



## CROSSROADS EARLY LEARNING CENTER Newsletter February, 2017

February is a month chock full of celebrations. We celebrate the birthdays of two of our country's forefathers - President Washington and President Lincoln. It is Black History Month, honoring those black leaders who had such a positive impact on Black Culture in this country. Our Chinese families are also celebrating their New Year. Last, but not least, we are celebrating Valentine's Day.

All of these celebrations honor people and each other. Not only are we celebrating our history and those people who have impacted our lives and our culture, but we are celebrating our families and friends of today. February is a time for communication, sharing memories, concerns and having empathy for others.

At school children are encouraged to share, and work together in a cooperative spirit. Many times our friends are a little younger or less skilled perhaps needing our help, patience and kindness. The children are just beginning to learn the meaning of being a good friend. They are starting to realize how important people are in the world around them. Friends and family are as important to children as they are to adults. We are encouraging the children to keep the spirit of these holidays every day of the year.

When you celebrate this Valentine's Day and recognize someone special, encourage your child to be a good friend to someone, too. Help your child, as we are at Crossroads, to grow as a special friend to others. There is nothing more special or rewarding than being a good friend. What a great way of children gaining the confidence they need as they grow and at the same time telling someone you care about them.

**Miss Vivian**





## INFANTS/TODDLERS

**Miss Lucyanne/Miss Elsy**

**Miss Adriana/Nichoal/Lisa/Waheeda**

We have had a wonderful month of January in our Infant/Toddler Room. We learned all about winter animals, winter clothes, and polar bears! We read the book: “Polar Bear, Polar Bear” by Eric Carle. We also have 3 new friends that we have welcomed this month! It has been very exciting for all of us!

It is hard to believe that February is here and it’s full of celebrations which will provide opportunity to fill your child’s day with learning that will help them to develop their emerging skills. With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, thoughts of love and special people are all around our center and classrooms. We will be focusing on the special people in our lives.

We will expose the children to new pictures, finger plays, and songs that correspond to what’s happening this month.

### Young Infant Curriculum (2-8 Months):

The theme is independence versus dependence. The concept of the month is being at school with our “friends” and the skill of the month is permanence. We will be working with bubbles and the sense of the month is vision.

### Older Infant Curriculum (9-12 Months):

The theme is gross motor development. The skill is balance and the concept is sense of the month is vision.

### Young Toddler Curriculum (13-18 Months):

The theme is “friends at school.” The song of the month is “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear” and the book is “Clifford’s Pals.” The skill is language development and the nursery rhyme is “Rub a Dub, Dub.” The sense is vision.

### Older Toddler Curriculum (18-24 Months):

The theme is “friendship at school.” The concept is love and hugs. The song of the month is “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear” and the book is “Clifford’s Pals.” The skill is language development and the nursery rhyme is “Rub a Dub, Dub.” The sense is vision.

Throughout the month, we will also continue to work on our E-LAP (Early Learning Accomplishment Profile) skills. These are age specific skills that we work on in the classroom with the children. The LAP covers all areas of development: gross/fine motor, language development, cognitive ability, self-help skills, etc. Each month brings new goals for each child to master.

We will be having a special Valentine’s snack for our **Valentine's Pajama Party on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### Reminders:

**Please continue labeling all bottles, cups and food with your child's name and date! Thank you!!!!!!**

### Welcome!

Bryce  
Evelyn  
Liam

### Happy Birthday!

Alana 2/16  
Miss Elsy 2/22



### Special Events:

**2/14 Pajama Party for Valentine's Day**  
**2/20 Presidents' Day - WE ARE CLOSED**

## TWO'S

**Miss Crystal/Miss Trish/**

**Miss Awatef/Miss Michele/Miss Stephanie**

Welcome to February! There are many new and exciting activities planned for our children. We will focus on the heart shape and color red and its many different shades. Hearing will be the sense, as we learn to identify the sounds around us.

During Jesus Time, we will be talking about “How God gives us friends.” - perfect discussion for the Holiday of the Month – Valentine’s Day.

Our character focus is generosity, which means: sharing, giving, and helping others. We will continually model and reinforce these concepts



and recognize these acts of kindness towards the other children or staff!

We will also be talking about one of our community helpers – the postal worker and the post office – how he/she delivers mail to our homes and school. We will be using tissue boxes to make our own mailboxes and putting valentine mail (cards) inside of them. The postal worker delivers mail right outside our window, so we can watch him every day!

We will also be making our own musical instruments which we will use during circle time!

