

February

Dear TPCDC Parents,

As we celebrate the month of February our awesome children have some lovely learning opportunities this month. February is National Dental Month and here are a few helpful tips. Get an Early Start-Establish a regular tooth care regimen. Beginning an oral health routine with your child at an early age is important for the life of his/her smile. From before the time your baby's first teeth appear through the development of adult teeth, good habits are the foundation for the future of your child's oral health. Use a soft child-sized tooth brush and water to start, being sure to get into the back of the mouth where food can lodge in molars. Introduce toothpaste after age 3, you can add a pea-sized bit of fluoride-enriched toothpaste to your routine. Show your child how to spit out toothpaste as well, rather than swallow. Giving your child small sips of water between brushing and showing her/him how to swish water in her/his mouth will encourage them to spit it out. Ideally you want to spend three minutes brushing, which may not be easy with younger preschoolers. Just do the best brushing you can. The most important thing is getting to all the tooth surfaces, especially the back teeth. Brushing three times a day is best, but your child should at least brush in the morning and at bedtime. Brushing right before bed is especially important because at night there is no saliva or jaw movements to help sweep away food particles. Make daily brushing fun and rewarding with these simple tips: choose toothpaste and dental rinses in flavors designed to be more appealing to kids. Create a reward system for daily brushing success. Pick out a calendar at the store with your child, and add a star for each day they brush. **Happy Brushing!**

Parent-Teachers conferences

Our teachers have been holding conferences with parents. If you have not had the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers, you can easily reach them by phone during nap time (1:30pm) to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Family Concert Fundraiser

Please save the date: Saturday, March 14th will be the Family Concert Fundraiser. It will be held in the big gym and will feature performances by the children, an Art and a Bake Sale, and delicious food in a fun atmosphere. Our fundraising goal is to put at least \$5000 in the TPCDC staff development fund, which will help cover a portion of the staff tuition expenses, which is a truly worthy project. So please join and support! To purchase your tickets you can either stop by the school office or online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1218987>. We also need parent volunteers to help with set-up, preparation, and clean-up – let someone from the office staff know how you'd like to help.

Task Forces/Ad Hoc Committees

We have been working to improve and regulate various areas of operation here at TPCDC. In doing so we thought it would be nice to formulate committees involving teachers and parents. Our first hybrid committee, the field trip committee, has completed their first few tasks. To review the newly comprised Field Trip Chaperone Tips [click here](#).

Behavior and Development

Making friends. Showing anger in a healthy way. Figuring out conflicts peacefully. Taking care of someone who has been hurt. Waiting patiently. Following rules. Enjoying the company of others. All of these qualities, and more, describe the arc of healthy social-emotional development. Like any skill, young children develop these abilities in small steps over time. Learn what you can do to support social-emotional development in your child from [birth to 12 months](#), [12-24 months](#), [24-36 months](#) (Zero to Three, Promoting social-Emotional Development, 2014).

Spring and Summer School Age Camp Registration

Spring Break is just around the corner and summer is trailing closely behind it. Don't wait until the last minute to enroll your child in our TPCDC Spring Break and Summer Camp. Space is available on a first come first serve basis, so secure your child's space TODAY! To register for Spring Break Camp contact the office by stopping by, emailing at tpcdc1111@yahoo.com or calling (301)270-6824. If you would like to register for TPCDC Summer Camp please [click here](#) to fill out the registration form.

TPCDC Newsletter 2015

Dates to Remember

- 12 Explorers'/Rainbows'
Disney on Ice Field Trip
- 12 Board Meeting
- 16 TPCDC Closed
President's Day
- 25 Explorer's Field Trip -
Recycling Facility
- 27 Public School Early Release

Board of Directors

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Classroom Updates

Teddy Bears

The teddy bears continue to have fun in the classroom while little by little they are developing their social and language skills. For the month of February, we will talk about shapes focusing on: triangle, heart, circle, and square. We will do art activities related to the weekly topics, such as painting, pasting and building with the different shapes. The objective is to promote shape recognition as well as to help the children to develop their language skills. We have planned a Valentine Pot Luck for the teddy bears on Friday, February 13th. We ask that parents bring a dish to share. Eventually, we will post a sign sheet for the items that you can bring. Happy Valentine's Day, Love, Teddy Bears.

