



Pink Tower Press

Kennedy Heights Montessori Center Newsletter

A Word From Our Director!



Marybeth Schneider - Executive Director

It may be cold outside but the classes are really heating up inside with much activity and “explosions” into learning. The sweetest sound we hear is, “I did it myself!” Thank you to everyone who came to our Parent Education Night last month. If you were not able to attend but would like some information about “The Meaning of Behavior” the handouts are attached.

Just a reminder, please be sure to sign your child in and out each day. This is very important for safety reasons and it is a licensing requirement. Also, our lost and found basket outside the Extended Day room is getting full. Please take a look to make sure there is nothing in the basket that belongs to your child.

“Of all things love is the most potent.” ~Maria Montessori

Reminder : School will be **closed on Monday Feb. 19** in observance of President's Day.



Birthdays!!!

Mrs. Shinkle's Class

– Hans Feb. 11th

Ms. Geiger's Class

– Cole Feb. 6th

– Averiana Feb. 16th

– Skye Feb. 22nd

Mrs. Carlson's Class

– Ava Feb. 3rd

– Bennett Feb. 4th

– Henry Feb. 8th

Mrs. Roemhild's Class

– Audrey Feb.

16th

Extended Day Program

The Extended Day Teachers

February is here. It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the school year. The children enjoyed making snowmen by spreading cream cheese on rice cakes and squeezing oranges to make orange juice for their food prep activities in January. This month the children will make edible valentines with graham crackers, cream cheese, strawberries and alphabet cereal.



The Extended Day Teachers and Assistants

OHIO'S EARLY LEARNING STANDARD SKILLS

The Ohio's Early Learning Development Standards the teachers will focus on for this month. The theme for the month of February is "Community Helpers"

- ***recognizing that people have many wants and needs
- ***show regard for the feelings of other living things
- ***identify ways adults keep us safe
- ***with modeling and support, identify the consequences of unsafe behaviors
- ***describe and represent inside and outside familiar places (school, library, post office, grocery store, fire department etc...)
- ***demonstrate and use terms related to location, direction and distance (up/down, under/over, here/there)
- ***gain information about their community through reading books, media and conversation with peers
- ***interact with peers in more complex pretend play including planning, coordination of roles and cooperation
- ***acts out familiar or imaginary scenarios: may use props to stand for something else

Kindergarten Readiness Skills

- ***with the teacher help use books or observations to gather information and explain a topic
- ***share findings visually and verbally
- ***be able to tell about things that happen while visiting a place in their community

The Busy Bees

Mrs. Shinkle, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Hall & Ms. Peacock

Hello Parents,

This is a busy month for celebrations and activities. When we have snow we will try to go outside . There was one day which was not too cold, but some children did not have boots. It is amazing to see the children come to the morning meeting. This is another level of self-control and developing interest in what is being shared and lessons being given. It also prepares them for the 3-6yr. class.

You may hear about our " Fairy-Kind- book". The children take great pride in having their name and act of kindness written in the book. They will bring me the book when they see an act of kindness by one of their friends. It is one way to recognize their positive actions.

We look forward to Grandparents' day! The children will make an invitation inviting their grandparent or grandparent substitute to have lessons. They may also bring a grandparent photo if a family member cannot come. We will be learning about "Ground Hog Day" and what makes shadows. We will also celebrate Chinese New Year and making a "Dragon Mask". The kindergarteners will parade through our classroom with the Dragon they make. Finally, we will celebrate Valentine's Day. We will make Valentine mail-boxes to receive Valentines from their friends. Please send 14 Valentines to school. Please do not address them. The children should only write their name on the back of the Valentine. Your child's Valentines should go

