

Dear OUR School Families,

Welcome 2014, Happy New Year everyone. OUR School staff would like to send a HUGE THANK YOU to all the families for the many gifts we received throughout the month of December. Your generous gifts made us all feel loved and appreciated even more so than we already do! Thanks again. We have been relishing in the beauty of the snowfalls we have had this month. As we welcome this New Year, we will also be welcoming a few temporary changes at OUR School.

As you are all aware, I am getting painfully close to my due date and wanted to share some thoughts and requests with you all before I head off for my maternity leave. I am planning to work up to the due date (Mid-January) but may be shortening my days as I get closer to my delivery. If you are feeling like you haven't seen me in a while and need to touch base with me, please feel free to send me a quick email to request a meeting time if you need to speak with me face-to-face and I would be glad to correspond my schedule with yours so we can meet.

While I am gone, Megan Pluger will be handling all the day-to-day "stuff" that comes along, so please see her with any concerns or questions. You can correspond with Megan personally, by phone, or if you would like to email her, please do so at ourschoolmegp@gmail.com. She will be able to address all question or concerns in my absence. Deb Williams (Megan's Mom) will be opening and working in our toddler room each day while Megan will be in the office. Davy Lampman will be here on Fridays of each week to handle administrative duties. You can email Davy at ourschool.davylampman@gmail.com with any questions regarding invoices, billing, etc. As a reminder: MAKE SURE YOU SIGN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS IN THE VOLUNTEER LOG BOOK EVERY MONTH!!! Davy will be relying only on the volunteer log to credit you for volunteering, so if you are not in the book, you will be charged the \$50 volunteer fee. These small things will help so much... thanks for your help.

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and we are all excited for our annual *Secret Friend Valentine Exchange*. Each child will pick from a hat ONE secret friend to make a special valentine for. On February 14th, we will have a party to exchange each valentine. A list will be posted in the cubby room with your child's special friend's name. Your child is responsible to make their secret friend a Valentine and bring it to school by the 14th. The Toddler room and Infant room will be doing their own creative projects around Valentine's Day, so keep your eyes peeled. It's always nice to feel loved and because you share your precious children with us—we feel loved every day. We are truly thankful for being blessed with their sweet spirits! If you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher or see Joy or Megan.

Thank you all for your support and cooperation during my pregnancy and maternity leave; you are all in good hands with the knowledgeable and capable staff of OUR School. I do appreciate all of your understanding with my pregnancy-induced amnesia and memory problems(ha ha); you've all been very patient! Luckily this condition will improve soon, we hope! You all are wonderful! Happy New Year and God Bless! -Joy Love



AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Preschool News

As the year has transitioned, the preschool will be transitioning as well, into our new unit: Asian Folktales! We will be telling stories and comparing cultures, from family structures to foods. There will be crafts galore as we create lanterns, dragons, Noh masks, and calligraphy. Hand in hand with this unit, we begin the planning stages for Spring Play Fundraiser. Ms. Joy will be introducing and explaining to the children the concept and structures a play should have, and we'll be their support as the children decide on their own plot and characters. Also helping the preschool with this unit is our very own Miss Jacque, who spent time in Thailand as a teacher. She will be teaching us songs in Thai. We are very excited to begin exploring this unit with so much to learn, and can't wait to see what the kids come up with as we brainstorm for the play!

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- Ms Leigh and Ms. Dona



Toddiland Happenings

This month's fairy-tale-based theme draws upon the story elements found in fairy tales to provide a rich assortment of literacy activities. Children can move like fairies, learn fairy tale vocabulary, braid bread like Rapunzel's hair, compare and contrast, sequence, count the spikes on a dragon's spine, make patterned crowns, learn words that rhyme with king, and a whole lot more. This is a theme that will keep children learning happily ever after!

-Ms Megan, Ms Caitlyn, Ms Linda and Ms. Deb



Infant News

Happy New Year! Thank you all for your participation in the Infant Christmas Program. It is so good to see you all again after the break, but lots of transitions: little ones spending some days in the Toddler Room, several new babies, a new culture being created with lots of new vocabulary and physical skills! We are all looking forward to a promising and positive start this January 2014 - especially for our productive and perfectly pregnant director-Blessings to her and you all!

-Ms. Jacque