



SWEET PCEL NEWS

Vol. 10, 2008

January, 2008

Newsletter of the PARENT COOPERATIVE FOR EARLY LEARNING

Dear PCEL Parents:

Happy New Year! I hope each one of you enjoyed your winter vacation, and we are glad that you all are back. We are looking forward to a great year. If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions, please drop a letter by the office. We will be sending out evaluations on January 28, 2008. I need you to take a few minutes of your time to fill out the forms because it is important for the growth of the school, and we need your input.

I would like to thank the new families who chose the PCEL to help educate your child. We look forward to working with you this year.

Monica Foster
Director

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Tuition is due on the 1st of every month, with a grace period that ends on the 10th. A \$20 late fee is assessed if tuition is paid after the 10th day of the month.
- Parents please make sure to pick up your child on time every day. Late pick-ups will result in a late fee:

Pick-Up Times are:

Part-time children: 12:30 p.m.

Full-day children: 6:00 p.m.

- Please communicate with your child's classroom teacher to make sure your credits are on record.

EVENTS CALENDAR

January

1/1 - New Year's Day - NO SCHOOL

1/2 - Operation Piggy Bank Begins - TBA

~~1/10 - General Meeting, 6:15 pm~~

1/21 - M.L. King Birthday - NO SCHOOL

February

2/18 - President's Day - NO SCHOOL

2/20 - Board Meeting, 6:15 pm

2/29 - Parent Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL

TBA - Family Outing

March

3/19 - General Meeting, 6:15 pm

3/21-24 - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

3/28 - Summer Contracts Due

TBA - Fundraising Event

Dates are subject to change

THE EXPLORERS ROOM

Happy New Year to all of our Explorers families! We would like to welcome our new families into the classroom, Mensah (Kwesi), Kelly (Kirk), Hobson (Alexander), and (Allen - Smith) Mitchell. An old friend, Mbissane Ndir, will be leaving our class to join the Imagination Station. Everyone will truly miss him.

This month our themes will be "Winter Animals", "Winter Olympics", "Friendship" and many more creative "cool" ideas.

The Explorers team, Stacey and Angi, would like to thank each and every family for their wonderful gifts and touching sentiments.

As always, feel free to speak with Stacey and Angi about any concerns or compliments about the classroom.

SPECIAL THANKS

The PCEL Staff would like to thank everyone for the kindness that many families showed us during the holiday season.

We really appreciate your generosity.

IMAGINATION STATION

We brought snow to the water table – some children put on mittens to play in it; some did not. We filled buckets and cups with snow, made snow cakes, and watched the snow melt. We also observed some children had cold hands and some children had dry, warm hands.

We made potato pancakes and played with a dreidel for Hanukkah. We painted with green and red on black paper for Kwanzaa, and we cut green triangles and decorated them for Christmas. We made peppermint candy ice cream. It was wonderful.

We are looking forward to Mbissane Ndir moving over from the Explorers and three new friends joining our classroom in January. The room is full!

When we return from Winter break we will be on the letter I for Alphabet Show and Tell. Maybe more ice cream is in store!

We are so glad Music Together is back on Fridays. We've had a lot of fun meeting Miss Melissa.

Here's our recipe for this month – S'mores we made for a holiday snack:

S'Mores in the Oven

1. Preheat oven to 375°
2. Line muffin tins with muffin cups
3. Into each muffin cup, put:
 - ½ of a double graham cracker broken into several pieces
 - 3 segments of a regular-sized Hershey bar (1/4 bar)
 - 1 marshmallow on the top
4. When you have made as many servings (muffin cups) as desired, put into hot oven for about 6-7 minutes (remove when the marshmallow is puffed and golden).

Thank you to Maya Newsome's family for our new computer!

Happy New Year!

The Imagination Station Team

BECOME A PCEL BOARD MEMBER

Board elections will be held during the February 26th board meeting. All parents of currently enrolled children are eligible and encouraged to run to serve on the board. The board, which includes parents and staff, meets once every other month in the evening during the school year and once a month in the summer.

The board supports the director and the staff in running the school, making policies, chairing committees, devising the budget and assisting with other tasks as needed.

If you are interested in being considered to serve as a PCEL Board Member, you must type a one page summary stating why you want to become a member and attach a picture of yourself. Please drop it off in the office.

The board encourages all interested parents to speak with Monica Foster or a current board member to obtain more information. For a list of board members, please contact Monica.

Lastly, serving on the board is very rewarding because it allows parents to play an active role in the educational environment of your child.

Parents please check the clothing in your child's cubby to make sure it is appropriate for the winter weather. Also, please remember to take your child's artwork home and check your folder daily.

DISCOVERY ROOM

Happy New Year from the Discovery Room.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Break and are ready for the New Year.

Thanks to all who helped make our Christmas complete with your gifts and donations.

As we begin the new year we will continue working on:

Alphabet recognition
Moveable Alphabet
Counting
Number Recognition

We will also continue our 100 days of school count. We're half way there.

Our themes for January are:

Jan. 2-4 – Welcome Back
Jan. 7-8 – Numbers
Jan. 14-18 – MLK Jr.
Jan. 21-25 – Careers
Jan. 28-Feb. 1 - Space

Happy Birthday to all our January Birthdays and Welcome Back!

Char and Jackie

Parents, please make sure the second door to the school is locked at all times. If you notice that it is unlocked, please lock it. This is for the safety of all the children.