

From the Principal's Office

Dear Merryhill Families,

Tis' the month of love, and I have no better way to express how much I love being a part of what we do here at Merryhill each day. I am so lucky to walk through each classroom and witness first hand the triumphs of the students in the building! Students are learning so much on a daily basis, and I am excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for them!

Speaking of the rest of the year, it is going to fly by! We are already preparing for our 2015-2016 school year, for which we will roll out our priority registration February 9-23rd. Please be sure stay on top of these important dates to guarantee your child's spot with us for the upcoming school year!

Staying in the now, I want to take a quick moment to reinforce our efforts as a school and you as parents in the Merryhill community to offer a healthy Valentine's holiday. We are doing paper invitations; however, sweet free treats are more than welcome. Please keep your eye posted for each classroom's holiday party sign up list, as well! The teachers are working very hard to model good choices and healthy behaviors in the classrooms, but we need your help in making this a full effort. Thank you for your understanding in this matter, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

This month, we welcome back our MiniKickers soccer classes for the next 6 weeks, so please be sure to sign your child up if you are interested. Also, Music Matt still has very limited spots available in his class, if you are interested in taking advantage of this wonderful class! Children thrive in these extra enrichment activities, and we are happy to offer them for your convenience in your already busy weekly schedules!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jherica McEndree
Principal

Calendar of Events: February

February 2: Groundhog's Day

February 4: Cultural Study: Elizabeth Blackwell

February 12: Cultural Study: President Lincoln's Birthday

February 13: Class Parties — Valentine's Day
Parent's Night Out (6-9 PM)

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 16: School Closed: President's Day

February 17: Cultural Study: President Obama

February 19: Cultural Study: Chinese New Year

February 20: Cultural Study: President Washington's Birthday
MiniKicker's Soccer Begins!

February 22-27: Black History Month (Week)

Monday — Oprah Winfrey

Tuesday — Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman

Wednesday — Jackie Robinson

Thursday — Maya Angelou

Friday — Louis Armstrong

Family Referral Night

Thursday,

February 19th

5:00-7:00 PM

Step 1: Ask the front desk for a family referral form!

Step 2: Invite the family to our Family Referral Night.

Step 3: After the referred student attends fulltime for more than 90 days, you will receive 1 FREE WEEK OF TUITION!

Need more details? Please ask!

Infant Class

Good bye January welcome February! Here at the infant room we are having a great time with so many activities. We are really enjoying our infants; we are lucky to see how they change and grow every day. This month of February it is full of fun and learning as well as a great curriculum. Please take a look at our boards and see the different projects we do with our infants. These will include music, art, motor skills experience, literacy and many more! This month our baby sign is "All done" (place both hands in front of your chest and flip them outwards and inwards.) We will use this baby sign during the day to remind the children, and practice with them.

The month of February we will have a Cultural Study here at Merryhill. During circle time we will talk to our infants about Chinese New Year, Maya Angelou. If you have any books about this great author, please bring them to share with our class. On Friday the 13th we'll have Parents Night Out from 6-9pm; this will be an opportunity for parents to celebrate Valentine's Day! For more information please ask at the front desk. Monday the 16th is Presidents Day and our school is closed.

Colin and Cian turned one and they moved up to toddler class, they are both enjoying their new friends and teachers. We'd like to welcome Adeline and Nora to the infant class room; they rapidly got comfortable and are very alert and ready to explore and learn!

Sincerely,

-Ms. Naty and Ms. Maria

Toddler Class

We hope you all had a wonderful month of January. We are very excited to enter this new month with all of our friends in the Toddler classroom. Also we welcome our new friend Sam Montgomery, we are so happy to have him in our classroom. We will continue to learn new words to expand our vocabulary through the use of books, flashcards, and encourage repetition of simple words from the stories we read aloud. We will also continue to introduce and practice turning familiar pictures right side up. For our sign language curriculum we will be working on the baby signs for heart, bird, and love. We will teach this concept by signing to the children as we say the word out loud.

Number recognition and identification is another primary concept we are currently focusing on. We use books with numbers as well as counting the object the children are playing with, such as legos, blocks, and other manipulatives.

In addition we will be learning the colors: red, purple, pink, white. These colors will be incorporated in our valentine art projects throughout the month of February. Some of the projects we will be making include hearts and matching colors. These will help to review the colors red, yellow, green, and the numbers. Sensory and texture art will also be a large part of this month's art projects.