### Happy Birthday!

Mariam	2/2
Jorge	2/3
Nico	2/17



### Special Events:

**2/14 Valentine's Pajama Party @ 9:15am**  
**Wear Pajamas!**

**2/20 Presidents' Day - WE ARE CLOSED**

### PRESCHOOL

**Miss Ellen/Miss Toni/**

**Miss Nichol/Miss Monica**

We started the New Year off to a great start! The children are all hanging up their own coats and generally becoming more independent. We will be learning about the State of NJ and its symbols and features. We will be talking about how a piece of mail arrives at our home and the journey it takes to get there. We will also talk about and see how emails are also another way of communicating and sending mail. We will go down to the office and see how when Miss Melina emails Miss Vivian from her computer, it shows up on Miss Vivian's computer. Like magic!

We will be learning about our families, as well as friends and how important each is in our lives. We will be learning how everyday items work and will be exploring musical instruments, as well as, making our own.

For our "Living in Faith" Curriculum, we will be learning that "God gives us friends" which ties in

nicely into our Nurturing Character lessons which are generosity, sharing, giving, helping and being joyful with others. The children will be participating in activities where they can practice being a good friend and sharing. We will be putting together a "Random Acts of Kindness" Chart for the children.

**If you wish to send in Valentine's Day cards, please only write your child's name on the card,** so that the children can pass out the cards by themselves.

### Happy Birthday!

Savana 2/5



### Special Events:

**2/14 Valentine's Party and Exchange@**  
**9:30. Wear RED**

**2/20 Presidents' Day - WE ARE CLOSED**

### PREK 1

**Miss Lynn/Miss Denuve/Miss Gail**

Have you heard your child singing "We Love because God First Loved us," "Jesus Loves Me", "Jesus Loves the Little Children," or any other of our chapel songs? Ask your child to teach you the songs. They will be more than happy to do so!

February is the month filled with love and caring for one another, just as Jesus teaches us to do every day of our lives! We will learn about the special gift of friendship given to us by God and what being a Christian friend is all about. Our nurturing character word is generosity (sharing, giving, helping, and being joyful with others.) Our Living in Faith theme is God helps us to help others. The children will discuss all the ways to show their love and how God shows His love for us.

We will also be busy celebrating many holidays this month including Groundhog Day, George Washington's birthday, Black History Month, and Chinese New Year. We will explore these special holidays through learning games, projects, stories and songs. Let's remember to celebrate our families and friends every day!



In our science area, we will explore our senses and continue to experience the winter season, as well as, exploring the textures of various objects. We are having a lot of fun with our indoor snow play! We created snow angels, snow children, snow sculptures and much more. In our block area, we created igloos and snow forts.

We will continue to concentrate on our letters, numbers, colors, shapes, and master other skills through various activities (such as our rhyming hearts' game, and our heart counting game.) A class favorite is "Marching around the Alphabet," which is a game that reinforces letter recognition.

The children are really enjoying their Clifford newsletter! It helps to reinforce our curriculum as they learn about various topics (such as dressing appropriate for winter weather.)

On **Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00**, we will have our **Children's Valentine Party**. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the classroom if you would like to contribute something to our party. **Please remember that we cannot have anything with nuts!** On that day, the children will be playing mail carrier. **If you wish to send in Valentine's Day cards, please only write your child's name on the card**, (for example, Love, Lisa) so that the children can pass out the cards by themselves.

Thank you in advance for your help with our party! Happy Valentine's Day to everyone and Happy New year to our Chinese families!

**Happy Birthday!**

Ethan 2/16



**Special Events:**

**2/14 Valentine's Children's Party & Exchange @ 3pm**

**2/20 Presidents' Day - WE ARE CLOSED**



**PREK 2/KINGERGARTEN**

**Miss Sue/Miss Kathy/Miss Dana**

Another month has gone by and 2017 is well on its way!

The PreK2 Smarties are learning to find themselves on the map! Based on Joan Sweeny's book "Me on the Map" and Dr. Jean's "World Family", the Smarties have drawn a map of their bedroom, as the beginning of another book publication! Not only are they learning about the town they live in, but they are discovering their city is just a small dot in their state of New Jersey, another small dot in their country, etc. I am sure you get the idea.

Our Smarties celebrated the "100 Day" of School on February 1<sup>st</sup>. They were 100 days smarter than the first day they set foot in our classroom, back in September! They were so looking forward to the 100th day party. As a matter of fact, our smarties decided to dub the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school as the day of our "Smartie Party". Aren't they clever!! To get to 100, our Smarties were counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's while dancing and moving to the beat!

We continue to play, build and pretend every day, as well as, build our character through the use of our words and learning about Jesus. We have learned that Jesus had many helpers, but the best thing we learned was that Jesus has helpers just my size and it made the Smarties proud to know they are Jesus' helpers too!

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day! **If you wish to send in Valentine's Day cards, please write only your child's name on the card (for example: Love, Lisa) so that children can pass out the cards themselves.**

Thank you!