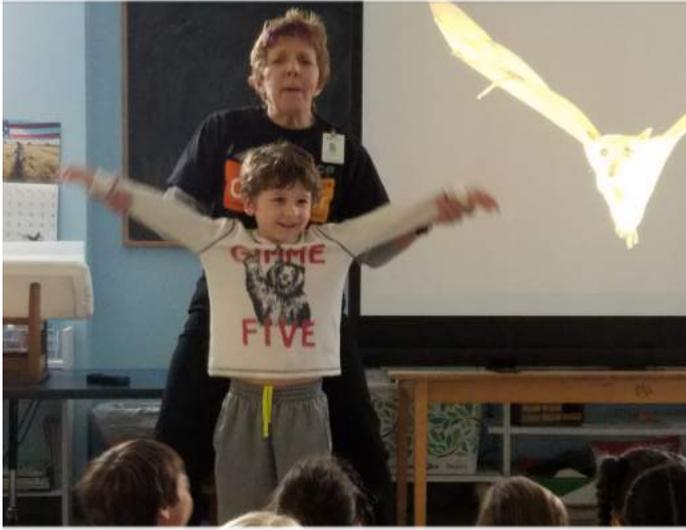


into a large zip-lock bag. With their name on the bag. The party will be on Feb. 14th, Valentine's day.

Our class secretary, Lauren Studer, has sent out a request for items for the "Busy Bee" class basket. We are still short on items to fill it up. The theme is items for summer play. Please help contribute to the basket and help make it a something fun to bid on. The children are going to decorate a separate item for auction. I'm sure you will all want to place your highest bid on it. We look forward to seeing you at the Auction in March.

Have a Happy Valentines Day,

Phyllis, Karen, Rachael, & April



Mrs. Clark & Ms. Geiger

Dear Families,

For the month of February we will be celebrating, Chinese New Year, Groundhog's Day, Presidents Day, Black History and Valentine's Day. In Geography this month, we will study Asia. The Kindergartner's will make a "Lion Head" and perform the Lion Dance to the class on Friday, February 16. It is the year of the Dog for Chinese New Year. In honor of Groundhog's day we will be studying shadows in the classroom. For Valentine's Day we will have a small gathering with treats and valentines on Wednesday, February 14th . I ask that you bring in 20 Valentine's (enough for everyone) all signed with your child's name in a Ziploc Bag. If they wish to address them please write "to my friend", as individual names take a long time to pass out. The children will design bags to put their Valentine's inside of and take home. In Art we will studying Pablo Picasso and our authors will be about poetry, Maya Angelou and Shel

Silverstein. We will also be learning about dinosaurs and doing the shiny penny

6620 Montgomery Rd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45213

experiment. For food preparation the children will be making parfaits.

In Kindergarten the children will be studying: Time, Money, Volcanoes, Dinosaurs, maple sugaring and self portraits. The Kindergarten field trip will be on Thursday, February 22 where we will go Maple sugaring at the Cincinnati Nature Center.

Thank you to all the parents who signed up for conferences, it was a great experience to meet with all of you. Please review the snack calendar to check your date. I appreciate any questions, concerns or comments. Feel free to contact me at 513.526-3874 or you can email me as well at:

shannon_callahan@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Shannon Clark and Meghan Geiger

Mrs. Roemhild & Ms. Paddock

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we are now into February. There are many celebrations this month that cover a variety a different subject areas. With Groundhog Day, we will discuss cultural folklore and do experiments using light and shadow. We will be introducing reptiles in the science area and Asia in the geography area. We will introduce portraits and still life in the art area. We will also talk about Presidents' Day.

Our Valentine celebration will be on the 14th. We are asking the children to bring in 20 valentine cards with only their name on them. It can be frustrating and time consuming for the children to try and read the names of the other children. Please put them in a zip lock bag to keep them from getting scattered. We will do a few crafts and then have a group snack.

We will be celebrating Audrey's birthday and the Chinese New Year on the 16th. We will have a parade followed by an Asian tasting exercise and a birthday treat.

The kindergarten children will be going on a field trip on the 22nd to the Cincinnati Nature Center. The topic will be Maple Sugaring. The children will get to gather the sap and see from the beginning how maple syrup is made. Of course there will be sampling.