February is going to be a very exciting month full of learning and growth. Please check your child's file for any art or communication from the teachers. Also please make sure your children have a jacket for when we go outside and extra pair of weather appropriate clothing in their cubbies just in case an accident. Thank you.

Sincerely,

-Ms. Francis and Ms. Raquel

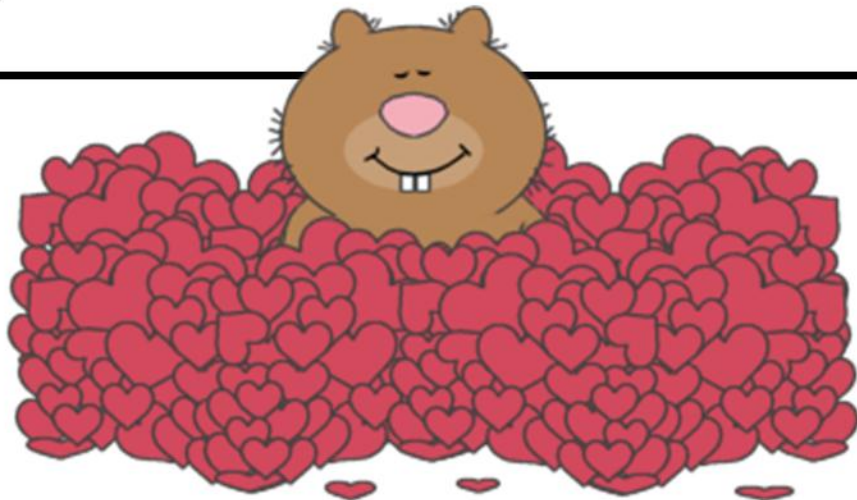
Beginner 1 Class

January was a wonderful fun filled month in the Beginner 1 classroom. We want to say a big thank you to the families that donated books from our book fair wish list. The children are really enjoying these new books. We wanted to welcome Parker from the Toddler room and also a new student who will be starting in early February, Frankie G. We also wanted to say good luck and goodbye to two of our Beginner 1 friends who have moved up into the Beginner 2 classroom. Frankie Baker and Hanako Rogers, we will miss you but hope you have lots of fun in your new classroom.

Our dramatic center has been changed to the theme of "Transportation." We have put up stop lights, roads and soon a bus and car will be in the area for the children to pretend they are driving around town. Come check our new dramatic play and see your children in action. This month we will be reading *Dear Zoo*, a book about a little boy asking for a pet from the zoo. During this week we will practice the skill of matching parent animals (big and little.) *Goodnight Gorilla* week will be filled with sorting big and little objects along with acting out the story. During *Kitten* and *Clifford the Big Red Dog* weeks we will be talking about pets at home and comparing different types of pets characteristics. Along with reading these new books the children will be practicing new and re occurring skills. Some of those new skills include verbally stating first and last names, matching simple 3d shapes to 2d shapes and beginning to show empathy towards the feelings of others.

Some dates to remember are February 13th we will be having a Valentines party, although we are hoping to stay away from sweets. We will be focusing more on practicing our monthly skills by doing some fun activities. There will be a sign up sheet next Friday with materials we will need. If you would like to donate some materials please sign up on the signup sheet. February 16th we are closed to observe Presidents Day, we hope you have a wonderful 3 day weekend. We have some 2nd birthday's this month in our classroom. Andrew and Ethan Hunter are on the 10th and Robert Meier is the 26th. We hope you boys all have a wonderful birthdays! We are looking forward to another fun filled learning month with the Beginner 1 classroom.

—Ms. Li & Ms. Kayla



Beginner 2 Class

February is here and it's time to celebrate the month of Love and Black History month! We will talk about how we are all the same but we all have different skin and we are all beautiful. This Month we will be reading "Dear Zoo", "Goodnight Gorilla", and "Kitten" and Clifford The Big Red Dog. There will be exciting activities from dressing up as zoo animals, to making yummy monkey bread and many more. To end and start the loving month of February we will have a lovely Valentine's Day Party! We will have a sweet snack in the morning and delicious treats in the afternoon. Keep an eye out for a loving signup sheet! We also would like to welcome new friends Frankie Baker and Hanako Rogers.

This month we have seen our friend's vocabulary grow so much. They are progressively getting better every day at telling us their first and last name and telling their teachers when to turn the page to a story. Our friends listening skills are improving very much as well. We have been practicing after our outside time, when you hear a teacher's voice to clean up, you get all the toys and bikes put away and then line up. It's a work in progress but our friends actually get excited to get the playground clean!