**Happy Birthday!**

Madison 2/6

Eric We 2/3

Naomi 2/20

**Special Events:**

**2/14 Valentine's Children's Party and Exchange @ 2:45**

**2/20 Presidents' Day - WE ARE CLOSED**

**Needs of the Classroom:**

Icing Tubs/Toilet Paper Rolls

## **NEWS FLASH:**

**SNOW PREDICTIONS:** When there is a prediction of snow, please have your cell phones on and check voice messages for home and cell phones, as soon as you wake up. If you do not answer your phone, we will leave a voice message.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Please make sure that we have **ANY UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

## **REMINDERS:**

**PHYSICALS:** As your children get their **ANNUAL PHYSICALS, PLEASE** have your



## **THIS MONTH IN CHAPEL**

At Crossroads we provide a Christian education as a part of our curriculum. In other words, we get to talk about Jesus. The children have Jesus Time each day with their teachers in the classroom. They take a few minutes to share Bible stories and say a prayer together. Once a week we all get together in Chapel to sing, hear a Bible story and say a prayer together. We hope the singing, sharing and praying helps the children get to know Jesus better. We hope hearing God's Word is helping the children grow in faith.

I encourage you at home to nurture the faith of your children. Read the Bible with them, pray with them, and go to church with them. When God's people gather to worship and learn God's Word together, the children should not be neglected. Bring them to me, insists Jesus.

Bring them and you will be teaching and guiding them by your words and example. Those lessons last a lifetime. You can make an amazing difference in the lives of these young children of God. You can touch a life with the love of Christ and get to know him better yourself. You can help make Jesus known to his precious children. What a privilege for us all.

God bless,  
Pastor Smith

## **HEALTH & SAFETY** **Fever**



The winter season is upon us and many children will be getting ill with fever. It is important to remember that fever is a symptom and not a disease. Fever is not necessarily harmful and is usually caused by the body's immune system releasing substances that reset our internal thermostat and cause the body

physician fill out the **UNIVERSAL HEALTH FORM** for us.

**IMMUNIZATIONS:** Also, please provide updates on any immunizations received.



temperature to rise. Occasionally, fever can be caused by overexertion in hot weather or over bundling in cold weather.

Oral temperatures above 101 degrees F, rectal temperatures above 102 degrees F or axillary (armpit) temperatures above 100 degrees F are usually considered to be above normal in children. A temperature above 100.4 in an infant who is less than three months should be evaluated immediately because of potential complications in this young age group.

#### **METHODS FOR TAKING TEMPERATURES INCLUDE RECTAL, ORAL, TYMPANIC AND AUXILIARY TEMPERATURES:**

- **Rectal temperatures** are the most accurate in infants less than three months of age. You can lubricate the tip of the thermometer with petroleum jelly; lay the baby on a flat surface or across your lap and insert the tip of the thermometer an inch into the rectum.
- **Oral temperatures** can usually be taken in children four years and older although it can be tough to hold a thermometer under the tongue with your mouth closed when you are coughing or have a stuffy nose. Make sure that the child hasn't had anything to eat or drink prior to taking an oral temperature. The tip of the thermometer should be placed under the tongue with the mouth closed. Warn the children not to bite down on the thermometer and make sure that they don't have candy in their mouth.
- **Ear temperature:** is .5 to 1 degree (F) higher than an oral temperature. It is taken by placing the probe in the child's ear canal. Gently pull up and back on the child's ear when placing the probe in the ear canal.
- **Auxiliary (armpit) temperature:** is .5 to 1 degree (F) lower than an oral temperature. Make sure the thermometer is touching the skin and the tip is within the armpit. The child's arm can be held across the chest to secure the thermometer.
- **Forehead (Temporal) Scanner:** is usually .5 to 1 degree (F) lower than an oral temperature. Make sure that the tip is touching the center of the forehead and scan across to the ear.

#### **MEDICATION FOR FEVER:**

Fever medication generally brings the temperature down by several degrees but may not bring it down to a normal level. Fever medications generally start working within a half hour. Acetaminophen lasts 4-6 hours and ibuprofen 6-8 hours.

The most common medications to treat fever are:

- **Acetaminophen (Tylenol)**
- **Ibuprofen (Motrin).** Ibuprofen should not be used in infants less than six months of age.
- **Aspirin** should **NEVER** be used in children, except in special circumstances when prescribed by a doctor.
- Use an accurate measuring device.
- Follow Instructions on the label
- Check expiration dates.
- Wash hands before and after giving medicines.
- In children less than 3 months of age, call your child's provider first before giving them medicines.
- Doctors should provide written instructions about the specific medication and dose based on the child's weight. Since young children's weight changes frequently, it is important to keep this information updated.

#### **EATING AND DRINKING:**

##### **Your child should drink plenty of fluids**

- **DO NOT** give your child too much fruit or apple juice. Dilute these drinks by making them half water and half juice.
- Popsicles or gelatin (Jell-O) are good choices, especially if the child is vomiting.
- Children can eat foods when they have a fever. But **DO NOT** force them to eat.