Looking ahead, we will be having Grand person's Day on March 2nd and the 5th. This is when a very special person comes and works with your child for an hour in the morning. This day is reserved for persons other than parents. Parents get their own night later this year. Our Silent Auction is on March 3rd. What a special night. Here are a few of the exciting items you will have a chance to bid on: a ceramic piece made by the children, our "Best Slumber Party Ever" basket, a stepping stone and a Day out with Mrs. Roemhild. We hope to see you all there for this wonderful night of fun and community.

Please remember to bring an item to fill our Silent Auction Basket. It does take a village to make it truly special. Thank you in advance for your contribution.



Once again...Thank you for all of your support and enthusiasm. When we work as a team, the children and our school really benefit.

With Peace and Kindness,

Linda and Laura

Ms. Geiger & Ms. Paddock

Happy February to all of you! It is another busy month filled with holiday celebrations, classroom crafts, kindergarten field trip, and preparing for the biggest KHMC fundraiser of the year...SILENT AUCTION! Holiday celebrations that our classroom will observe and celebrate are as followed:

Groundhog Day: Friday, February 2nd

**President's Day: Monday, February 19th
(no school)**

**Valentine's Day: Wednesday, February
14th**

**Chinese New Year (year of the dog): Friday,
February 16th**

In observation of Groundhog Day we will discuss cultural folklore and do experiments



using light and shadow. We will also discuss the importance that the job of the President has in our country. Our Valentine celebration will be on Wednesday, February 14th. We are asking the children to bring in twenty valentine cards with only your child's name on the card. It can get very confusing and time consuming for your child to try and read the names of their classmates. This is the perfect time for your child to practice writing their first name. Please then place your child's valentine cards in a labeled zip-lock bag and put in my pocket located outside the classroom door. The earlier you bring in the cards the better! This will be helpful in keeping an order to dispersing the cards the day of the celebration. We will also plan on having a few crafts and have a group snack. We will also be doing crafts and reading books about the Chinese New Year, year of the dog.

We will be introducing reptiles in the science area and Asia in the geography area. We will also be introducing self portraits and still life in the art area. Also this month we will be celebrating the following birthdays:

Cole: 2/6

Averiana: 2/16

Skye: 2/22

If your child's name is listed above please make sure that your child's birthday sheet is filled out. This is the sheet that was given to you at the beginning of the school year. If you are not sure if you have filled it out completely let me know and we can check. Please then email me with any questions regarding your child's life celebration day.

The kindergartners will be going on a field trip to the Cincinnati Nature Center Thursday, February 22nd. The topic will be Maple Sugaring. The children will get the opportunity to gather the sap and see from the beginning how maple syrup is made. The best part is they will then get a sample of the maple syrup. Yummy!

We will be having Grand person's Day on Friday, March 2nd and Monday, March 5th. This is a fantastic opportunity for a very special person to come and work with your child for an hour in the afternoon. This day is reserved for persons other than parents. Don't worry parents, you get your own night later on in the year. Our biggest KHMC fundraiser is Silent Auction and it is on Saturday, March 3rd from 7-11pm. Be on the lookout for a special Silent Auction invite! Our classroom basket theme is "Best of Cincinnati...". If you have not done so already, please fill out the survey and return it to my pocket. We are asking that each family please give a monetary donation of twenty to twenty-five dollars so that we can go out and purchase the gift cards for each specific category. This

donation goes to such a special cause and we hope you are able to attend the Silent Auction so you can see our classroom baskets and enjoy great music and food. It is going to be such a great night to celebrate such a fantastic school and community that KHMC brings to all our families. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

It was great meeting with all of you for conferences. Parent-teacher collaboration is so critical and will truly build your child up for success here at KHMC and the future. Thank you for all your support and please never hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns.