With Ms. Mel going on Maternity leave, we will be fully implementing our classroom teachers as Ms. Jalisha, Ms. Savannah, and Ms. Alyssa (Lyss). The students are already familiar with all of us, as we have been working as a team since the beginning of the new year! Please feel free to ask if you have any questions during this transition, we are happy to help you!

— **Ms. Melanie, Ms. Lyss, Ms. Savannah & Ms. Jalisha**

Intermediate Class

Wow January is already over, time is flying! This month the Intermediate classes have seen some major changes! We got an entire new class. We must say that we love the new class! The children love the new class as well. We welcome a new friend Nathalia Lee into our class and sadly had to say goodbye to another friend!

This next month is going to be filled with so many different adventures! For the month of February we are going to be studying the Groundhog, Presidents, What I like about myself, and Animals. We are sure to have a fun filled month.

For this month Spanish will be incorporated into our dramatic play center. We will be creating a Pet Hospital. Our Spanish vocabulary for the month are: El Gato (the cat), El Perro (the dog), El Pez (the fish), and El Pájaro (the bird).

For this month we are going to be focusing on a few different areas; writing will be one of them. We will spend each day working on writing our names and numbers. We will also be practicing writing all our ABC's. Another area we will be focusing on is being able to spot out the letters that make our name.

Language and literacy is going to be a big area we focus on this month! We will be spending some time after nap each day to work on recognizing our letters and their sounds.

Keep your eyes open for all the fun things to come and all our celebrations that will be this month!

-**Ms. Ashley and Ms. Linda**

Pre-K1 Class

We had fun in January and we have more exciting things planned for February. We are going to be changing the way we do share day. We won't be having everyone bring a toy on Fridays. Each day there will be one student's special day. Ms. Cristina will have some Mr. Potato heads and before circle they will create their own special potato head. Then they will share with the class about the potato head they created. They can also share a book from home or a picture they have drawn. We will post a monthly calendar showing when your child's day is, but in case you forget they will still have a potato head to create and share.

We will have several themes going on this month. February is National Dental month so we will spend the first week talking about our teeth and how to care for them and talk about the dentist. We will be making some fun tooth brushes using glitter glue for the tooth paste and they will also be tracing and cutting out a tooth and labeling the parts of the tooth. Students will get to share their experiences of going to the dentist. We will also be reading books about other community helpers and students will be drawing pictures of their favorite helper and writing a little about them underneath.

You may have seen our dramatic play center which right now is a news station, Good Day Merryhill. The students have been having fun pretending to give the weather report and the news. We will continue this for another couple of weeks. Then we will be turning our dramatic play center into a zoo. Students will help design cages for their stuffed animals and a ticket booth. We will be talking about different animals and where they live.

Valentines Day is coming up and we will have a party but we plan to make it a healthy party without all the sweets. We will post a sign up sheet when we figure out what we plan to do.

In math we will continue to work on our number recognition of numbers 20-40. We will also be doing some adding and subtracting with our counting bears. They have enjoyed working with our plastic coins and we will continue to work on coin recognition.

We will be working on sight word recognition by writing the words and sounding them out. We are also getting two sight words games from scholastic. It's going to be a fun busy month.

-Ms. Stacy & Ms. Cristina

Pre-K2 Class

Our Our Links to Learning Spanish curriculum this month will introduce new *Febrero (February)* vocabulary: Mini poster was sent home in your child's Links to Learning folders at the end of January. We will be focusing on learning how to greet each other appropriately, along with understanding magnetism, *Magnético*. Children will also be reviewing days of the week.

In mathematics we will be concentrating on reviewing how to count by fives to 100. We will also continue to add groups together and subtract objects to obtain a total. We need lots of practice in this particular area!

We will continue to focus on vowel sounds this month. We are mostly already familiar with the five vowels and understand that vowels help make up words. Our Letter Buddies curriculum we have been working with is a great way for children to practice isolating and blending letter sounds.

This month our Social Emotional curriculum will be teaching us friendship skills and problem solving skills through role playing, story telling through puppets, and special games and songs. The students have been really enthusiastic when they hear the "sing along" CD being played, and often participate in the acting out of given scenarios.

Some new vocabulary words will be introduced to the children this month. We use vocabulary words in many ways, including: practicing printing, counting syllable sounds and vowels. Our vocabulary words this month are: February, Heart, Love, Cupid, Groundhog, Hibernation, Spring, and Valentine.

We will be having a party on Friday, February 13th! Bring your valentines!

-Sincerely, Ms. Jill & Ms. C