

Mrs. DeMato's February Class Notes

Dear Families,

Your little ones were so gracious to welcome our three new friends this week. It is amazing to see such kindness flow through children as they assist each other emotionally. A two year old comforting a one year who might be missing mom or dad is truly a beautiful sight to behold. Our community is growing stronger every day.

On Monday, February 14th, we will celebrate Valentine's Day in our classroom. Feel free to send in 10 sweet little valentines with your toddler. You can simply sign your child's name and address it "To My Friend." We will send home the valentines at the end of the day so that you can open and enjoy them together with your little one.

On Monday, February 21st, school will be closed for Parent-Teacher Conferences. You have the option of signing up for a phone conference or an in-person conference (distanced in the classroom with masks.) If you would like to attend in-person, there will be child care available in Laurel Club while we meet. This is a great opportunity for us to chat about all of the wonderful things your toddler is doing in the classroom. Please [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

Grocery Rotation Reminder

February 7 - Charlie

February 14 - Braelyn

February 22 - **short week** - will use up extra items in the pantry

February 28 - Braden

March 7 - Zuri

March 14 - Nolan

March 21 - **Spring Break**

March 28 - Matilda

Enjoy the photos below!

Sincerely,
Meg and Jamie

Dear Families,

We had such a wonderful time making homemade pasta sauce together this week. Children love using special kitchen tools like zesters, graters, whisks and ladles. Not only do they have the chance to prepare a lovely meal, but they get to strengthen their hands, arms, and wrists for handwriting. Children get to concentrate on peeling each papery skin off of a clove of garlic or concentrate on gently plucking basil leaves while still caring for the plant. Lots of cooking leads to lots of cleaning opportunities too! 😊

Dear Families,

Thank you for keeping your little ones home as they have the chance to rest, recover, and get tested. Both classrooms have been deep cleaned today. We will be open tomorrow. While there are a few children who still need to be tested, most have been negative. We currently have three positive cases of COVID in Mrs. Veitenthal's class. Those children will be home to quarantine. Our decision of "test to stay" in school has been approved by the Virginia Department of Health. Any cases that we have at MLMS are reported to the VDH.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Be well!

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences this past week. It was great to catch up with you! Written reports will be sent later this spring. Please know that you can always reach out via email or phone to chat about your little ones.

All of the children have been very busy with work in the classroom. We are able to extend our work period a little more each day, as the children are learning to concentrate for longer periods of time. Many of the Montessori materials are designed to isolate one specific movement. The children have the chance to practice or repeat that specific movement over and over again. For example, a child may have a sponge that they can "squeeze, squeeze, squееееееееее" to transfer water from one vessel to the next. Children can twist, push, pour, spoon, stack, sweep, mop, and slide into a slot. Watch and see in your own home for when your child is deeply engrossed in a specific movement.

Happy 2nd birthday to Rosalind! 🐣

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