Smiles,

Ms. Geiger
Ms. Paddock

Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Smith

Hi Friends,

January is behind us and we are back in the swing of things. I'm glad the children are ready for new and challenging work. I'd like to share a quote by Ignacio Estrada, "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach them the way they learn." I love this quote because every child we encounter learns differently from each other. It's our job to tailor our approach to each child we work with. I am constantly looking for the best way to show children a new skill. It's important to stay flexible. One other important thought on this is a typical developing child needs up to 10 seconds to process a question or a



request, so choose as few words as possible and let those wheels turn before wondering if they are listening.

Just a few reminders, if you haven't sent in your silent auction donation, please do that ASAP! Also, a new snack list will come out soon, for dates through May. Please continue to send in 2 food groups for each day, and a small bouquet for flower arranging! Thanks for helping with snack!

Our themes for February are Valentine's Day, President's Day, Black History Month, Groundhog's Day, ovoid versus ellipsoid, penny shining, bubble blowing, dinosaurs, shadows, sculptures, Asia, and Chinese New Year- the year of the rooster.

Our authors of the month are Maya Angelou and Shel Silverstein (focusing on poetry). Our artist of the month is Pablo Picasso.

Have a good February!

Emily & Meghan



Director's Notes

Dear KHMC families,

Parent Teacher Conferences are still being held. If you have not had a conference yet please talk to your child's Montessori teacher. As a parent of a child at KHMC it is your responsibility to attend at least one conference a year for each child at KHMC.

If you haven't noticed, we have a **new bulletin board in the hallway**. The bulletin board is for KHMC Community/ Business Postings. If you have a business or would like to recommend one feel free to put a business card or flyer on the board.

Welcome to William Vaughan, our newest KHMC staff member who is adjusting quite quickly to the Pink Extended Day group as the assistant teacher and to KHMC and the wonderful children and their families.

Welcome to the following children and their families who entered KHMC in Jan: Carlisle Beck-Myers daughter of Marissa Beck and Corey Myers in Ms. Geiger and Ms. Paddock's Montessori class and Ms. Sha'ron's Extended Day group. Welcome to the following children who will be entering KHMC in Feb: Grace Hilligoss daughter of Katherine and Peter Hilligoss in Mrs. Roemhild and Ms. Paddock's Montessori class and in Ms. Patsy's Extended Day group. Lou Ruffin son of Kristin Dugas and Lou Ruffin in Ms. Geiger and Ms. Paddock's Montessori Room.

Did you know that KHMC offers a **referral bonus**? For every family that you refer which enrolls at KHMC for an entire school year, you will receive \$100 credit on your last month's tuition in April 2019. Family referral is the best way to keep great families coming to KHMC. **Please tell everyone you know who has a 1 1/2 -5 year old about KHMC! Having our school at full enrollment all year long helps keep the tuition costs as low as possible.**

I am hoping that we will not have any more **snow/calamity days** this year! If we do, I will send a message out an email by 6:00 a.m. and the closing will be listed on the local TV stations (5, 9 and 12) and on the Kennedy Heights Montessori Center Facebook page.

Whenever your information changes (email, address or phone number), please come to the office immediately so we can update your files. This is very important in case of an emergency when your child is at school and we need to get in touch with you.

I know many of you are interested in learning more about Montessori. We have several good books in the office that you can borrow and a particularly good book, "A Parents' Guide to the Montessori Classroom" by Aline D. Wolf that you can buy for \$8 in the office. Another very good source of information is the **Cincinnati Montessori Society**. Parents can **join for free** just by going to the website cincinnati-montessorisociety.org You will receive a quarterly newsletter, information about the Spring Conference and public relations activities. The CMS Conference this year is **March 10th , 2018**. There are many sessions for parents. You can get more information from Emily Carlson (she is a CMS Board Member) or on the CMS website.

