



Letter from Mrs. Datzyk



Dear Families,

Warm greetings to one and all!

We've bid farewell to 2004, have welcomed 2005, and are off to a good start. The weather has been mild though there is always that chance of a big chill!

Forgive me for repeating what was in last month's newsletter but there have been more questions raised concerning our winter policies. In the event of inclement weather please tune to the stations listed in your Parent Handbook or see the last page of this newsletter. We have been told that school delays and/or closings are broadcast every 10 to 15 minutes. We do not encourage telephoning the school on those questionable mornings. As a rule, our school follows the decisions made by both the Parkland and Allentown School Districts. When our playground is snow covered, please dress your child appropriately with waterproof gloves (or mittens), waterproof snow pants, and waterproof snow boots—by doing this, you need not worry about them getting and staying wet.

I feel it necessary to remind those parents with children enrolled in our Extended Program that the school closes at 5:30. Please be prompt—this demonstrates respect for your child and the attending teacher.

We are all saddened by the recent tsunami—the most devastating in history. I hope that none of our families have been directly affected by this disaster. If you are aware of some way that our school can assist the victims, please inform your child's teacher so that action can be taken.

Thank you.

In recognition of the greatness of Martin Luther King Jr., I would like to close my letter with his words.

“We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.” — Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 16, 1963

- Ruth N. Datzyk



Special Thanks!!!

Thanks to Mrs. Kavanagh for compiling and distributing the Datzyk Student directory!



Please Help!

More parent volunteers are needed for morning drop-offs. Two parents are needed for each day. Currently there is only one parent for each morning. Contact Mrs. Datzyk or John Datzyk if you can help.

Miss Ryan's Classroom

Happy New Year!

In January, we discussed how snow is arriving in the next few months and what animals we won't see in the snow. Our class looked at pictures of animals that "hibernate" this time of year. We read stories on bears and their families preparing for a long winter's nap! Not all animals hibernate for the winter, so we talked about survival for the other animals: storing food, staying warm, and building their homes. The class had fun using their fingerprints on paper to make animal tracks in the snow. We also watched ice cubes mixed with food coloring melt into a container; it was a neat experiment. Sometimes we would mix 2 different colored cubes at a time to see what color it would make after they melted.

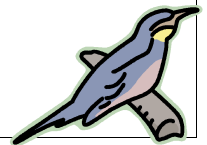


Next month we will be discussing and doing art projects around Valentine's Day and Presidents Day. Miss Ryan's class would like to welcome Thomas (Tommy) a new student who joined us this month!

Mrs. Serrecchia's Classroom

*As we enter into the new year, we have many exciting activities planned. We are going to begin "water jobs" this month. We will also continue to practice letter and number sounds as well as knobless cylinders and construction triangles. The students are still very interested in bird watching and we have added the Morning dove to our growing list of feathered friends that we have seen outside our class. The class is making great strides in Spanish and can recognize many colors and parts of the body. Some of the holidays that we will be discussing are Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents Day. We will be decorating Valentine bags and making special cards for our loved ones. **To date, there are 7 children in our class if you would like to send in cards and/or a treat.***

I wish everyone a great new year!



Mrs. Vassallo's Classroom

During the month of January, we have been focusing on math and sensorial materials. The children have been working on the red and blue rods, the spindle boxes, and I have introduced the cards and counters activity. We have been working on shapes, colors, and sorting. The knobless cylinders have been of interest this month and the children have been feeling creative with all the rain and have been working a lot with the art materials.

We read a story and talked a little about Martin Luther King Jr. and we've been making a lot of snowflakes even though we haven't seen any outside.

*Next month we will have a Valentine's Day activity and the children can bring in 7 Valentine's day cards and a snack to share with their friends. We will make special Valentine's day 'mailboxes' in the class so **I would like each child to bring in a shoebox.** We will continue to practice the letter sounds and some of the children will begin practicing writing the letters. We will continue with Spanish on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I have included a list of Spanish words and phrases in the children's mailboxes so you can practice with your child at home.*



Welcome New Students!

Tommy in Miss Ryan's room and **David** in Mrs. Datzyk and Miss Turrisi's room

Reminder for Extended Care!

Parents, remember that Datzyk closes at 5:30pm. Please be prompt. Thank You!



