

**SOUTH SHORE MONTESSORI, INC.**  
**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 2010**  
[WWW.SOUTHSHOREMONTESSORI.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHSHOREMONTESSORI.ORG)

**February Calendar**

Feb. 2- Groundhog Day  
Feb. 14- Valentine's Day  
Feb. 15- President's Day  
Feb. 15- Chinese New Year  
Feb. 16- Mardi Gras  
Feb. 23- National Dog Biscuit Day  
Feb. 26- Go Texan

**Honors for Mrs. Suzi Howe**

Our director, Mrs. Suzi Howe, was honored with a dinner to acknowledge her work with Rotary. Through Suzi's hard work and dedication, Mrs. Howe raised a large sum of money to help fund the Los Niño's School: a nonprofit Montessori public preschool. This school allows children of low income to experience the Montessori setting. This experience is wonderful bridge to future education for these children. Congratulations Mrs. Howe.

**February Fun**

We sure had some cold days in January. Now it is time to warm up and enjoy February. We have some wonderful events planned for this month starting with Groundhog Day, followed by Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras, and Go Texan Day! And as if that isn't enough we have exciting Montessori lessons planned for your children.

Parents, please remember how important it is that your child arrives on time to school each and every day. When your child is late, he or she misses the morning community meeting and may also miss out on taking part in the wonderful lesson planned for that day. Your child doesn't want to miss out on any of the excitement happening this month!

**Running shoes**

At South Shore Montessori your child must wear running shoes because we care about them. None of our teachers like to see any of the children get hurt and wearing the proper foot wear will go a long way in preventing falls. So you will hear us repeat running shoes if you want to play outside. Running shoes are tennis or athletic shoes with a non slip tread. Tie shoes with a tongue is preferred. Thank you for helping us with this.

**Extreme Home Make Over**

What an exciting event to have happen right in our back yard. Several of our children and staff were lucky enough to observe the building process. We also were able to donate quite a few canned goods to the pantry. The show will air sometime in March.

**Valentine's Day**

The children will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. We will not be having parties, but we will be exchanging Valentine cards. The infant, toddler, and preschool children need to bring enough Valentines for everyone in their class. Do not put names on the envelopes, but do let your child sign them. **Do not send candy** or balloons with cards. Preschool teachers are asking for a decorated shoe box, cereal box, oatmeal box, or anything else you can think of to store your child's Valentine cards. Have fun with this Valentine's homework.

**Mardi Gras**

We will be celebrating Mardi Gras on Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>. The teachers love this day. They get to stand on the big toy and throw Mardi Gras beads to the children. If everyone would send in twenty Mardi Gras beads to throw it would be greatly appreciated.

**Go Texan Day**

We will be celebrating "Go Texan Day" on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Those of you who are new to this tradition, this is the day for everyone to dress in their best Western attire...Be creative, get geared up with your kids for the Rodeo! You do not have to spend a lot of money...a bandana and jeans are just fine. Please parents, this is the one day your children may wear cowboy boots, but they may **not** bring their guns. If your child wears boots they will need to bring a pair of **running shoes** for outside. We will also have our annual Chili Cook off. Please check the clipboard for items you can provide for your classroom.

### **Class Pictures**

J. Pamela Photography will once again be taking our class pictures on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. All children are included in the class picture, so please dress appropriately. The pictures are then processed and will be on display in our office for purchase.

### **Tuition Express**

Does getting your tuition payment in on time every month give you a headache? Well, do we have a cure for you. When you sign up for Tuition Express your child's tuition will automatically be taken out of your account on the first of each month. You will never have to think about it again. We are attaching a Tuition Express form which you can turn in with the office. Peace of mind is just around the corner. Please turn the paperwork in by the 10<sup>th</sup>. in order for it to go into effect for the next month.

### **Science Fair**

It is time for everyone who is in Kindergarten and older to start planning their projects for the Science Fair. The Annual Science Fair will be held on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. All families are welcome to attend this event. More information will be sent home soon.

If your child is a Kindergartener please see Ms Harris for information on entering the elementary class.

