

THE MIGHTY OAK NEWSLETTER

February/March 2010



''Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns grow''

PICTURE DAY IS COMING March 10th

A photographer is coming on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10th to take individual child photos and class photos. For those of you new to the center this year (or those who just forget), here's how it works: The photographer will automatically take a regular portrait shot of your child without you having to do or pay anything ahead of time. If you have two children in the center, the photographer will get a shot of them together as well. When the proofs come in, you can order photo packages if you want, or order nothing at all. **The class group shots are taken promptly, starting at 9:30 am.** If your child does not normally attend on a Wednesday, come in by 9:30 to get in the group shot and get your individual photo taken.

They also have magnets, key chains, pencil holders and other fun items you will see on the order form with your picture proofs. We have used the same photographer for over 20 years and we have always been very satisfied with his work. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar so your child comes in dressed for pictures! **We cannot dress all of your children for pictures through out the day, nor can we change all of the children back into play clothes. Thank you for understanding.**

www.littleacornselc.com

Little Acorns has a redesigned website with lots of wonderful information, including important forms you can download, policies and up to date closing and delayed opening information. Please check out our website at www.littleacornselc.com.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As many of you know we have a few different activities going on through out the week. We have ABC Jamboree, Jump Bunch, Spanish Classes and Soccer will be starting in the spring. I would like your feedback, once again as to which classes you would like to continue with. At this time with the current enrollments we cannot continue with Spanish classes or Jump Bunch in the fall. I would love your feedback on these classes and whether or not you would like to continue taking or sign up for any of the classes.

ARRIVAL TIME IS 9:30AM

Little Acorns asks that you arrive by 9:30am, when our curriculum program begins. We have found that lateness disrupts the group and makes it hard for the late child to adjust to the group's rhythm throughout the day. If you will be arriving after 9:30 due to a scheduled appointment please call the center and we will notify your child's teacher. If your child will be absent from care we also ask that you call the center. The teacher's do sometimes give courtesy calls to see if your child will be attending school, but teachers are not always capable of leaving a classroom to make these calls. We ask the parents to call the center if your child will be out for the day or arriving late. We thank you in advance for following our policies.

Wonderful volunteers shoveled the playground so children can play!



LITTLEST ACORNS NEWS

Greetings from the baby room! We have been busy little bees growing and learning at an amazing rate! Sam is now RUNNING and enjoys climbing and sliding in the climber. Zac is now standing and starting to cruise. He and Sam love to play peek-a-boo in the tunnel. Lauren can almost stand-alone. She loves to walk all over the room with help from her teachers. She will be walking in no time at all. Noah loves to be read to and smiles while we sing songs. Charlotte is a little chatterbox. She keeps us entertained by talking to us all day long. Rylee has adjusted well to our class. She is happy to play the drums and sing songs. The babies are looking forward to Spring. (They told me themselves) We cannot wait to spend more time outdoors. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing as the weather begins to change.

-- Stephanie, Mrs. Rahman & Katie



SPROUTS GROUP NEWS

Sprouts have been enjoying the winter weather. Even when we can not get out to play with the snow we bring it indoors and play with the snow in our water tables. They love it! The toddlers are now looking forward to Spring, for the snow to start melting and the trees to begin to bloom. The Sprouts have been busy continuing to learn their colors, shapes and singing songs. We have been working on personal skills. We encourage them to use the soap dispenser by themselves, throw their paper towel in the trash can and eat with silverware. We praise them every time they do it. It may take a little longer or be a little messier but teaching them self help skills are very important. In the coming month our them will be Birds and Bugs. the color is green and the shape is rectangle. Thanks for all of your continuing support.

--Debie, Norma & Jannelle

SEEDLINGS GROUP NEWS



This winter has brought us many exciting experiences with which our seedlings class has been able to create a lot of fun activities. We were able to bring the snow indoors and use it in our water table to see how fast it melts, play with it in our dramatic play area using cups, plates and also making ice cubes. Some children discovered how cold the snow was and decided on observing. Numbers, letters, shapes and colors have been part of the learning experiences in the past months and having eleven boys in the classroom of course has made us add many physical activities to our curriculum. Since the temperatures have been extremely cold we have been taking the advantage of having a great gym next door, it has been part of our daily routine in which the children enjoy marching in line singing along in their best behavior. We also incorporated a new instrument (a bell) to call the children's attention in transition times, such as to stop what they are doing, start cleaning, in order to get ready for the next activity and it works great! I would like to thank all the seedling parents for always finding the time to participate in our activities such as our winter and Valentine's parties and also for being supportive with Little Acorns food safety policy and washing your hands upon entering the classroom.

--Ericka, Haoua, & Tamisha



SAPLING GROUP NEWS

The month of February has just flown by. The Saplings have been enjoying the winter weather. They loved running in the snow, playing with snowballs and creating snow angels. The children are continuing to learn new things each day. They are working on necessary skills and taking in new and exciting information. During this last month we have been learning about a few new ideas. We talked about shadows, the children learned that a shadow is made from the dark space behind an object that has a light source facing it. We talked about Valentine's Day and how love is all around us. We talked about what love means: caring, sharing, family, friends, doing something we love. During the next month are themes are as follows: circus, rainbows and St. Patrick's Day. We are continuing to work on name writing, learning letters, numbers, colors, shapes and so much more. Thank you all for your support, for volunteering in the classroom, coming to our Valentine's Day party and bringing treats. The children had a lot of fun. The best part was all the children's wide eyes as they passed out and received the cards. It really signified the reality of love that surrounds all of us every day.

-- Arifa, Michelle & Marie-Therese



OAK TREE GROUP NEWS

We first want to thank all of our parents for being so patient and understanding regarding the huge snow storms we have been getting. We know it can be difficult to try to juggle schedules, but it is great to know that you recognize we have your children's best interest in mind. We also want to thank you for your participation in our Valentine's Party. The children were thrilled to know we were still having our party. We appreciate your understanding in rescheduling the parent/teacher conferences. We know the times of the conferences are not ideal, but discussing your child's progress allows us to be on the same page on how your "Oak Tree" is growing. We have continued our practice of writing letters and now numbers. More than half the class is now writing words to go along with the corresponding letter. We are so proud of their achievements! Our Word Wall is growing larger every week and the kids can not be more excited about it! As soon as we put up new words they want to know when the next letter will go up. We love their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn all they can. Some time this Spring we are going to have a Mini March for Cystic Fibrosis. As with St. Jude, we will try to raise as much money as we can for the children with this heart breaking disease. We will keep you posted on the details. Almost every month we get Scholastic magazines in. We have set up an ordering system online to make it easier for you to order your books. You can also fill out the paperwork with a check and give it to Ms. Nicole. Everyone has been doing a great job getting their child to class by 9:30. It benefits each child greatly in different ways when a routine is present. Thank you for your efforts!

--Nicole & Sujata



MIGHTY OAKS GROUP NEWS

The Mighty Oaks had a wonderful snowy February which they took full advantage of when MCPS schools were closed. They came in early and had a wonderful time sledding down the hill at the back of the playground. They enjoyed many art projects, which we provided for them such as making dream catchers, sun catchers and decorating crowns. Some of the upcoming art activities that we will have for March will be making polyshrinks, robots out of cereal boxes and a green project for St. Patrick's Day. The Mighty Oaks love baking projects. We have done a few; we made dinner rolls and scones and also enjoyed an ice cream party. We will be having a St. Patrick's Day Party. We are looking forward to many fun field trips during Spring Break.



We hope to see many of you there.

--Beth & Arlene

