



February 2009

Dear Parents,

Happy February days to you. This is always a fun month with the celebration of Valentine's Day in the middle and the opportunity to share our love with others!

The life value of Being Accepting of Others will be a focus for us this month. It is important for young children to learn this now for it will be a building block for them in the future.

Our theme for February is Children Around the World. We have lots of fun projects and activities planned to assist the children in further understanding different cultures around the world. Our young children are growing up in a global society so this unit will be relevant to our life today!

We will celebrate Valentine's Day and the importance of sharing our love with others by visiting Parkshore in St. Louis Park February 11 and Friendship Village on February 12 at 10:30 (buses will leave at 10:00). The children will sing and pass out hand-made valentines to the residents. It is a delightful time of sharing joy with the elderly and the residential staff. They look forward to our visits! Please join us for a special morning.

It is a fun tradition at the Berry Patch for the children to bring valentines to school for their classmates. Each child will have their own bag to decorate for their valentines. Please have your child sign his/her name on the valentines and leave the envelope blank. This makes the valentine delivery much easier for the preschooler! It will be fun for you to spend time with your child reading the class valentines at home. You might want to plan a family activity of making valentines for grandparents, neighbors, etc. Have fun and be creative! This helps instill in the young child the joy of giving to others.

Our Children Serving Others (C.S.O.) project will be creating a care package for Tyler Ramm, serving in Iraq with the 1st Marine Division. Tyler is the son of Cyndee Ramm who is a Colonial Pre-K teacher & School Coordinator. We have learned from Cyndee that the soldiers love care packages from home & share the goodies they receive with their unit. We are proud of the men and women serving our country around the world!

Conferences will be held on Friday, March 20. You may sign up for a convenient time with your child's teacher.

There was recently an incident at Mt. Olivet Preschool which reminds us all of the importance of safety for our children! All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times upon arrival and departure at Berry Patch. The children are comfortable at school but we must always be conscious of safety! Also, children must walk in the halls rather than run for safety reasons. During school children are respectful and use their walking feet. May we be consistent and work together at drop-off and pick-up.

Thank you for notifying us when your child is ill and will not be attending school. The following health policy is written in our handbook and must be followed: Your child will be exempt from Berry Patch if he/she has the following conditions: Diarrhea, Fever (100+), Sore Throat, Excessive Cold Symptoms (this includes green, yellow gunk), Contagious Diseases (i.e. pink eye, chicken pox, etc.). Your child may return to school 24 hours after symptoms have subsided. We want to be respectful of others by not spreading germs. Your child's teacher may call you if any of these symptoms occur in the classroom.

Happy Valentine's Day to you and your family. We are reminded of these words from the song, The Magic Penny, "Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more!"

Love and blessings to each of you,

Important Dates

February 9	Staff Meeting - school ends at noon
February 11	Parkshore Valentine's Day Party
February 12	Friendship Village Valentine's Day Party
February 13	District In-Service - no school
February 16	President's Day - no school
March 9	Staff Meeting - school ends at noon
March 18 & 19	Playmakers Storyteller
March 20	Conferences - no school
March 28 - April 5	Spring Vacation