

Letter from Mrs. Datzyk

Dear Families,

I find it hard to believe that another year is nearly over! I know that each and every child in our school has made great strides and will continue to do so in the new year.

Now that the winter weather is undoubtedly on its way, it is important that you send your child to school with WATERPROOF snow pants, mittens and boots. Providing it is not bitter cold, we will venture outside in the snow—it's a world of wonder! We also ask that you supply your child with slippers that s/he can change into after coming in from the cold. Please label all articles with your child's name.

As noted in our Parent Handbook, it is imperative that when your child is ill, s/he should be kept at home. By 'ill' we follow the state's mandate that if there is a fever, a child should not return to school until after 24 fever free hours. Also, if there is any discolored discharge from the nose, a rash, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, or any contagious disease, your child is ill and should not be attending school. Please refer to the Parent Handbook on this matter.

In the event of inclement weather you can tune in to the radio or television for any school cancellations, delays or early dismissals. We often get a deluge of phone calls on snowy mornings—by listening to the media this can be avoided.

There has been some question about our Drop-Off and Pick-Up procedures. Please remain in your car and allow the parent volunteers to either take or deliver your child(ren). As a rule the children are welcomed in the morning or dismissed in the afternoon between a quarter to and a quarter past the hour—this helps to cut down on Broadway and Cedar Crest traffic. If the parents of the children in kindergarten and 1st grade drop off their children at the end of the slate path in front of Mrs. Molter's windows, they can be watched until they arrive safely at the entrance to our classroom. Please do not abandon your vehicle in the lanes of traffic. While on this topic, please make every effort to be prompt in both dropping off and picking up your child(ren).

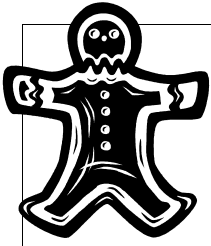
Thank you to the parents who helped finance the speaker we had in November. Thank you also for your support in the fundraisers and in the PoDS organization. Thank you to PoDS participants for your efforts and concern. Thank you to the parents who offer their time to come in to their child's classes to share interesting aspects of theirs and their family's lives. Many thanks also to the teachers who are instructing each class in a foreign language—we are fortunate that each classroom has the opportunity to have such instruction.

I look forward to greeting all of you Monday morning, January 3, 2005. On behalf of the Datzyk Montessori School staff and myself, we wish you and your families and friends a very happy holiday season! Happy New Year 2005! — Ruth Datzyk



Update on School Pictures

John is working diligently on getting the pictures printed so that you (the parents) may see them and determine which ones you may be interested in purchasing. They should be ready in January.



Miss Ryan's Classroom

Twas the night before the newsletter was due, Miss Ryan's class still has so much to do! December has come and gone, and the two year olds learned many new holiday traditions. We practiced new holiday songs and finger plays and discussed why this time of year is special to everyone. Miss Ryan and her class made holiday cookies with the special help from the parents. They were YUMMY! The two year old classroom is learning Spanish 3 times a week with Mrs. Vassallo and they really enjoy it! We've learned the Spanish words for colors, numbers, hello, good-bye, and if we're happy or sad. Thanks to Mrs. Vassallo! Next month we look forward to discussing snowfall, ice and why and which animals hibernate this time of year. We'd like to say Happy Birthday to Gianna who turned 3 on Dec. 11th; she will be moving to the three year old classroom in January.

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Serrecchia's Classroom

Greetings from the 3 year old classroom. I can't believe how this year has flown by. The children are diligently practicing letter sounds and numbers, which they will continue to do throughout the year. They are also busy with knob less cylinders and construction triangles. During the next month, we will be exploring water jobs. The children will be washing paste cloths as well as their snack cups. We will continue to discuss hibernation and migration as well as why it rains sometimes and snows others. Please feel free to contact me with any questions concerning your child.

Have a nice holiday!

Mrs. Vassallo's Classroom

Happy Holidays from Mrs. Vassallo's class! We have been keeping busy in our class while we eagerly await the "big guy's" arrival. We have been working on name recognition, being good listeners, and our responsibilities in the classroom. The students have been doing great learning the months of the year, days of the week, and the changing weather.

Some children have mastered number recognition and are working on counting. The students are working very hard on their letter sounds and they're making great progress! We're continuing to work on the sensorial materials and we have been working on colors, so the work on the shelves may reflect that.

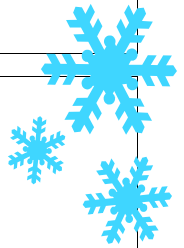
We have been talking about the holidays in December and the traditions in those holidays that make them unique. We decorated a class Christmas tree and we are working on learning some great holiday songs.

In January, we will talk about the winter season and what changes occur to nature in winter. We will talk about what we do to adjust to the season and how animals adjust to the cold.

We will touch upon Martin Luther King Jr and what New Year means for our class calendar.

We have been meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to learn Spanish. We learned colors and numbers; we're starting to learn body parts. I will send home a list for all students' parents so they will know what we have learned.

Have a great holiday! See you in 2005!



Calling All Volunteers

More parent volunteers are needed for morning drop-offs. Contact Mrs. Datzyk or John if you can help.



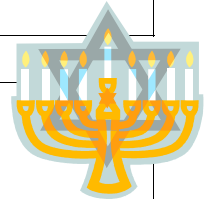
Mrs. Molter's Classroom

We had fun getting ready for the holidays! We learned many new songs including "Oh Tannenbaum." All of our projects are near completion. The children have been busy little elves! They have been busy learning new construction triangle jobs and superimposed shapes. With the cold and flu season upon us we are practicing hand washing. After the holidays, we will start studying animal classification. We've already started with 'mammals' because we learned that squirrels are mammals.