Facilities Update

John Datzyk has been busy keeping the school in good working order. In response to parents' requests, there is new playground mulch that is not dyed. The previous mulch was staining the students' clothes. He also worked with the Township to get the driveway potholes fixed temporarily. This spring, the South Whitehall Township will landscape the area that was dug up during the sewer line installation and repave the driveway.

Mrs. Molter's Classroom

We have been hoping for SNOW! We have cut out snowflakes and painted some too. We have made paper snowmen and chalk ones too. We have read snow stories, but still NO SNOW!

Setting a table, polishing a shoe, and scrubbing a shell are new jobs in the classroom. We have been talking about vertebrates and invertebrates. We read some books about Martin Luther King Jr.

In February we will celebrate Valentines' Day. We will make card holders in our classroom.

Please feel free to send cards and/or individually wrapped treats on the 14th. Please do not put "to" names on them, as it is easier for the children to distribute them. We will also talk about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in honor of Presidents' Holiday. We are continuing to practice German and are learning a new song.

Mrs. Datzyk and Mrs. Turrisi's Classroom

Dear families of the kindergarten and 1st grade class,

It feels good to be together again! We certainly have a room full of curious and conscientious workers. We have been talking about the earth and natural disasters. This topic came up when children asked questions about and told their versions of the Asian Tsunami. Mrs. Serrecchia is guiding the afternoon class in the making of papier-mache models of the earth, while we are exploring the causes and effects of natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes.

*In the near future we will begin our unit on Asian culture. **We encourage parents to visit our class and share with us first-hand information on this exciting continent.***

At present we have 25 students in our class. Our newest student is David Ahn. He and his mother are visiting Pennsylvania for a month. By the time they return to Korea, David's mother hopes that he will have a good command of the English language.

Come February, please send a large paper bag to school (as you did for Halloween) that your child can decorate for his/her Valentine treats. At home each child prepares a Valentine card for each class member and brings the cards to school on the 14th for a Valentine exchange! The distribution of the cards is much easier if you do not write the recipients name on the card—especially if your child is not yet reading. If you are planning to send treats for the children, please see that they are individually wrapped. Thank you.

We had school on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and have spoken about the greatness of this man, and the injustices that he and others have suffered because of their race. On Monday the 17th we dissected a brown egg and a white egg demonstrating that even though the eggs appear different on the outside, in the inside they are the same.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Civil Rights March, August 28, 1963



Winter Storm News — *Listen to these stations to check on weather related school closings:*



WAEB AM 790 and FM 104.1
WEST AM 1400
WHOL AM 1600
WCTO FM 96.1 'CAT COUNTRY 96'
WODE FM 99.9 'THE HAWK'
WLEV FM 100.7 'SUNNY'
WAEB FM 104.1 'B104'
and

WFMZ Channel 69 on television or www.wfmz.com on internet

We want to hear from you

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.



Did you know?

Previous newsletters can be found on www.datzykmontessori.com

Coming Events

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

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

14 Feb: Valentine's Day

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

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

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

21-25 Mar: Datzyk closed
for Spring Break

Parents of Datzyk School (PoDS) Update



Happy 2005! PoDS spent the first half of the school year getting organized. We tried many things..like the Native American storyteller, the clothing and book drive, Discovery Toys sales, Entertainment book sales, Parkettes satellite program, newsletter administration, etc. We appreciate your support of these activities. Your patience with us in the early stages of our organization was very helpful. For the rest of the school year, we will continue to administer the newsletter and help coordinate parent volunteers for Datzyk.

We will refocus PoDS on enhancing communications between parents and Datzyk teachers and staff. With \$500 in our PoDS bank account our fundraising efforts for the year should be behind us. We now have enough money to provide some programs (based on teacher and parent interest) to enhance the students' learning.

We will be collecting donations for the tsunami victims. More details will be sent home with the students next week.

Thanks to all the parents who have attended one or more PoDS meetings to date. If you haven't attended a PoDS meeting yet, don't be bashful. We meet new parents at every meeting. Hope to see you at the next meeting on Monday, 07 February at 7pm in Mrs. Molter's room. (Thanks to Mrs. Molter for letting us use her room!)

Easy Ways to Help Datzyk

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

- *Superfresh Account: 444441027—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!*
- *SchoolPop.com Account: 0171602*

