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Ring in 2016! Happy New Year!

We want to welcome our families back to school and ready for 2016!

We hope that everyone had a safe, wonderful and relaxing holiday.

We would also like to thank you and your children for all the wonderful gifts that we received! We really appreciate the recognition and we truly felt the love of what this season brought. We are so proud of our school and happy that we have such wonderful families and children. Everyone was too generous, thank you!



Holiday Recital Follow up

Our Holiday Recital was a FUN and entertaining event. Thanks goes to all our Chesterbrook children for singing their hearts out. We truly appreciate all the hard work the children and teachers put into our recital. Parent involvement is critical to your child's success and we were so happy to see all our families who could attend! It was a very special event! Thank you! I am so PROUD of everyone!! An extra special thanks goes to our Santa (Ms. Jessica's dad!), who was the biggest attraction and special treat for the children.

Links to Learning

The children will be having lots of fun during the month of January learning about Winter Fun. This month, we will be learning about Artic Animals, Snow & Ice, Eskimos and Winter Wear.

Charity Event Follow up: KIDS Campus

I would also like to thank all who participated in Toys for Tots, Canned Food Drive and PJ Donation programs. We donated a lot of canned food, pajamas and toys! The items were very much needed for these families. If you saw under our tree and donation stations, then you know it was a HUGE success! Our Pre-K2 children had a blast hand delivering the donations to our Chantilly Kids Campus and really learned about the gift of giving. Thank you again!

Gingerbread Contest

We would like to congratulate Pre-K1 for winning the gingerbread contest. All the classrooms worked really hard on making their houses and we would like to thank everyone for their help and participation!



01.01.15	New Year's Day ~ Closed
01.11.15- 03.02.15	Read Across America- Can our school read <u>1500</u> books? Lets try!
01.14.15	Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser-Begins
01.18.15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day~ OPEN
01.23.15	Saturday New Family Open House 10am-1pm
01.23.15	Saturday Kindergarten Open House Chantilly Kids Campus 10am-1pm
01.29.15	Read Across America- Mystery Reader 1????
02.01.15	Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser-Ends
02.12.15	Valentine's Day Parties
02.12.15	Valentine's Day-Parent Date Night 6:30pm-10pm
02.15.15	President Day~CLOSED: Teacher's Training Day

Winter Weather



In January, we expect to see more freezing weather including snow and ice that make our commutes challenging. While we want all our CBA families and staff to always make the safest decision for their families, we also strive to remain open for parents that need to go to work. These decisions are made in cooperation with our corporate office and parents will always be notified as appropriate. Please call the school at 703.803.7920 to listen to the voicemail, check your email and/or the school website if you have questions on closing.



Coming up...



Read Across America-Parents Needed!

We hope that you are ready to start off the new year by reading books with your children! Lots of books! Reading together as a family is a wonderful activity that benefits everyone!



All books that are read at home and at school count towards our goal of reading 1,500 books by March 2nd in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday! There is a blank reading list for every child to take home in their cubby and additional reading lists can be found by the front desk on the bathroom door in a folder. All full reading lists can be turned in to the folder hanging on the bathroom door as well. We will add total the book count every Friday until Dr. Seuss' birthday! Please help join our school event to reach our goal!

If our school reads 1,500 books by March 2nd, the children will get to paint Ms. Sydney, & Ms. Jessica!!

Thank you all in advance for your participation during this exciting event!



Little Caesar Pizza Kits



One of our most popular fundraisers is back! We want to make parents aware that our next fundraiser will be used to help purchase classroom supplies and the 2 families with the most profitable sales will win a FREE PARENT DATE NIGHT!!

The fundraiser will begin January 14th and be open until February 1st. All orders will be delivered to the school February 9th.

From past experiences, you will want to be sure that you will have storage space for the pizza kits. Once delivered, we will email our parents and keep the orders in the lobby. They can be kept at the school until pick up time but will need to be stored in a freezer after. We will not be able to keep kits at the school due to limited freezer space. Thank you!

Parent Survey Update (PAR) DEAR PARENTS:

In our efforts to constantly improve our schools, we need your honest feedback on your experience at your school. During the week of January 5th and January 7th, you will receive an email containing a link to our online school survey. The survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete, and your answers will help us make our schools better for our families.

Please be assured that your answers cannot be attributed to you. Only combined results will be shared with your Principal and Executive Director.

Note, you may receive and respond to two different surveys if you have children in two separate schools. Also, more than one parent may receive and respond to this survey if you have furnished your school with both email addresses. To ensure that you receive the survey in a timely manner, please add schoolsurvey@mghus.com to your email address book. Doing so will greatly improve deliverability.

We truly appreciate your support and your feedback. Thank you in advance for your time.

-Ms. Sydney



Valentine's Parties and Date Night: 2/12

Parents! Please look for a sign up for classroom Valentine's Parties on Friday, February 12th starting at 3:30pm. Please look for more information from your classroom soon about the Valentine's Parties,



We also encourage parents to sign up for our Valentine's Parent Date Night! We will be open until 10:00pm so that our parents can have a nice time together while the children participate in crafts and pizza with friends! The first child is \$35 and \$25 for siblings. This can be withdrawn directly through ACH!

READ ACROSS AMERICA: ??MYSTERY??READER?? Coming to read to you on JANUARY 29th! Come see who will be our first reader to visit the children in their classroom!

The Value of Visual Art

Activities for Your Preschool

Visual art experiences help children develop skills such as critical thinking, self-expression, problem-solving, communication and collaboration. Our teachers focus on process-based art education, in which the experience of creating art is valued over the end product.

In our classrooms, teachers integrate art into many aspects of our Links to Learning curriculum. After reading a book about polar bears, teachers might ask students to create their own polar bears using sponges, paint, markers and paper. They encourage students to talk about their art, providing a great opportunity to learn new vocabulary, particularly words related to colors, shapes, textures, and emotions.

Our students are also exposed to and inspired by famous artwork. In order to cultivate that fascination, we discuss famous artists and art works and ask students to create replicas of well-known paintings and sculptures. For example, after learning about Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, teachers mimic the activity in the classroom. They tape paper underneath tables, and students practice painting a masterpiece while lying down.



Below are visual art activities you and your child can do at home, as well as recommended reading.

At Home:

Provide your child with finger paint, a large piece of paper and a smock. Let him create a masterpiece. Talk about how the paint feels and what colors and shapes he creates on the paper.

Start a journal with your child. Have him draw a picture of something that happened during the day. Avoid giving direction. Instead of saying "Draw a picture of your teacher and classmates," encourage him to experiment using different colored markers or crayons. If age appropriate, ask your child to write a few words to describe the picture.

Give your child a piece of paper and a box of crayons or markers. Show him how to use the materials to make dots, lines and swirls on the paper. Let him take over and have fun. Encourage conversation about your child's art by saying, "Tell me about what you made" or "I see you used a lot of blue in your picture. Why did you choose that color?"

Ask your child to decorate a sign for his bedroom door using various art materials. Have him write his name on the sign.

Recommended Reading:

The Dot by Peter Reynolds

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

Art by Patrick McDonnell

Not a Box by Antoinette Portis

Mix It Up by Herve Tullet

It is wonderful to share the joy that children naturally take in using art materials. Giving children extra opportunities to connect art to the world around them, contributes to happiness and future success in elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education