

THE MIGHTY OAK NEWSLETTER

February/March 2011



*"Mighty Oaks from
Little Acorns grow"*

PICTURE ART IS COMING March 22nd

A photographer is coming on TUESDAY, MARCH 22nd 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 Tuesday, 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 23 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.** Keeping that in mind we do not serve a messy snack or have messy art scheduled for that morning.

PLEASE END YOUR PHONE CALLS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Little Acorns asks that you please end all cell phone calls before entering our suite. We understand that business calls can come at inconvenient times but we ask that you wrap it up before drop off and pick up. During the morning and afternoon routine there is information that may need to be communicated by your child's teacher. The morning is a time to get your children settled into their day. At the end of the day they are very happy to see you and it makes their day to get an appropriate greeting when you arrive. We are also concerned about some of the conversations that might take place and whether it would be appropriate for little ears to hear. Thank you for understanding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4: MCPS Half-Day
March 22: Picture Day
March 24: FamilyFunNightChuckieCheese
March 31: MCPS Closed
April 18-25: Spring Break
May 30: CENTER CLOSED



Alix making her valentine!



LITTLEST ACORNS NEWS

The babies and teachers were so happy to finally spend some time outside. As spring approaches, we will be spending as much time as possible outdoors. Please be sure to have appropriate clothing for each day. The weather can be unpredictable. We are so busy in the baby room! We have lots of mobile babies that keep us on our toes. George has already taken some steps. Charlotte is beginning to stand on her own. Alix and Liam are right behind them! They are standing and moving while holding on to things. Samantha finds very creative ways to move around the room. She knows how to get what she wants! Emily enjoys her tummy time and now spends a little of time in the exersaucer, which she loves. She also loves to admire herself in the mirror. Important Reminder: Please be sure to read your child's clipboard at the end of everyday. That is where the teachers write important notes for parents. Also, please read the white board outside of the classroom to hear about our daily activities.

-- Stephanie, Mrs. Rahman & Amber



Malena loves easel painting.



Special thanks to Max and his family for taking care of our fish tank.



SPROUTS GROUP NEWS

Sprouts were keeping busy in January while focusing on winter and snow. Despite the weather keeping us from venturing outside, we had fun inside with many art projects and activities centering on our themes. We even brought the snow inside in our water table to make a snowman. Thank you to all the parents who prepared for outside play in the snow. The children had a great time catching snow when it was falling and learning how to walk in the deep snow when it was covering the ground. All of the sprouts have their favorite daily activities. Sam loves to drive the dump truck around and fill it up with legos. Lauren is very musical, she enjoys playing the instruments. Daniel is our little puppeteer, he loves putting on little puppet shows for his friends. Noah loves when we turn the shape cube over, so he can throw balls. Charlotte enjoys playing in the tent with her friends. Zachary enjoys building towers out of legos and blocks and knocking them down.

As the weather warms up we will spend more time outside and look for signs of spring.

--Katie, Norma & Jannelle

SEEDLINGS GROUP NEWS



Seedlings have had a few staffing changes and added a third staff during our morning routine. We have been working on some great themes. The children have been learning the numbers 13 and 14, the letter P,Q,R, the color pink and heart is the shape. Most of them can recognize their own initials and can tell what color clothes they are wearing. The ding dong bell is the sound that lets the seedlings know that it is circle time. During circle time the seedlings are able to participate by responding to open ended questions such as "How is the weather?", "Who is wearing pink?" or "Who knows this letter?". We have been very creative during the cold and snowy weather to bring gross motor play into the classroom. The children love to use the balance beam and throwing the balls into baskets in the class. We welcome Maria Elena and Madison who are both doing very well in their new environment.

--Ericka, Lalla, Bj and Tamisha



SAPLING GROUP NEWS

February has gone by very fast. The Saplings are learning in many different areas of the classroom. During circle time they enjoy singing songs, reading books and learning with our class calendar. The children love cutting, pasting and coloring for art activities. We will continue working on writing letters P,Q, R and the letters in the children's names. We encourage you to keep working with your child at home. It shows that you are all participating at home as we can see the growth in the children. One of our main areas of focus in the class is in social and emotional growth and development. The children learn to follow rules and develop a sense of cooperation with our peers and adults, expressing anger in a non-aggressive manner, sharing toys and waiting turns when speaking in group time. The children are really doing well with all of these concepts. They also love to work in small groups with counting and number recognition. Extra special thanks to Max, Jack and Mrs. Weitzner for our amazing fish tank. Please stop by to see how fabulous it looks.

-- Arifa, Michelle & Marie-Therese



OAK TREE GROUP NEWS

Oak Trees cannot believe we are more than halfway through the school year. With the New Year we saw some changes and said goodbye to one of our great teachers, Miss Sujata, but with that loss we gained a great addition with Miss Haoua. She has been doing a wonderful job in our classroom. She fits in very nicely with our program. We also said goodbye to some good friends but added some saplings in their place. Our new friends are doing a great job and are getting nice reminders of class rules and routines from our older Oak Trees. We will soon be preparing for our Mini March for Cystic Fibrosis. You will receive information regarding that program in March. It is similar to the Trike a Thon we previously did for St. Judes, only the children will be walking instead of riding bikes. We are still members of the Scholastic book club. You should be receiving forms and fliers in your mailboxes monthly but always know that you can go online to place orders any time you like. Not only are the books great deals they also help us win special rewards that replenish our books and toys. Please remember to arrive at 9:15 daily. Our class is cleaning up after that time and when children arrive at 9:30 they are disappointed that they have missed the socialization part of the morning. It is a distraction to the other children in the classroom and the routine that we are following.

--Nicole, Haoua and Jialing



MIGHTY OAKS GROUP NEWS

The Mighty Oaks have been super creative and really love to participate in the group activities we offer. They are using a lot of great literacy skills by coming up with list of 100 words that can be made by a phrase like "Happy New Year", or "Happy Valentines Day". They are also participating in group games where the older children are assisting the younger with math concepts. Although we have been small in numbers we have come up with many alternatives to keep us busy and enjoy our time together. We had a great time sledding and playing in the snow with all of our snow days. Thanks for sending the appropriate clothes and sleds for the children to participate.

-- Miss BJ