



Artwork by Yash

"If we wish to create a lasting peace we must begin with the children."

Mahatma Gandhi

**January 25, 2012
Primary 3**

Dear Parents,

The children returned from the winter break eager to get to work. Snowmen and snowflakes are everywhere in our Florida classroom. The winter activities and crafts are very popular. Children are counting snowflakes and reading the snowman story. The children are very busy this time of the year as their attention spans lengthen and their skills improve. There are times when the classroom is quiet or a working hum like a busy bee hive, when everyone is working and concentrating. We enjoy observing their independence and need to just stay out of their way! We have also discussed and explored hot and cold and measuring temperature with a thermometer.

Let there be Peace on Earth. We have learned that we are all Peacemakers, and practiced making peace, and discovered that "peace begins with me." Maria Montessori's vision about the peaceful classroom help teach the children to be respectful, peaceful members of the community of our classroom giving the children lessons and opportunities to peacefully resolve conflict, work respectfully with a friend, practice the rules of friendship and learn about personal calming and reflection. We are making silence, practicing yoga and learning about world peacemakers. We have a light inside each of us...we all must share our "Love Light" to spread Peace around the world.

We have moved our geography studies to the continent of Asia. We will learn about the culture, flags, music, art, people, places, and animals of the different countries in Asia. As always, we welcome any artifacts or info you may have to share with us on this or any topic.

Orange juicing is always a very popular food preparation work this time of year. There are many, many steps to this work including washing and drying their dishes and cleaning up for the next person. The best part is the fresh squeezed orange juice! It tastes better when you've worked for it! The children take great pride in this work. The children have also enjoyed the "tasting" work comparing oranges, lemons, limes, and grapefruit. Words like sweet, tart, bitter and sour take on new meaning when they can link it directly to their sensorial experience.

The 100th Day of School is Friday, February 3rd. We've been counting the days! We will be celebrating with some fun counting activities. Please collect, count and send 100 of something small in a Ziploc bag on that day. (i.e. beads, pennies, buttons, pencils, shells, pompoms, buttons) Please label the bag with your child's name. Small objects please!

On Tuesday, February 14, we will have our **Valentine Exchange**. Please decorate a box (shoebox size) and bring 29 valentines addressed to "My Friend" in a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name by **9am on Feb 14**. Two parent volunteers will help the children "mail" their valentines. We will allow each child time to "mail" their valentines to each of their friends using the mail boxes during Friday work cycle. The children will open one valentine of their choice during line time to share with the class. The rest of the valentines will be saved, unopened, for the children to open at home and share their excitement with their families.

Parent Teacher Conference days are **February 23rd and 24th** and there is no school for students. We are scheduling conferences those days, and hope to meet with all of you between now and then. The Primary classrooms are scheduling another **Parent Visitation Day** on the morning of **Thursday, February 23rd**. Each child will bring **only one parent** or special someone to the classroom for 45 minutes to give them lessons on their favorite work. We organize this time so that there are 2 groups, one at **9:00-9:45 a.m.** and the other at **10:00-10:45 a.m.** so that the classroom is not too full. You will be receiving an appointment with your time soon. If you need to change your time, please contact Mrs. Metka.

Children's Line: "Show n Tell"

Thursday, January 26 – starts with M and N
Thursday, February 2 – Secondary colors – something, purple, green and orange
Friday, February 3 - 100 objects (small) 100th Day
Thursday, February 9 - 3 things that rhyme with each other
Tuesday, February 14 – Valentines box and 29 valentines
Thursday, February 16 – Something about a US president
Thursday, March 1 – Something that starts with O and/or P

Thank You to:

For the many healthy yummy snack contributions!
Ocean's family for a crayon maker, oh boy this is gonna be fun!!
Our reading volunteers!
Murphy's family for the bamboo plant for our peace shelf!
Lana's family for the book about the surfer girl!
Our fabulous lunch moms!
Yuval's family for the great book about amphibians!
We have very generous and helpful families! We appreciate every one of you!

Important Dates:

Tuesday, January 31 – Reenrollment deadline – Save your spot at Country Day ☺
Friday, February 3 – 100th Day of School – bring 100 of something
Saturday, February 11th - FoCD Evening with Friends – "Disco Fever" parent social - Don't Miss It!!
Tuesday, February 14 – Valentines Exchange
Thursday, February 23 - **No School** -Visitation in the Morning and Conferences in the afternoon
Friday, February 24 - **No School** – Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday, March 2 – Walk for Friends FoCD Event
Wednesday, March 7 – Parent Ed Series – The Kindergarten Year!

Remember to read to your child every night....it's so important!

Thank you so much for your support everyday,
Ruth Metka, Nancy Marcus and Kellie Howard

*"Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.
I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one."*

John Lennon