February is a month of giving and sharing love and kindness. An opportunity for giving at KHMC is **servicing on the KHMC Board of Directors**. About this time each year we start looking for committed parents to give their time and ideas. This privilege is a vital component to our parent cooperative organization. Board members complete their committee responsibility by serving on the Board and have the responsibility of overseeing school activities and help with the **vision** of where we see ourselves in the next five years. Notices for nominations will be coming soon. Please consider serving as a board member or nominating parents whom you believe would contribute. Feel free to contact current board members including your class secretary or me to learn about these positions and their responsibilities. Your child and all the KHMC families will appreciate your involvement! Board members and class secretaries are listed in your KHMC Directory, or ask me.

Have a warm and loving month!
Marybeth

Family Fun Event!

We have scheduled another Family Fun Event for February. This month we are planning on an indoor activity so we don't have to cancel because of the weather!!

Where: Sharon Woods Adventure Station

Date: Feb.3rd

Time: 10-naptime

**Address:11450 LEBANON ROAD,
SHARONVILLE, OH 45241**

Cost: \$3

<https://www.greatparks.org/Sharon-woods/adventure-station-indoor-playground>

Hope to see you there!

Information Night/New Family Registration

Just a reminder, on **Wednesday February 7th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** we will be holding our **2nd Information Night/Registration for new families** (childcare will be provided.) If you know someone who is interested in KHMC please encourage him or her to come that night. If you know someone that is interested but cannot attend the information night just let us know. We have Montessori and KHMC materials in the office that we can send to them. All current families please complete the 2018- 2019 re-enrollment information and return to the office by Feb 5, so we know how many open spaces we can fill with new children. Enrolled students and siblings receive priority status. **If you have any doubt about the importance of keeping your child at KHMC**

for their Kindergarten year (the 3 rd year of the 3 year program) please see your child's teacher, a current Kindergarten parent, or me! You will be so glad you kept your child here! You may not realize it now, but when your child is in junior high and high school you will still be seeing the benefits of your child completing their 3 rd year at KHMC, before moving on to either another Montessori school or a traditional school.

Parents' Night Out!

Mark your calendar now! **We will be having another Parents Night Out for Valentine's Day on Saturday Feb. 10.** The PNO in December was a BIG hit! There are only 20 spaces. The sign up sheet is posted on the sign in table in the Extended Day room.

Board Meeting

Our February Board Meeting will be on **Thursday, Feb. 15.** The meeting begins at **6:00 pm.** Parents are always welcome to attend.

The Red Balloon Cafe

There will be a KHMC fundraiser at The Red Balloon Café from **4 - 8:00 on Friday Feb. 16.** It is \$5 per child. Invite your friends and neighbors to meet you there!

The Red Balloon Café recently got a liquor license, so they no longer do BYOB on Friday nights, but have a selection of **beer and wine available for sale.**

President's Day

Just a reminder, **school will be closed on Monday Feb. 19** in observance of President's Day.

Spring Break Extended Care Registration

I know it seems early, but Spring Break will be here before we know it and we must all plan.

The Spring Break Extended Care registration has begun. Families needing childcare through the week of Spring Break **(March 26- March 30)** need to sign up now. The forms are in Tracy's pocket outside her door. The cost of care is \$245 for the week.

Grandparents' Day!

Please mark your calendars now for **Friday March 2** (families with last names that begin with the letters from the beginning of the alphabet) and **Monday March 5** (families with last names that begin with the letters toward the end of the alphabet) for **Grandparent's Day/Grand person's Day**. More information and invitations to be given to the grandparents/grand person will be coming soon.

Silent Auction Prep!!!

THE BIG EVENT is almost here, our **SILENT AUCTION**. It is the **BIGGEST SOCIAL EVENT** of the YEAR! We can still use your help. We also need **every committee's help** setting up the space for the auction, working the night of the auction and cleaning up afterwards. The **SILENT AUCTION** is on **March 3 and will be held right next door and**

the Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex, from 7:00 - 11:00. This evening always proves to be a fun evening for adults and a great way to support the school. **We are expecting all of our KHMC families to come!** Please also invite your family and friends! Along with the great items to bid on your ticket includes appetizers, desserts, wine, beer and music. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased in the office for \$25 or at the door that night for \$30. Childcare will be available that night.

