



Cathedral House Monthly February 2007

Here's a list of activities to beat the Rainy Day Blues

Are you tired of watching videos while staying inside on these rainy weekends? Try one of these fun activities. You will be amazed by the creativity, learning, and joy your family will have while engaging in play together.

Dates to Know:

2/1—Auction Mtg.

2/8 & 2/22—Arts Alive

2/13—Parent Connection 12:00

2/14—Class Parties

2/15—Auction Mtg.

2/16—Chinese New Year Celebration

2/20—Mardi Gras Parade

2/23—Go Texan Day

1. Fill a large plastic bin with different shaped dry pastas dry beans rice whatever you can buy least expensively. Give them cups and "sand" toys and you have a winter alternative to the sandbox. (Spread a sheet under the bin they will get it everywhere then you can just gather up the sheet and dump it back in the bin.)
2. Camp in the house. You can always drape a blanket over a table.
3. Make a tower from paper cups as tall as you can. Then remove the bottom piece and watch it tumble.
4. Subscribe or go to Family Fun's website. They always have a ton of creative ideas to try!
5. Make a teepee
6. Write on a white board we all like that!
7. Make a book of favorite animals, trees, bugs, etc.
8. Line up cans etc and get a ball and bowl.
9. Play Hide and Seek
10. Set up an obstacle course in the living room or the basement using chairs with pillows over them (kids crawled under) different things.
11. Have an indoor "snowball" fight. Divide; give each one a stack of newspapers yell go and they have to wad up the sheets of newspaper into "snowballs" and throw them. Great fun! Last part is seeing who can gather the most balls into a trash bag!
12. Plan a treasure hunt
13. Use large dry beans (limas etc.) and school glue and let him glue beans onto heavy paper or old folders. (You could dribble out a line of glue in the shape of something fun--a car for example--and then let him press the beans onto it.)
14. Have him draw a picture and tell a story about it (you write down the story) and send it to Grandma.
15. Finger-paint with chocolate pudding on a paper plate then lick the plate clean :-)
16. Make puppets
17. If you have a fireplace do a hotdog roast and make s'mores.
18. Play dress up
19. Put a blanket on the floor and pretend you are on boat fishing etc...
20. Playing 'restaurant': make the menus set the table take orders serve (& clean up)
21. Have a tea party
22. Grab a pillow and a blanket and lay them in your lap and sing with them.
23. Make music (pots and pans etc)
24. Give them a wide roll of masking tape and let them go to town making "roads" for Matchbox cars.
25. "Washing" dishes at the sink--get a big pan of soapy water some plastic bowls and cups and let him stand on a chair and play.

“[from her 1946 book,] Education in a New World, ... “education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment.”

Maria Montessori

Nut Free Zone



Due to the increasing number of children that have been diagnosed with nut allergies, we are requesting that each family and staff member assist us in providing a “Nut Free Zone” within the lobby and classroom areas. Not just peanuts but all nuts. We are aware of the tremendous risk children and adults who are allergic to nuts can face from even the smallest exposure to nuts. The consequences are life threatening in many cases and require immediate intervention as witnessed on a recent episode of Boston Legal. We want to do all we can to eliminate the possibility of such occurrence in our school in the future. We are asking for you to refrain from cereals such as Honey Nut Cheerios, peanut butter, any/all candies that might have trace of nuts or nut oils.

Thank you for helping keep our school safe for all children and families.

Cathedral House Cookbook

All friends, family, and alumni are encouraged to submit recipes to be published in our first Cathedral House Cookbook. The deadline to submit a recipe has been extended through Wednesday February 7th. Call grandmas, grandpas, aunts and uncles to get their special recipe to be included in this first edition cookbook.



Valentines Day

Movement I through Kindergarten will be posting sign-up sheets for a special lunch to be held on February 14th to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Please watch for these menus and choose an item to share.

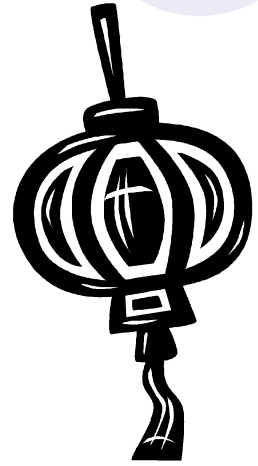
Many classes will also choose to exchange Valentine cards. Your child can sign their card leaving the envelope blank. This allows for easier delivering for your child.



Are the following dates on your calendar?

Chinese New Year will be celebrated on Friday February 16th, we will welcome in the Year of the Pig. As with our tradition, children are invited to wear their pajamas to school and keep them on all day! (bring tennis shoes for outside time)

As part of the day we will celebrate the Asian culture and learn more about their special celebrations.



Mardi Gras Parade

The Time: 4:00 pm

The Date: Tuesday Feb. 20th

The place: The Church Courtyard and our Playground

The Event: Our Annual Mardi Gras Parade - Masks will be worn and Beads will be flying

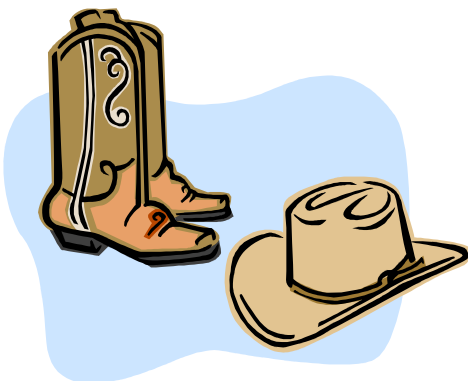


All Parents are encouraged to attend this fun family event

Go Texan Day

The City of Houston welcomes in the trail riders and the beginning of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo with Go Texan Day on Friday February 23rd.