- Children who are ill often tolerate bland foods better. A bland diet includes foods that are soft, not very spicy, and low in fiber: breads, crackers, and pastas made with refined white flour; refined hot cereals, such as oatmeal or cream of wheat

### **Treating Your Child's Fever**

- DO NOT bundle up a child with blankets or extra clothes, even if the child has the chills. This may keep the fever from coming down, or make it go higher.
- Try one layer of lightweight clothing, and one lightweight blanket for sleep.
- The room should be comfortable, not too hot or too cool. Wipe their face with a damp cloth.
- A lukewarm bath or sponge bath may help cool a fever.
- Lukewarm baths work better if the child also gets medicine. Otherwise, the temperature might bounce right back up.
- DO NOT use cold baths, ice, or alcohol rubs. These often make the situation worse by causing shivering.

### **WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR**

#### **Talk to your child's health care provider or go to the emergency room when:**

- Your child does not act alert or more comfortable when their fever goes down
- Fever symptoms come back after they had gone away
- The child does not make tears when crying
- Your child does not have wet diapers or has not urinated in the past 8 hours
- If your child is younger than age 3 months and has a rectal temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Is 3 to 12 months old and has a fever of 102.2°F (39°C) or higher
- Is under age 2 and has a fever that lasts longer than 48 hours
- Has a fever over 105°F (40.5°C), unless the fever comes down readily with treatment and the child is comfortable
- Has had fevers come and go for up to a week or more, even if they are not very high.
- Has other symptoms that suggest an illness may need to be treated, such as a sore throat, earache, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, or a cough.
- Has a serious medical illness, such as a heart problem, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, or cystic fibrosis
- Recently had an immunization

#### **Call 9-1-1 if your child has a fever and:**

- Is crying and cannot be calmed down
- Cannot be awakened easily or at all
- Seems confused
- Cannot walk
- Has difficulty breathing, even after their nose is cleared
- Has blue lips, tongue, or nails
- Has a very bad headache
- Has a stiff neck
- Refuses to move an arm or leg
- Has a seizure
- Has a new rash or bruises appear



### **REACTIONS FROM FEVER:**

Some young children are prone to having seizures when they have a fever. These are called febrile seizures and although they can be very frightening, they generally do not cause any damage to the child. Febrile seizures tend to run in families and are usually outgrown by school age. If a child with fever begins to have a convulsion, just lay them on the floor on their side. Do not attempt to place anything in their mouth. Call 911 if the seizure lasts longer than a few minutes.

Children who have had febrile seizures in the past usually need to get fever medication promptly when they have fever. They may also have emergency medications to be given under special circumstances.

The details should be included in a Special Care Plan which should be completed by the child's doctor and discussed when the child enrolls or when they return to child care after their illness.

**WHEN CAN CHILDREN WITH FEVER RETURN TO CHILD CARE?:**

They can return when they are fever-free for 24 hours, without the aid of any medication and be able to participate comfortably in activities. Most children who had fever will not require an antibiotic or other medication because viruses cause most fevers in children and most viral infections go away on their own.

**INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT**

**Thanks to God**

Hello, God  
I called tonight  
To talk a little while  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own.  
I need your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

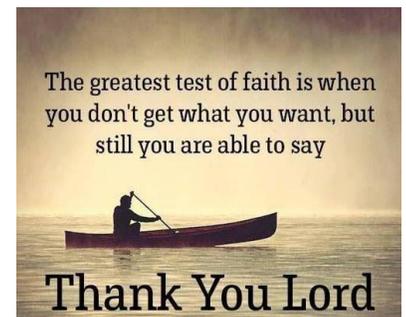
I want to ask you please to keep  
My family safe and sound.  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour, throughout the day  
And not to worry over things that  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice,  
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God is the only one  
That answers every time.  
So, thank you God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.

Good Night, God.  
I love you too!  
And, I'll call again tomorrow!



# February

## EVENTS

2/1 Chapel

2/2 Gymnastics  
Ground Hog Day



2/7 Chapel

2/9 Gymnastics

**2/14** VALENTINE PARTIES AND EXCHANGE:  
Infants/Waddlers, Miss Lucyanne: Pajama Party  
Two's, Miss Crystal: Pajama Party @ 9:15am  
Preschool, Miss Ellen: @ 9:30am Wear red, if possible.  
PreK 1, Miss Lynn: @ 3:00pm  
PreK 2, Miss Sue: @ 2:45pm

2/15 Chapel

2/16 Gymnastics

**2/20** **PRESIDENT'S DAY - CROSSROADS IS CLOSED**



2/21 Chapel

2/13 Gymnastics