

Mrs. Irre's February Class Notes

Dear Parents,

We will celebrate **Valentine's Day** on Monday, February 14th in our class. Prior to that day, at school, each child will decorate a bag to store their valentine cards to bring home to you. As is our custom, we will staple their bag when the distribution is finished, and your child will bring their sealed bag home. The children LOVE this tradition, and you get to have all the fun of opening their cards with them.

If you choose, please have your child prepare and send in twenty-seven cards for their classmates, and valentine cards for any teachers they would like to woo. Their card should NOT BE ADDRESSED with children's names. If they want to write something in the TO: line, they can address each card to "friend." Please do not address them with personalized names. What your child can do is SIGN THE VALENTINE WITH THEIR NAME on the FROM: line. Some children can write their full name in cursive all connected, some can write their name in print, some can make a little mark for their signature. All forms of signing are just fine.

(Please do not send in candy or gifts for children. Handmade or purchased cards are sweet and perfect for the occasion.)

Birthday celebrations:

It occurred to me that some of you are not aware of the traditional birthday celebration in our classroom. Please let me explain so you understand the

loveliness of this activity. Parents are asked to prepare a birthday story that gives us information about the birthday child: when they were born, on which continent they were born, funny stories, their likes and dislikes, etc. Children also bring with them a poster depicting each year of their lives from birth until present. And a small cookie-like treat, of course.

At the end of the morning we gather together, turn off the lights, and prepare for the event. The model of the sun is brought to the rug and the children help me to name the months of the year as I position twelve wooden pieces around the rays of the sun. The birthday child then retrieves the painted globe and stands next to their month. I light the candle for the sun and we begin with their story. We sing a little song as the child circles the sun depicting each year of their life. Once they have circled the sun the proper number of years we sing happy birthday. The birthday child then blows out the candle, shows the timeline of their life, and enjoys passing a treat to their classmates. Birthdays, too, are very special.

Dear Parents,

I just finished signing my name on twenty-eight Valentine cards to distribute to the children and Ms. Irwin tomorrow. We will be distributing cards to each other during the morning hours so all children can participate. As is custom we will staple up the bag so the Valentine cards actually make it home. Please note that your children really love this tradition and they love to give as well as receive. Just cards. . . no candy or presents please. If you could have your child put their cards in the front pocket of their backpack, that will help to simplify matters at school. We are hopeful

not to have to search for cards or tragically miss them.

I am preparing for next week's parent teacher conferences, Monday, February 21. I just checked the sign up genius and it looks like many of you have already signed up. If you could please revisit the site and indicate whether you will be attending in person or phoning in, I would greatly appreciate it. (If you phone in please call 540-660-4075 at your scheduled time.) Also, we will need an indicator if you will be taking us up on childcare while your conference is happening.

Remember conference day is action packed for me. If you are coming in person, please be sure to arrive in enough time to get your child settled and be on time for your twenty-minute time frame. I don't allow myself to get off schedule to be respectful to all. Please note since conferences are very early this school year this conference will not include a written summary. Instead, I will provide a written summary toward the end of April so you'll get an update again closer to the end of the school year.

I always like to point out, however, that you can always contact me for information or to ask questions about your child or the class in general.

I will be starting work on Installment three of classroom materials. Next up, Sensorial. I hope you are enjoying the snippets.

Carrie

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EACAB29A5FF2-primary2>