



**Discovery Montessori**

## **February 2015 Newsletter**

### **Important Dates**

- February 10<sup>th</sup> - Book Orders Due**
- February 13<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day Card Exchange**
- February 16<sup>th</sup> - Presidents Day --- No School**
- February 20<sup>th</sup>- Field Trip (all classes) - Museum of Glass**
- February 21<sup>st</sup>- Parent's Night Out --- 6:00-10:00pm**

## Valentine's Day

Every year we celebrate one of our culture's traditions, Valentine's Day. We will have a Valentine snack and card exchange during class time on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Accompanying this letter is a list of children in your child's class so if your child would like to join in by giving valentines to his/her friends, s/he may. We like to encourage it, because the children spend some time thinking about their classmates, and they may be able to use some of their writing skills to sign and/or address the cards and they may begin using some of their reading skills.

We will be making Valentine holders on the week of Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 14<sup>th</sup> your child may bring the valentines s/he has prepared for his/her classmates. By having them bring their valentines over several days it will be easier for us to have time to see that each child gets their valentines into the right holder. All children will be making valentine holders.

If you are interested in sending a store bought Valentine treat for our snack, please sign up on the sheet posted on the door or by the sign-in sheets.

### REMINDERS

- **If you have moved, changed jobs, or have a new phone number, please notify the office so we can update your emergency contact information.**
- **Please send a warm coat with your child to school every day. We are definitely taking advantage of any day that we can let the children play outside. We are outside during recess and after school.**

## DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

February is Dental Health Month. Schedule permitting, we will have Dr. Bock come in and talk to the children about keeping their teeth healthy.

### STUDY OF THE MONTH

Our curriculum emphasis this month will center on many of our holidays and traditions. We'll touch on Groundhog's Day, President's Day and enjoy many Valentine activities. February is also National Dental Health Month. Classes will participate with a variety of activities and a visit from a local dentist.

**Preschool/Kindergarten:** Further Montessori materials. Cultural: History—continue calendar awareness, Geography—introduction to continent of Africa including: Animals of Africa, maps, matching cards, and flag making. Art Appreciation: Dale Chihuly—glass blowing/Tacoma Museum of Glass, Cappy Thompson—*Gathering the Light*. Art: Valentine Art, stained glass window, mosaics, African art. Music/Movement: “The Crocodile”, “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”, “My Aunt Came Back.” Cooking: Banana Slices (Kenya), Valentine Cookies, Patriotic Parfait, Fresh Fruit and Coconut Dip (Ghana), Safari Snacks. Show and Tell: an African animal, a Valentine item, item from African culture, an elliptical or an oval item. Spanish.

**Elementary:** Writing skills – beginning research. Geography/Science—maps and energy. Cultural: History—Africa, Art Appreciation, Art, Music/Movement, Cooking, Spanish. Sign Language, Continue Culture Fair Project, Computer Skills (keyboarding, PowerPoint or moviemaker)

## **CONFERENCES**

Thank you for taking time to come in and talk with us about your children. They have made great progress this year. You will receive your last report card at the end of the year. If you have questions or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.

## **BOX TOP PROGRAM**

We would like to congratulate the children on doing an outstanding job collecting Box Tops and Campbell's Labels

## **YEARBOOK**

If you have pictures of our students from any event this year, please put them on a disk and bring them to the office. You may also upload your photos on our yearbook website. We are in need of any pictures you have of school events. Just visit [www.treering.com](http://www.treering.com) and enter the pass code: 1013534502964234. We have one parent volunteer helping with the yearbook, but we could use more help please!

## **DISATER DRILL**

On a quarterly basis, we conduct disaster drills. During the last full week of January your children may have talked about our drill. This time we conducted a lockdown drill. In this drill all the doors were locked, the windows were covered, and the children congregated and crouched down in their classrooms. The children were told that sometimes some people do things we don't really understand that may put us in danger, so we may be forced to take shelter and hide until it is safe to go about our normal activities. It was conducted on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **PEARSON'S PICK**

### **Chores to help the family at all ages with instruction**

Children are capable of doing chores that benefit the whole family. Even a 2 ½ year old can offer help to some degree if you teach them how. Teaching your child to do any chore may initially take more time than just doing the chore yourself. Some children will need more supervision than others, over a longer period of time, before they can complete the work up to your standard.

#### **Ages 2-7**

- clearing dishes
- wiping the table clean after meals
- watering the garden
- putting dirty clothes into the laundry basket
- sorting cutlery from the dishwasher
- matching socks from the clean laundry
- folding towels

#### **Ages 8-11**

- Sweep floors
- hang / fold clean clothes
- put groceries away
- clean bathrooms
- vacuum rugs
- clean countertops

#### **Ages 12 +**

- mop floors
- wash / vacuum car
- wash windows
- wash laundry
- cook a meal

#### **Tips:**

- Be encouraging
- Play some music in the background
- Do your work in the same space
- Give specific positive feedback. For example: "I like how you carried the glass with two hands" or "I like how you swept the crumbs from under the table".

## SEATTLE MARINER'S FAMILY DAY

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Seattle Mariners Family Day at Safeco Field. We have reserved 100 seats in section 331 behind Home Plate. The Mariners are playing the Texas Rangers and the game will start at 1:10pm. You will be able to buy your tickets from the school for \$11 each. Please make all checks out to Discovery Montessori. Tickets will not be available on-line this year. An order form will be going out soon. This form will need to be brought to the office before March 27<sup>th</sup>. Extra forms will be available in the office.

## STUDENT TREASURES

The K-1 and upper elementary students are creating Student Treasure books again this year. These books are a compilation of work written by each student, which will then be sent to a publishing company for printing. The Elementary and K-1 classes will each have their own books. The cost per book is \$19.95 and order forms will be sent home and will be found in each classroom (K-1 and Elementary classrooms). Order forms **MUST** be turned in to your child's class by February 6<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Hensley in the Elementary class or Mrs. Gooding in the Kendall Preschool.

