

# TPCDC Newsletter

January 2017



Director's Notes:

I hope you all had wonderful holidays full of special family memories. Now as we settle back into our customary activities for winter, which involve a lot of indoor activities, what can be better than to curl up on a cold day with a good book? But, one of the new hot topics about literacy relates to boys and the development of literacy skills. How do we make better readers out of our boys? These recent video/studies points out some of the differences between literacy skills of boys and girls:

<https://www.facebook.com/worldeconomicforum/videos/10153921014441479/>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/boys-and-books>

Other studies suggest that stereotyping or school environment rather than physical/brain differences can be more responsible for gender performance variances, and I think parents and educators should be very vigilant not to unwittingly fall into these quagmires:

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/gender-differences-learning/>

<http://educationnext.org/gender-gap/>

Some handy literacy checklists to make sure home and school support reading skills for all children:

<http://www.getreadytoread.org/images/content/downloads/literacy%20checklists/HomeLiteracyEnglish.pdf>

<http://www.getreadytoread.org/images/content/downloads/literacy%20checklists/ClassroomLiteracyEnglish.pdf>

## **Important Dates to Remember**

Jan. 2 – TPCDC Closed – New Year's Day

Jan. 16 – TPCDC Closed – MLK Jr. Holiday

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> - Public School Closed – TPCDC Open

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>- Public School Closed- TPCDC Open



## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

The first round of parent-teacher conferences will be happening this month. Please check with your child's teacher to schedule a conference.

## **Weather Appropriate Clothing**

It is essential to the health of the children that they play outside every day, except in inclement weather. So, please make sure that your child has all the appropriate layers of outdoor clothing so that we can bundle them up warmly. Don't forget those boots for snowy days, we can always help your child put them on if you don't want them to wear them all day.

## **TEDDY BEARS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Ana & the Teddy Bears' Staff.**

Dear Parents, we hope you all have had a wonderful Holiday Season and get ready to enjoy the cold, cold days. The Teddy Bears are looking forward to enjoying this month discussing winter while practicing some learning and self-help skills through activities. We will do activities with ice, such playing and painting with it. We will also have many other art activities, songs, games and cooking projects where children will be able to practice their fine motor, cognitive and language competences. We will continue taking short neighborhood walks throughout the winter, so please make sure to dress your child with warm clothes. Thank you so much for all your support.

## **MUNCHKINS NEWSLETTER- Ms. Pam**

Happy New Year Munchkin Families! This month the munchkins will explore science by conducting various experiments and seeing what the results may be. We will also use our bodies to perform various physical activities and exercise. You can follow-up with your child and have them learn an exercise or two to demonstrate to the class. Lastly, we will send home simple activities that you can practice at home with your child, placed in their cubby. Please feel free to try them together. Happy Experimenting!

### **RAINBOWS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Corina**

M is for Music! The month of January in the Rainbow classroom will be focused on music making.

Early in life children often show their interest in music as they move their bodies by bouncing, dancing or clapping; in early education many lessons are taught using music as a method to learn things like the days of the week or months of the year, to encourage cleaning up, as well as phonetic sounds of literacy or numbers, all to a beat. In essence, music helps “develop skills in literacy, math, technology and the arts”. For these reasons, plus the fact that music making can be so much fun, we will take the time to investigate it in depth.

We will explore percussion instruments and how people play them. We'll recognize our voices as instruments, the different genres of music, as well as those who work with music and the tools they use. This will be an exciting and noisy month!

At home, expand on our topic by listening to music with your child, talking the feelings evoked, about your traditional music, how is it different or similar to other types of music, and perhaps the instruments used to create those sounds. Most importantly, sing, dance and follow the beat with your child!

Parent Contribution to our classroom: Reading to the class is ALWAYS welcome, and, please, if you play or know of anyone who plays or creates any type of music, especially with non-traditional instruments, please see one of the teachers to arrange a time to dedicate to the children in or out of the classroom.

### **EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Sherri**

Happy New Year! This month the Explorers will do a study on boxes. Why investigate boxes? Boxes provide endless possibilities for young children. They have the power to hold children's attention and spark their imagination in astonishing ways. A study of boxes builds on children's natural curiosity and promotes important skills as children gather information, learn about the world around them and solve problems. Children will explore many types of boxes, investigate how they are made, observe people using them in different ways, and learn about tools and equipment people use to move them. This study gives children meaningful ways to use skills in literacy, mathematics, the arts, technology, physical development, science and social studies. January 24<sup>th</sup> is our 100<sup>th</sup> day of successful learning as an Explorer. This is a special day for us because it's the half way point on our way to becoming kindergarteners. We celebrate with games, fun activities, a piñata and a special snack. Our celebration is from 3:30-4:30. Parents are welcome to join us. Over the holidays children have traveled to interesting places, have had special visitors and received gifts. We want to give them the opportunity to share these wonderful memories, so this month children can bring whatever they want for show-n-tell. Please exclude weapons. We will probably start getting snow soon and if we do the Explorers **will** go out in it. Snow pants, gloves and snow boots are required for your child to join in this outdoor excitement. Licensing requires all children to have a sheet covering their cot/mat everyday during rest time. Please remember to bring on Monday and take home on Friday to be washed. Please check your child's cubby to make sure they have a complete set of extra clothes.

### **SHINNING STARS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Rosa**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017! We hope you have had a wonderful holiday season! For this month the Shinning Stars class will be focusing on eating healthy food and exercise. We are going to emphasize why it is very important to have a healthy shakes and cooking projects, Zumba dance and more. Please remember to help your child dress appropriately for the inclement weather; we want to make sure the children stay warm while having fun playing outside. Lastly, many thanks to the parents who help us with our canned food drive, we really appreciate your generosity.

### **BRIGHT STARS AND SCHOOL AGERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Brenda**

Happy New Year! The School-agers and Bright Stars are going to start the New Year off with a bang. For the month of January we will be focusing on unity. We will make a quilt as a group. We will need the help of any crafty parents that may know how to sew. We will donate the quilt to Victory Towers. We celebrate Chinese New Year's with a potluck and classroom activities.

**Friendly Reminder:** Please remember to sign up your child for camp days on time. It is important in order to have the proper number of kids for field trip reservations.