Please wear your jeans, hats and boots to join in the fun. Maybe there will even be mini rodeos in our classes. Please leave all lassos and guns at home.



February Birthdays

Feb. 2nd - Barrett Stephenson will be 1 year old

Feb. 6th - Kinsley Poole will be 5 years old

Feb. 8th - Tessa Peterson will be 2 years old

Feb. 16th - Ava Hicks will be 3 years old

Feb. 19th - Alexander Simms will be 2 years old

Feb. 25th - Caroline Williams will be 3 years old

Feb. 28th - Emily Primm will be 5 years old

Not sharing their ages:

Ms. Linda - Primary - Feb. 2nd

Ms. Sandra - Floater - Feb. 11th

Ms. Sherri - Kindergarten - Feb. 11th

Ms. Kathy - Primary - Feb. 13th

Ms. Andi - Administration - Feb. 14th

Ms. Rosa - Movement II - Feb. 22nd

Ms. Karen - Movement I - Feb. 23rd



Thank you to everyone that participated in our Surprise Baby Shower for Ms. Wendy. She has posted Thank You posters in the classrooms. Please stop by to see how surprised and appreciative she truly was.



News from our classrooms:

In Nursery busy growing and moving. This month is no different than the others except we will love a little bit more. We will be giving our mommies and daddies more kisses and hugs and maybe even pulling their hair to show how much we care. Our babies are not thrilled with the changes in the weather. They do not like to be all bundled up as they are entering and exiting the building. We guess they are just too little to understand we only want them to stay healthy. Be sure to look around our room for the little Nursery I artists to have a showing of their latest masterpieces.

See you in the windows, Nursery I!

Movement I:

Hello Valentine, we are looking forward to a fun month. Movement I can't wait to march in the Mardi Gras parade, celebrate friends on Valentines Day and the special Friday (Chinese New Year) to wear our PJs. Remember to clear your schedules and join the fun in Arts Alive at 12:30 on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. It is so much fun having all our parents sing and dance with us! And speaking of having fun in Movement I, Henry Epperson and Remy Brejon are the newest members of our singers and dancers.

Nursery II:

Nursery II enjoyed fun inside activities during this rainy month of January. We played "bubble catch" and "roll the ball". We can't wait to try some of the fun activities on the front cover if this weather continues in to February. One the children's favorite games this month was to crawl through the tunnel to find the hidden "prize" Even the babies are getting 'cabin fever', bring on the warm sunshine.

Movement II:

In January we went to the cold continent of Antarctica. We read *Polar Bear, Polar Bear*, and a book about Penguins. We also played with our penguin hand puppet. Have you seen our new rug? The children enjoy sitting on the cars and counting the ducks. Having a new rug has made our room beautiful! In February we will visit Asia and talk about love and respect for friends and family.

Toddler I:

January was full of fun and exciting things to do and learn. Toddler I had stories and lessons on Antarctica, penguins (piquino in Spanish), polar bears (oso polar in Spanish), and snowflakes. Our class has been busy learning the beginning sounds s-m-t, and counting and recognizing 1 to 5. The next stop on our voyage is Asia. What will we find there?

News from our classrooms:

Toddler II:

We felt the chill of January as we traveled through Houston to the southern most continent of Antarctica. The children learned about the arctic desert and explored snow and ice. We found out that the Emperor penguins are the largest sea birds and they are very fast swimmers. Toddler II built their vocabulary by learning the names of Arctic animals such as caribou, arctic fox, orca whales, and elephant seals. January was also a month of birthdays with 5 of our wonderful friends turning 3 years old. Also in January, Toddler II welcomed Ethan Cloud and Olivia Fiederlein to our happy group of friends.

Primary II:

Well visiting the Antarctic was cold. In fact, it was colder than cold. On our short trip we learned that no humans live there, but scientists from around the world visit to do explorations and experiments. The animals that live there have adapted to the cold. Brrr!! Not us though! Now we are looking forward to our visit to the continent of Asia, the many cultures and the different styles of art.

Dear Mom and Dad,

We all packed extra sweaters and coats for our trip to Antarctica. We learned that we could visit the continent but could not live there for very long. Along the way we got to see orca whales, caribou, foxes, walruses, and seals. We returned to Cathedral House just in time to watch a parade in honor of MLK Jr. We enjoyed the snow in Antarctica so much that we made our own in class. Joining us for this adventure were Lainey Kugler and Ryan Shu. January was a fun filled month but we are ready for our next adventure. Our bags are packed as we are headed for the continent of Asia.

Write to you soon,

Primary I

Kindergarten:

Brrr! January was a cold, cold month. What better time could we have chosen to learn about Antarctica? Here is a smidgen of what we've learned.

By: Harrison Garrett

“In Antarctica it snows a lot. It's kinda bumpy with snow mountains. Not many plants live there. You can't live there because you'll get cold. Penguins live in Antarctica, they are birds. The daddies babysit the eggs. They have a special oil on their feathers to help them stay dry. Penguins are pretty, they are happiest when it is cold. They like to slide on their bellies on the ice into the water”

We are so happy to have Cole White and Mecca Thompson join our class in January. Welcome to the Kindergarten Family.