

CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER

Wednesday, February 3, 2010.

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

The deadline for re-enrollment is now past. From this point onwards we will accept enrollments in the order in which they are received.

TUITION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY is now past due. If you have not already done so, please pay your child's tuition and include the late charge of \$35.00. Thank you.

PTO Please join us for our monthly PTO Meeting on Tuesday, February 9. Baby-sitting will be provided.

LIVELY SCIENCE The Juniors and the 5 & 6 year olds enjoyed learning about birds today. Ms. Susan brought a Screech Owl for the children to observe. We thank our PTO for sponsoring our monthly classes.

JUNIOR ELEMENTARY CLASS Claudia's dad – Tim Harris – is coming to speak to the Juniors about the heart and circulatory system this Friday. Jack Duzan will re-schedule his birthday lunch since we missed it last week because of the snow & ice. February permission slips and money are due tomorrow – **Thursday, February 4**. February book order forms have been sent home – please hand in orders on or before Wednesday, February 10. Our January Family Projects – Ancient Rome – were marvelous! Thanks so much. For the February Family Project you need to send a 4x6 or 5x7 photo of your family, which your Junior will matte. Please send your photo by Monday, February 8. The photos will be used to decorate our bulletin board. The Juniors need small, chubby, quart milk jugs with lids. Please rinse them out, remove the label, and send them to school. Thanks.

Please remind your Junior to dress in layers, including a warm inside sweater, outside coat, hat & gloves.

DOWNSTAIRS TODDLER CLASS We welcome Griffen Kidd and Dreux Herts-Gibson to our class and say au revoir to Hugo, who has graduated to Ms. Amy's class.

Parents, please make a note of your assigned snack day (some months you might have two). Also, please send 100% fruit juice or milk to drink. We continue to have outside play if the weather is above 32 degrees, so please remember to send an

warm jacket for your child to wear on the playground. Also, please check our 'lost & found' as we have several unlabeled jackets there. Thank you.

OUTSIDE CLASS We enjoyed making chocolate chip cookies and granola bars for our snacks last week. Parents are always welcome to send the ingredients for the children to prepare their own snack. If you miss your assigned snack day, please send in a make-up snack.

The older children have been working on spelling, reading and identifying verbs and nouns. They are also enjoying making their own sentences. The younger children have been working with many of the new Practical Life lessons.

DOWNSTAIRS CLASS We welcome Kohler Matthews to our class, also Hugo, who has moved up from Ms. Dede's class. The children have all been busy with Practical Life activities. Some have been sorting silverware. Others have been folding napkins, arranging flowers, polishing shoes and sweeping & using a dustpan.

The children also like to take care of their environment, by cleaning the classroom. Parents, please remember to make note of your assigned day, and bring a non-perishable make-up snack if you forget your day.

UPSTAIRS CLASS The geography lessons are expanding into the study of flags of South America, Asia and Africa, as well as learning the vertebrates from all seven continents. Spelling and writing involves building sentences now. The younger children are doing new geography lessons – making equivalent shapes from triangles, etc. and learning categories of animals (reptiles/ mammals/ fish/ amphibians/birds). They love to learn the parts of the animals.

SENSITIVE PERIODS Sensitive periods are characterized by five observable behaviors. Children seem to be drawn to certain work and we see: a) a well defined activity with a beginning, middle and end; (b) the activity is irresistible for the child once she starts it; (c) the same activity is returned to again and again; (d) a passionate interest develops; (e) a restful and

tranquil state comes at the finish of the activity. Once the sensitive period is over, children are not drawn to certain activities as before. Three-year olds love to wash their hands because they are in a sensitive period ; whereas, ten-year olds are not.