Munchkins

We are excited about the festive month of February as we learn about the groundhog, ants and other animals that make burrows as houses. In addition to learning about animals that burrow we will celebrate our friends but most importantly the people we love. As inhabitants of this great land we will take time to talk about the United States of America's president and make the USA flag. Then, we will travel half way around the globe to China to celebrate the Chinese New Year and decorate our classroom with Chinese lanterns handcrafted by our own Munchkins. Lastly, we will come back to the USA and end our Festive February with Zydeco music as we string beads to celebrate a traditional Louisianan Mardi Gras.

Helpful questions to enhance our experiences this month:

What is a groundhog and how does it make its house? Where do they live? What other animals or insects make burrows to live in?

Who do you love? Do you know who loves you?

What is the name of our president? What are the colors of our flag?

Where is China? What is their lucky color?

Do you like Zydeco music? How many beads did you use to make your necklace?



Rainbows

Welcome to the month of February. This month we will be learning about ways we can reduce, reuse, and recycle. The children will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math and science. They will develop thinking skills, observe, investigate, ask questions, make predictions and solve problems. At home you can help your child raise their awareness of the kinds of trash and garbage they create every day. Throughout the month we will read books and engage in fun activities about recycling. We will learn where goods go to get recycled and what materials can and cannot be recycled. By learning about all of these things, we will help the children become more environment-friendly.

Explorers

We have several topics for February's learning experiences. February begins with Groundhog's Day on Monday 2/2. We will have fun discussing whether groundhogs can really predict the weather. We will also learn interesting facts about groundhogs, what they eat, where they live, do they make good pets and who their predators are.

During the week of February 9-13, we will discuss friendship, what a friend is, kind words, feelings and being a great friend.

On Friday, 2/13, we will exchange valentine cards in the morning, have a potluck lunch (a sign-up sheet will be posted on the board) and a friendship dance with a special snack in the afternoon from 3-4.

February 16-20, we will discuss presidents and money, who are the presidents and non-presidents on money, what is money, what is a piggy bank, where money is made, why we need money and what happens at a bank.

February 23-27, we will experiment with mixing colors with red, find and discuss red items in our classroom, rhyme words with red and create a story using red as the main subject.

For show-n-tell we would like the children to choose one item from any one of the following topics: groundhogs, friendship, presidents, money and red.

Please remember to keep a complete set of extra clothes in your cubby. We will continue to use the cubby bags for coats, hats gloves/mittens.

To keep the lice situation under control, please continue to child's hair regularly.

We have a field trip scheduled for Thursday, February 12 to see Disney on Ice, World of Fantasy at the Verizon Center. Information is posted on the board in the hall.

We're waiting for confirmation on a field trip to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. As soon as we receive finalized information we will be sure to post it.

School Agers'

This month the Bright Stars, Shining Stars and School Agers will have lots of interactive activities to partake in. For starters, we have a sweetheart party on February 13th at 4:30pm in each of the classrooms. We will need donations of yummy treats. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Children will be allowed to bring in Valentines and a list will be placed in each child's mailbox. There will be various art and cooking projects throughout the month. Additionally, we will have a Karaoke Bash on Wednesday, February 18th in the small gym from 5:30-6:30pm. We will sing songs that the children are familiar with. Light refreshments will be served and parents are welcomed to attend. But please bring your best singing voice with you! Photos will be posted outside of the classroom, which will reflect some of the activities in action. Friendly reminder: Parents please remember to sign in and out, it is very important that you do so. Please remember to inform the office if your child will not be attending TPCDC after care. We are looking forward to a fun February. Congratulations to Nicaya, one of our school age students, who was featured in an article in the Takoma Park Newsletter for showcasing some of her drawings at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Click [here](#) to see the article.