



Discovery Montessori January 2015 Newsletter



Important Dates

January 5 th	School Resumes
January 10 th	Kid's Night Out (6-10 PM)
January 19 th	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No School)
January 29 th -30 th	Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School or Daycare)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy your holiday break. See you January 5th, 2015.

HOLIDAY

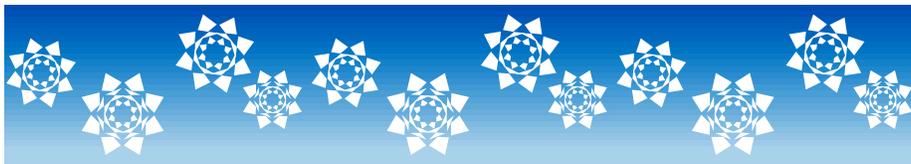
Monday, January 19th is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. There will be no school or daycare that day.

CONFERENCES

This month we will have parent teacher conferences on Thursday, January 29th and Friday, January 30th. **There will be no school or daycare on those days.** Accompanying this newsletter is a schedule of times available for sign up. We will give first priority to those who respond early. Please note that there is a space to mark for people who are able to come at any time. If you mark this space, the teachers will assign you a time. Children will bring home a confirmation slip for the parent's conference time in their Friday folder on January 16th. If you do not receive one, please let us know. We welcome your questions and concerns at conference time. We'll also give you our perception of how your child works and interacts in the program, and the kind of work and activities we might be introducing him/her to in the next months. **Please make other arrangements for the care of your children. Conferences are for adults only.**

ACCOUNT BALANCES

There will be a record of your account balance from January through December 2014 in your child's folder this week, **please keep it for your tax records.**



STUDY OF THE MONTH

Preschool/Kindergarten: Continue sequence of Montessori materials. Cultural: History—Martin Luther King Jr., Geography—Introduction to South America, Animals of S. America, learning country names, flags, and landforms. Art Appreciation: Jacob Lawrence-- *The Migration & Builders* Art: easel painting raised line design (Columbia), glue pictures, winter art. Music/Movement: “Gum San”, “Chesapeake”, “We Shall Overcome,” “Once There Was a Man Named King,” “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing,” “Los Pollitos (Little Chicks), Cooking: Nachos (Venezuela), Guava Cream Cheese (Brazil), Choc. Pudding or Hot Cocoa. Show & Tell: Something miniature (Bolivian Festival—Alacitas), something made out of rubber (Brazil), something made out of coffee or cocoa. Spanish

Elementary: Writing skills – letters, phone etiquette, research and emails. Cultural: History—Medieval times, Geography/Science—Further space and chemistry exploration. Art, Cooking, Spanish. Sign Language, Introduction to Culture Fair Project, Computer Skills (keyboarding, PowerPoint or Moviemaker)

As fall comes to an end, we will begin talking about the winter season. Some of our art and practical life activities will reflect our study of this season. We’ll also be talking about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Box Tops & Campbell Labels

Our box tops challenge will continue until January 9th. Any class who reaches 1,000 tops and labels will win a pizza party from Mrs. Valerie in the office. If the class reaches 2,000 tops and labels, they will have an ice cream and pizza party. Don’t forget to ask your relatives and friends to donate their labels.

SK Helpline Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who participated in November’s Food Drive Contest. The winning class earned an ice cream party (***Givens Preschool with 286 items!***)! December’s food drive winners will be announced in the next newsletter. Of course the real winners are those families who will be receiving a Thanksgiving Basket this year because of the great job our students did in donating canned food.

Scholastic Book Orders

We have not received the Scholastic flyers yet. They will be sent home around the first week in January in your child’s folder and due on January 15th. You can also order online with our school code (H3X9Z) at clubs.scholastic.com. Please make sure you put your child’s name on the order so we can assure you get your books.

Yearbook

We have decided to create our yearbook with TreeRing.com again this year. You may upload and purchase your Discovery Montessori 2014-15 yearbooks through them. The school will have several yearbooks for families who do not have internet access to purchase. This will also give you access to design your 2 free custom pages that are unique to your yearbook. More information will be sent in January. ***We are looking for parent volunteers to help.*** Please see Mrs. Valerie if you have any questions or problems logging in.

Pearson's Picks

Salt Dough Ornaments

Not all holiday baking needs to be eaten! This is an easy project to do with kids that can have unique results for each person. Make them to keep or to give as gifts.

Ingredients:

1 cup flour (and more as needed)

½ cup salt

½ cup water

*fun variation – add a tablespoon of cinnamon to the dry ingredients!

Equipment needed:

rolling pin

cookie sheet

drinking straw

cookie cutters

acrylic paint w/ paint brushes

ribbon

glitter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 250 degrees Fahrenheit

Measure flour and salt into medium mixing bowl and stir to blend.

Add water mixing thoroughly.

Knead dough on a floured surface until it is soft and pliable.

Add more flour if needed.

Using a floured rolling pin, roll the dough to a ¼ inch thickness. At this point, you can pun imprints in the dough with stamps or other items.

Cut ornaments using cookie cutters.

Place pieces onto an ungreased cookie sheet.

Using the straw, you can cut a hole for a ribbon.

Place the ornaments in the oven and bake for 2-3 hours, or until completely dry. Flip once while baking.

Remove from oven and allow cooling.

When the ornaments are completely cool, they can be decorated with paints and glitter.

If you want your ornaments to last for years, seal them with 3 to 4 thin coats of non-toxic acrylic varnish after the decorated pain has fully dried. Make sure to coat the entire surface to prevent moisture from getting in.

These directions were taken from www.mommypotamus.com but I also found this on Pinterest along with many variations of dough. I also remember making these as a child with my mom.

