

# February 2019 Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES

February 4 – Wheel and Cog Museum (all day students only)

February 14 – Valentine Exchange

February 15 – no school (teacher work day)

February 18 – no school (President's Day)

February 25 – March 1 – Montessori Education Week

March 1 – Early out (12:10 pm)

We will be having a Valentine exchange on February 14<sup>th</sup>. If your child is bringing valentines, remember that your child is just beginning to learn how to write. Please make sure that all names are legible. I will send home a list of first names, only. There are 20 children in our classroom. You and your child can decide to write names or not. You do not need to send a special container for valentines, we will decorate bags at school.

Please have your child wear the appropriate outdoor clothing, each day. We have had quite a few children come to school without snow pants and gloves/mittens. They still go outside but their choice of where to play is limited to the sidewalk if they do not have appropriate wear.

Please fill out the attached conference form with at least 3 times which work for you.

There is more news on the back! 😊

## Our Montessori Classroom

### Follow the Child

We often talk about teaching young children developmentally appropriate concepts. Simply put, that means we should only teach things that the children are ready to learn.

In a Montessori Classroom we call that 'following the child'. Teachers observe the children to find out what they are interested in, how they approach working with materials, and what they already have mastered to determine when they are ready for a new concept or material. We also observe a child's ability to concentrate for longer periods of time, as they become ready to absorb and use new concepts.

There are many skills learned by a child before he or she learns number and letter concepts. Not all children are ready for numbers and letters at the same time as their peers. All children will be ready and interested in learning these things at some time. That is the time when they are developmentally ready to learn the concepts.

To follow the child does not mean that they do whatever they want, however, not every child follows the same learning timeline. All Children have been shown work which they should do each day. By continual observation, the teacher will know when the child has reached an interest in new materials.

This is an important feature of all Montessori classrooms regardless of age.

Everyone learns best when they are ready to learn.

Look for more information about our Montessori classroom in next month's newsletter.

Sincerely,

Peggy Enerson

Oak Classroom (Room 313)

