with snowflakes and snowmen. It was nice to get back into the school routine.

During February, we will focus our theme around love and Valentine's Day! We will make several different kinds of valentine crafts and also do some activities with teddy bears.

A sign-up sheet for conferences is up. They will be held on Wednesday, February 10, and Thursday, February 11. There is no school on those days. On Monday and Tuesday, February 8 and 9, we will decorate bags and have a valentine exchange. You can send valentines with your child's name signed on them. We will pass them out at the end of the morning.

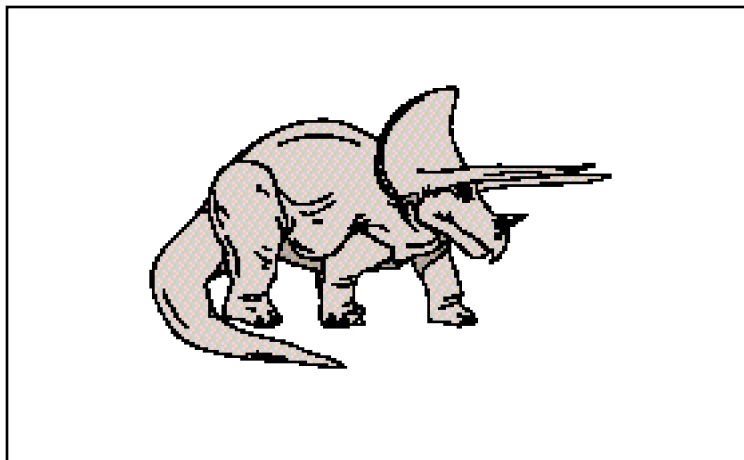
Please continue to send warm clothes for outside play.

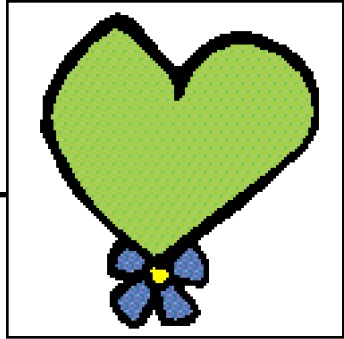
dinosaur fossils. We will discuss dinosaurs that lived here in Colorado, and we will make a volcano on the science table.

The children are really beginning to make connections to letters and numbers!

A fun activity to try at home that works on both skills is to write each letter

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Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784

I have put up a few more family pictures. You may still send in one. The children love talking about their families and seeing their friends' families. It has become one of our daily activities!

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. We are enjoying your children and love working with all our families!

Valentine Finger Play

I'm gonna wrap myself in paper,
I'm gonna stick myself with glue.
I'm gonna put a bow on top of my head.
And mail myself to you!!

Why Children Don't Listen

There are several reasons that children don't listen to adults. First and foremost, they are tired of listening. They get so many directions that they just tune out what is being said. Second, they don't listen because the words carry no "oomph!" They know that the adult talking to them will most probably not follow through. Third, they don't listen because they think they'll get their way, no matter what.

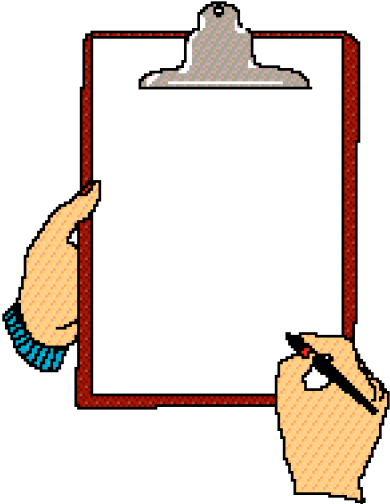
It is important that children learn to listen to adults. It is about respect. When you talk to children, speak simply, clearly, and in a LOW but firm voice. Tell the child what needs to be done. "Jenny, please turn off the TV." Most importantly, when you say something, follow through.

(adapted fr. MaryIn Appelbaum)

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of your child's name on a small square of paper. Help them to place the letters in the correct order. Then place a small toy or candy on top of each letter as you count the letters in their name.

A writing center with envelopes, paper, and stickers is also a great way to encourage early writing.



We love working with your precious children every day, and we look forward to sharing with you at conferences on February 10 and 11.

Marsha Schultze
303-423-8638
Katie Meeks
303-419-5574

Preschool Two/Three

Some of the children seemed to go through a bit of separation anxiety after Winter Break, but that has gotten better. It really is best to leave them quickly after telling them you know they will be fine. It is hard to do, but most of the time, the tears are only for your benefit. This month, we will focus on Valentine's Day, bears, visiting the doctor, and hearts.

February Finger Play

Snip, snip, snip the paper.
Glue, glue, glue the paper.
Press, press, press the paper.
Here's a valentine for you.

February Song (tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Mail your red heart valentine, valentine, valentine.
Mail your red heart valentine and send your love, oh so fine.

We will have conferences this month. Please be careful to sign up for your conference on the day your child attends. The Friday only kids will sign up on Wednesday. We will make valentine bags in class on February 5, 8, and 9. We will not have a formal party, but if you are the helper on those days, please feel free to bring a healthful heart themed snack.

The week of February 22, your child is invited to bring a favorite teddy bear. Throughout the month, we will do several bear activities, including having a bear cave in our room. Bringing their favorite bears is a fun way to bring the activities to a close.

Please remember that we go outside on all but the bitterest cold days. Children need the time outside to develop gross motor skills, and the fresh air is great for us all. Please make sure they have mittens and a hat. Boots are great to have on days with snow on the ground, and children may wear them instead of shoes.

Cindy 303-469-1160
Suzanne 303-424-5806



Preschool 3/4 Lisa Newkirk 420-2888

Our class had fun learning about polar animals, reading stories about snowmen coming to life, sledding, and other winter fun activities during cold, snowy January. The Friday class had a great time with the seniors at Colorado Lutheran home; we read *Stone Soup*, ate some of the soup with our friends, and enjoyed the magic of sharing.

This month, we'll have fun learning about Groundhog Day. We'll also explore bears and other animals that hibernate. This class will exchange valentines on February 8 and 9. Please have your children sign their names on each one if they are able, but don't label them. We will also learn about proper dental health and good nutrition, and we'll meet with Miss Mary's class to see a dental hygienist.

Conferences will be February 10 and 11. Please bring any questions that you may have. We have assessed each child and will go over the results. We will discuss Kindergarten readiness for the Prekindergarten children. Friday Friends' dates are 2/5 and 2/26.

Preschool 4/5 Shirley Pierce 303-420-8353

We've moved the children's beautiful paintings into the classroom and replaced them with the delicate mounted snowflakes cut by each child. This fine motor activity was especially fun because each snowflake is so different, even though everyone followed the same procedure to cut them.

We're continuing our study of dinosaurs and will learn two more dinosaur songs in February.

Our stories will include many about kindness and tolerance of those who are different.

To encourage kindness and thoughtfulness among children, we'll have a chart in our room. Every time that children do something kind for someone or for the group (such as picking up a hanger from the floor), they will place a heart by their names.

Some of our students already understand the concept of kindness very well; this will help their friends discover ways to help others and see themselves as kind and helpful.

All children are now able to properly hang up their jackets; please encourage them to keep practicing zipping and snapping on their own. These fine motor skills, in addition to helping their independence and self esteem, also contribute to the ability to print well!
See insert for Friday news.