

# CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER

Wednesday, January 13, 2009.

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**SCHOOL CLOSING** We will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2010 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. There will be no classes and no child care on that day.

**SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011** Re-enrollment forms have been placed in the children's files. If your child will attend Children's House next school year, please complete and return the re-enrollment form, along with the \$100.00 fee (which will be applied to the annual school fees, due in August). Thank you.

**PROGRESS REPORTS** will be placed in the children's folders by the end of the month.

**DOWNSTAIRS TODDLER CLASS** We welcome Laith Bannout, Laney Deal and Cole Simmons to our class.

Also, Ms. Caroline has returned to school and will no longer be working with us. Ms. Brittany will be here from 8:00am-3:00pm Monday-Friday.

We are very excited about this semester. The children are working hard on their lessons, and a few new practical life lessons have been presented, including washing, stirring bubbles, transferring beans, and water drops. All of these lessons will help the children with eye-hand coordination, fine motor skills and, of course, cleaning up after themselves! When a child spills or makes a mess, he/she wipes up and puts the rag away. This is a great way to help them respect their environment, and is something they can help out with at home. These kids love to clean!

**OUTSIDE CLASS** The children are back from winter break refreshed and ready to work. We welcome Haven, Olivia, Jai, Medha and Cash, who have transferred to our class.

The younger children have been working on pin-punching and making maps. The older children have been busy with the stamp game, squaring, division and multiplication.

We have had many questions about snack days. If your child does not have an assigned snack day, then you will not receive a snack calendar for that month. If your child does have an assigned snack day, there will be a snack calendar in your child's folder, with the date high-lighted for you. If you

forget to send a snack on your assigned day, please send in a non-perishable "make up" snack that we can use on another day. Thanks.

**DOWNSTAIRS CLASS** We are happy to welcome Sophia, Fisher, Montserrat and Cora to classroom community. All the children are adjusting well and are all really enjoying the classroom materials.

Many are enjoying learning the names of geometric solids - cube, cone, rectangular prism, ovoid, ellipsoid, square based pyramid, triangular based pyramid, and sphere. Children in this age group love learning "big words" and are proud to know the correct term for objects. You can help your child recognize shapes around the house by picking a shape and then going on a "hunt" around the house looking for objects that have that shape. Your child will be delighted to go on a "sphere hunt"! Parents, please remember to label all gloves, hats & scarves. Several children have identical hats and it is easy to get them confused. Thanks!

**JUNIOR ELEMENTARY CLASS** The juniors are studying Ancient Rome. We have made necklaces and crowns, mosaics, and modeled tunics, togas, palas and stoles. We are collecting information in a folder and we will do research in groups this week. We enjoyed celebrating Chaco's birthday on Tuesday with a pizza lunch provided by his family. We went to the Fletcher Library today on the bus. Book order should be handed in on Thursday. There will be a written spelling test on Friday.

Remember during January the Juniors may bring toys for "Show & Tell".

The weather has been so cold and dry lately that we are having problems with chapped lips. Please send Chap Stick or lip gloss to school for your child's use. Thanks.

**UPSTAIRS CLASS** The children are settling in after a long break and severe cold snap! We welcome Brandon Bennett to our classroom; also Adam, Emma, Gabrielle & Simon, who have moved up from Ms. Amy's class.

The younger children have been working on sounds, lacing, sorting, world maps & globes, and lots of water lessons. Older children are writing, reading,

making maps and doing some more advanced math lessons. Some are copying poems and rhymes.

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**The first duty of an education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop.**

**Maria Montessori**