

TPCDC Newsletter

March 2016



Director's Notes

As adults, we can tend to over-think how to teach math to young children. Promoting mathematical thinking and basic math concepts can come through all kinds of simple hands-on activities, like exploring shapes, cooking, comparing and contrasting, creating patterns from everyday materials, estimating and sorting items. Even simple "chores" such as sorting laundry, putting away dishes (from the smallest item to the largest), searching for shapes on the commute and counting steps as the dog is walked, can help math concepts become a fun, but real part of the children's lives.

<http://www.getreadytoread.org/early-learning-childhood-basics/early-math/early-math-matters-a-guide-for-parents-of-preschoolers>

<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2012/02/everyday-math-in-preschool/>

Important Dates to Remember

March 24 and 25- Public School Closed-TPCDC Open

March-28- April 1- Spring Break Public Schools-6 days-TPCDC Open

Read Across America:



This year we will be celebrating and participating in *Read Across America* starting March 2! We will be participating as a school (all ages) to reach our goal of reading 1,500 books. All books read at home and at school will count towards our goal. If all children at our school read 13 books or more (which we know they will!), we will achieve our goal. There will be a chart on the classroom door (starting March 2nd) where parents can report how many books were read at home. We will keep a tally each week in main building so that you can see the progress we're making towards our goal of 1,500 books!

Diaper Drive

It's that time again! Throughout March TPCDC will be hosting a drive to collect diapers, wipes, and baby essentials (a complete list is below). All donations will go to DC Diaper Bank, a nonprofit that provides diapers and other essentials to more than 3,600 low income families in the DC area each month. Diapers are not covered by WIC/food stamps, and many families struggle to afford diapers--which can cost up to \$120 a month. Collection boxes will be placed outside each classroom for the entire month of March. If you have questions, please call or email me at 301-605-0560 or lisa_pilnik@yahoo.com. You can also learn more about DC Diaper Bank, including other ways to support their important work, by visiting

www.dcdiaperbank.org



TEDDY BEARS NEWSLETTER - Ms. Ana

Dear Parents, the Teddy Bears had a great time learning about shapes this month. We had fun painting different shape pictures and building with a variety of shapes. For the month of March, we look forward to learning and having fun talking about zoo animals. We will discuss large animals such as elephants, hippos, zebras, and giraffes as well as small animals like monkeys, apes, turtles and crocodile.

Our objective is for the children to acquire the knowledge about animals and which animals can be seen at the zoo, also for them to build their vocabulary by naming them and playing with zoo animal toys. To enhance our topic, we are having a field trip to the National Zoo on March 30th, so the children can have the opportunity to see some animals in their habitats.



MUNCHKINS NEWSLETTER- Ms. Pam

Munchkin Families, in the month of March we will be studying the concept of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. As we study we will also be developing thinking skills to observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems and making predictions. We will be doing activities such as “what’s inside that box”, junk collection, junk patterns and a marching junk band to name a few. To start, we need help gathering items to investigate. We are asking for the following items:



- Paper towel rolls
- Bottle tops
- Left over wrapping paper
- Empty packaging
- Telephones
- Fabric scraps
- Empty plastic containers
- Trash bag
- Tin foil

Thank you again for all your help!

RAINBOWS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Teresa

When the rainbows go for walks around the neighborhood many of the children ask how things are built and what materials was used to built it. They even ask how old our school building is and who build it? These questions from the children brought our attention to study about buildings for the month of March. Children will be learning math, literacy, problem solving and prediction skills. . We are asking parents to get involved in our study by bringing a picture of your home or any buildings of interest. We are also asking parents to study your homes with your child and discuss the materials used. During this month we will have two field trips: one to the Building Museum in Washington DC and the other to Home Depot to expand our topic. We are looking forward to having fun with buildings!



EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Selvi

During the month of March the Explorers will begin a study on trees. We will observe, compare, learn about what lives in trees, what they’re made of, who cares for them and much more! We hope this study will help children understand that trees are part of nature and how they are important to the environment, animals and people. As we study trees, we will focus on the following concepts: literacy, math, and the arts to explore the topic in details. We will learn important social studies and scientific concepts. Spring begins on March 29th. As this season approaches, we notice a change in the weather, some days are mild and some are very windy. We will record the differences in the weather using a lamb symbol for gentle winds and the lion for strong winds (roar!). At the end of the month we will tally our information and discuss the changes in our environment. We have a planned field trip to see the play “Flying Feet & Fiddle Bows” March 17th at the Ripley Center, Smithsonian.



BRIGHT STARS, SHINING STARS’ AND SCHOOL AGERS NEWSLETTER – Mr. Johnathan



For the month of March we are going green! We will be enjoying several outdoor activities. To welcome spring we will be planting fruits, herbs, vegetables and a tree. We will learn the importance of recycling and how it affects our ecosystem. We will also make a compost box to better our environment. While helping the environment we will better ourselves by enjoying healthy foods that we will prepare. We are very excited for the month of March; especially our planned Spring Break activities!