We say good-bye to Shreya. She is moving to Michigan.

Soon we hope to be able to play in the snow so please remember to send your child in boots, water-proof snow pants, hats and mittens with names marked in them.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!



Mrs. Datzyk and Mrs. Turrisi's Classroom

This month Joshua's mom, Mrs. Wildenberg, visited and told us great stories about Hanukkah. She lit the menorah then gave each child a dreidel and taught them to play the dreidel game. Thank you, Mrs. Wildenberg, for offering your time and knowledge! The children have been busy making ornaments for our classroom tree and cookies for our Holiday Get-Together on Tuesday, December 21 from 9:45-10:30am. We hope you can come and mingle with us!

I am sure that upon our happy return in 2005, we will jump right back into our daily routine! We will begin exploring Asia, Haiku, origami, and the great wintry outdoors—paying close attention to the winter birds at our feeders and whatever other curiosities the children generate!

Be safe on your holiday travels and we will see you again in 2005!

"As we allow students to develop a meaningful degree of independence and self-discipline, we also set a pattern for a lifetime of good work habits and a sense of responsibility." - M. Montessori



Mrs. Bao's Music

For those who don't know Mrs. Bao, she is the music teacher at Datzyk and has been since April 2004. Here's a bit of information about her.

Playing the piano since age 5, her education includes a BA of Music Education from Music College at Hangzhou Normal University, China. Her mentors include the well-known piano performance professors Mao and Liu, the famous vocalists Wang and Yang in Zhejiang Province. Her numerous performance appearances as a pianist include Hangzhou Musical Festival, National College Student Concert series and Lehigh University International Week Exposition, etc. She had been a soprano member of Lehigh University Choir from 2001-2003 and attended various concert performances such as Philharmonic Orchestra and Choral Acts, Christmas Vespers, Renaissance Masters, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Britten's War Requiem and Bach, Magnificat. In the past 5 years she has been teaching music that includes piano performance, singing and chorus in preschools, high schools, music studios and colleges. At Datzyk she teaches age-appropriate songs to the students. Each week's session includes a review of songs learned, some songs with rhymes and movements, a continuation of learning a song they had learned a bit of the previous week, and some music just for fun. We are fortunate to have such a talented musician teaching our students!

Safety Reminder for Extended Care!

Parents, please remember to park in front of the building for security purposes. Thanks!



Holiday Parties at Datzyk

Each classroom is celebrating the holidays in their own special way on December 21st. The teachers sent notes home earlier this week with specific classroom information. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher.



- Mrs. Turrisi/Mrs. Datzyk—9:45-10:30am; parents are invited
- Mrs. Molter—Morning snack; for students only
- Mrs. Vassallo, Mrs. Serrechia and Miss Ryan—11:00-11:45am; parents are invited

Second Language for all Datzyk students

All Datzyk students are once again learning another language. Here are the languages by classroom.

Mrs. Turrisi & Mrs. Datzyk: French by Mrs. Turrisi

Mrs. Molter: German by Mrs. Tarazi

Mrs. Vassallo, Mrs. Serrechia & Miss Ryan: Spanish by Mrs. Vassallo

New Page on the Datzyk Website

There is a new Parents page on the Datzyk website at www.datzykmontessori.com. It has a school calendar, chat room and recent newsletters. Thanks to Cheryl Harris and Ying Shen. If you have comments or suggestions on the web site, please leave them in the PoDS mailbox at Datzyk.



Coming Events

21 Dec: Holiday Party—
More info on this page

22 Dec—2 Jan. Datzyk
closed for Winter Holidays

03 Jan: PoDS Meeting—
7-8 pm in Mrs. Molter's
room

05 Jan: Teacher Meeting—
Volunteers needed 12:15-
1:15pm

07 Feb: PoDS Meeting—
7-8pm in Mrs. Molter's
room

09 Feb: Teacher Meeting—
Volunteers needed 12:15-
1:15pm

18-21 Feb: Datzyk closed
for President's Day

Special Thanks!!!

- Thanks to the parents and students who sold Entertainment Books. We raised over \$300!
- On behalf of the CSC, thanks to all who donated items in our Clothing and Book Drive. It was very successful! Several hats, mittens, winter coats, game boards, books, etc. were donated to Head Start children in the Lehigh Valley! Thanks too to Christy, Analise & Olivia Vaccari for delivering the donations and touring the facility.
- Thanks to all parents who have agreed to be listed in the parents' directory. It will be available in January.



Suggestions and Concerns

Your feedback is valued. Please discuss any suggestions or concerns about Datzyk to John Datzyk. If you feel uncomfortable about that, just put a note in the PoDS mailbox. The PoDS officers check the box often and will be sure your feedback is discussed at the next PoDS meeting.

Easy Ways to Help Datzyk

When you shop at the stores below, give these account numbers & Datzyk gets rewards.

- Superfresh Account: 44441027—Datzyk gets cash quarterly
- Office Depot: 5% School Id: 70084861—Datzyk gets store credit
- Box Tops for Education: Datzyk gets cash semiannually; Don't forget to cut the Box Tops for Education icons off General Mills products and put them in the box in your child's classroom. Each top could be worth 10 cents!

