

# January Newsletter

2007

## Notes from the office

### Calendar of Events

**January 23rd - Preschool-  
Mother's Work Brunch  
8:30-10:30am**

**February 8th—Craft  
Night 6:00 pm-8:00**

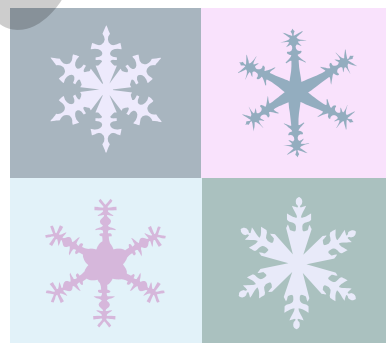
**February 14th—  
Children's Valentine  
Lunch exchange**

**February 19th - Holiday  
President's Day/No  
School**

As we move into 2007 I want to say thanks to all of you for your help, support, and generosity in 2006. We are so fortunate to have such a great group of families at West Campus!

The winter seems so long right now and the weather changes daily. The children do go outside daily, appropriate outerwear is so important. Also, several of our children do not have any changes of clothing at school. Please make sure your child has a full change of clothing.

~Heather



## Preschool Mother's Work Brunch

On January 23rd all of the mother's of children in the preschool room are invited to our Third annual Mother's Work Brunch. Please plan to join your child for brunch and special work time in the classroom. This will be from 8:30-10:30 AM. Please try to join us for some or all of this time, we are very flexible. Any mother that may not be able to join us on this day may schedule another time for a visit. Please speak with Michael to schedule this.

## LIBRARY BOOKS

Please check any books you may have borrowed from the school. The Seattle Public Library delivers books to us and some of them are missing. If you have any of these books, please return them as soon as possible. We will have to pay to replace them if they are not found.

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## Infant Room News

All of us at the Infant class are excited to start a new year and with it we say “good-bye” to Nathan Harb who has transitioned to the Toddler class. We wish him and his family the best of luck. It has been great to have Nathan in the Infant room. The Infant room is glad to welcome Sasha Murray, Brooks Murray, Logan Vaughan as well as their families. We are also happy to welcome a new morning assistant, Scott Jackson.

The Infant room teachers want to emphasize that not only do we give attention and care to your children; we also expect the infant’s active participation and cooperation. We keep in mind our goals to guide infants to become self reliant and independent. When we say independent, we mean independent in choosing and using a toy, in moving any way he/she wants to, in using his play time as he/she pleases, to become gradually more and more independent in feeding and clothing him/herself. We expect our children to accommodate better and better to respond to the respect of other children, to cooperate with the adults.

~ **Irina, Amalia, Scott, Josh, Amy & Kendre**

*“Artistic expressions is natural to human beings. Parents have a key role to play in their child’s production skills & appreciation of art. It is important not to overwhelm baby with too many artistic images. It is helpful to choose one or two prints or good paintings to hang at a low height on the wall of your child’s bedroom (low enough for baby to see but not pull down).”*

~ Excerpt from “Montessori from the Start”

*“The human hand not only allows the mind to reveal itself, but it allows the whole being to enter in a special relationship with its environment.”*

~Excerpt from Maria Montessori’s

“The Secret of Childhood”.

## Toddler Class News

Happy New Year from all of us in the Toddler classroom! This month we wished our friends Julius and Ruby a happy transition to Preschool classroom. We also welcome our new friend Nathan from the Infant classroom.

The children in the Toddler classroom are busy this month using stickers. You may have noticed your child has filled his or her cubby with art work. The children are using their fine motor skills to peel and stick. Some are interested in lining up stickers or matching corresponding colors.

We are continuing to go on short walks. We are also spending time on the playground to run, climb, push, pull and dig outside of the classroom. Please check to see if your child is stocked with extra clothes to change into if necessary. A little time for physical activity is important to the Toddlers year-round.

Language is really becoming clear and constant. The children are learning to name people, places and things. We are using phrases such as “help please”, “more please”, “thank-you” and “excuse me” to communicate needs. We are also reading and doing activities as a group to use language and to communicate.

~ **Jayme, Dora, Pat, Laura & Marian**



## Preschool Class News

2007

January has brought new changes in the preschool room. We welcomed transitioning toddlers Ruby Wolken and Julius Zimmerman to the Preschool room. We also welcomed back Sophia Vaughan and her family. The transitions were smooth and successful. It is wonderful to see in action the Montessori philosophy of observation. The new preschoolers observing the current preschoolers, and the teachers observing the children. A parent note in referencing last months newsletter: dressing your child for success. The teachers have observed children coming dressed in pants that are difficult to unbutton or unsnap. Laced shoes can be very frustrating to understand and manipulate. It is important to consistently hear; "I did it myself", and to instill independence.

We also warmly welcomed teacher Jonathan Quon. Jonathan is working in the preschool and his hours are 9:30 to 5:30.

January is also a month of celebrations and festivities. I incorporate the African American celebration of Kwanzaa into the remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. day. I also have the children celebrate the holiday of Mardi Gras. On Tuesday January 9th we crown the king or queen of Mardi Gras. Traditionally the queen or king shares their wealth with the throwing of beaded necklaces.

Birthday wishes this month extended to Patrick and Ryan Gamble, Jenny Xu, and Oliver Page-Kuhr.

New curriculum this month will introduce the letters of the week. The letters of the week correspond to two letters from our language material of the initial sound boxes. Letters of the week will be introduced every Tuesday starting January 23rd. I like to encourage children to bring sharing that starts with one of the letters of the week, but is not mandatory. We will also be studying more earthly sciences. Friday morning circles, starting the 19th, will be introducing sign language curriculum. Hope to see many mothers for our yearly work brunch on Tuesday January 23rd. ~Michael, Amy, Jonathan, Jo, and Jennifer



## Preschool Afternoon Program News

This month in the afternoon program your children can expect to be busy with multiple new works and projects that will be available to them.

In December we introduced Candyland into the classroom and will continue this month by adding more structured board games such as checkers, connect four, and guess who. Being able to understand and follow the rules of a game is an important concept for children to grasp and I expect them to do well with this challenge. Wednesdays will now be "big art project day". This will allow children once a week to engage in larger group art explorations, that will usually be a bit more messy. We will do the best we can to keep your children from getting too messy in participating in these projects, but please do keep the nature of that day's activity in mind when dressing them. These will usually be projects that will be kept at school, so please don't hesitate to ask your children to point them out to you.

We hope this month will be full of fun for your children!

~Jo, Jennifer and Jonathan