### **Adopt a Polar Bear**

As part of the pre-school study of the North and South Poles and the animals of these regions this month, we would like to adopt a Polar Bear through the National Wildlife Federation. ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)). Polar Bears have been added to the Endangered Species Act due to the melting of their homeland in the Arctic Region. With a class donation we will receive a certificate of Adoption and poster for our classroom. We see this as a valuable learning experience for our students, showing them early on they can make a difference in their world. We are asking for a \$1-\$2 donation from each student. Thank you.

### **Randalls**

Thank you for remembering our school when you shop! We have received another donation for our school through the Good Neighborhood Program. This program lets a portion of your purchase at any Randalls store be donated to our school. This quarter, the donation was \$49.72. We will be using these funds to add materials to

your child's classroom. Our Good Neighborhood Program number is 7403. Thanks again for remembering us when you shop!

### **News from the classroom of**

#### **101:**

During the month of February we will be talking about the Solar System, the Sun and the Planets. We will also have hands on art experiences to go along with our topic. This month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras and Go Texan Day. As you can see, it will be a busy and exciting month.

Ms Claudia & Ms Nancy

#### **102:**

January was great fun as we learned all about different animals of the world. We studied penguins, lions and polar bears, just to name a few. February is going to be very busy. We will be talking about the Solar System, Asia, listening to Louis Armstrong, drawing like C.M. Russell, and reading stories by Faith Ringgold. We have many fun activities planned for this month, so please mark your calendars. We will have an exchange of Valentine Cards on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a card exchange only. **No Candy!** Remember our nutrition policy when sending in treats. We are asking for Mardi Gras beads for our celebration of Mardi Gras, and please check the clip board for items that will be needed for our Chili cook-off for "Go Texan Day" Thank you.

Ms Stephanie & Ms Leesa

### **Preschool Show and Tell**

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> v as in vase

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> k as in king

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> q as in quarter

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> z as in zebra

#### **103:**

February is a wonderful month for celebrations. We will have an exchange of Valentine Cards on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a card exchange only. **No Candy!** Remember our nutrition policy when sending in treats. We will celebrate Chinese New Year with fried rice and our annual Dragon parade. We are asking for Mardi Gras beads for our celebration of Mardi Gras, we would like to see at least 20 beads per child. Please check the clip board for items that will be needed for our Chili cook-off for "Go Texan Day" Thank you.

Ms Peggy & Ms Twyla

**104:**

The New Year is off to a great start. We “traveled” to the continent Antarctica with the help of the Magic Tree House book Eve of the Emperor. We learned many interesting facts about penguins. We also studied the life of artist Claude Monet and learned about the art of Impressionism. During the month of February we will study the continent of Asia. We will celebrate the Chinese New Year and have a tissue paper lion for our annual Dragon parade. We will also study solids, liquids, and gases in Physical Science. In addition, we will study the Solar System and the Kindergarten students will make oil pastels of the Planets. We will have an exchange of Valentine Cards on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a card exchange only. **No Candy!** Remember our nutrition policy when sending in treats. We are asking for Mardi Gras beads for our celebration of Mardi Gras, we would like to see at least 20 beads per child. Please check the clip board for items that will be needed for our Chili cook-off for “Go Texan Day” Thank you.  
Ms Tracia & Ms Emma

**105:**

It’s hard to believe its February already! This month will be filled with challenging work and lots of fun. We will focus on the continent of Asia, Texas History and the Scientific Method. Of course we will celebrate Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras, and Go Texan Day. Watch for info on Science Fair. We also have an Astronaut, Roberto Vittori, visiting with us. We are very excited.  
Mrs. Harris & Mrs. Saenz

**Elementary Dates to Remember:**

March 1<sup>st</sup>. -Field trip to see Beauty & the Beast

March 11<sup>th</sup>. -Class Pictures

March 14<sup>th</sup>.-20<sup>th</sup>. Spring Break

March 22<sup>nd</sup>.-26<sup>th</sup>. Iowa Basic Skills Testing

March 29<sup>th</sup>. -Science Fair

**Misc.:** Black History Month/Go Texan/Mardi Gras/Chinese New Year.

February Birthdays

101:

2/3 Dylan Burchfield

103:

2/14 Everett Groce

104:

2/24 Spencer Beaver

105:

2/10 Gerardo Guajardo

2/19 Nadya Hernandez

**Movement**

It takes work on the part of the adult to withstand the temptation to let the child spend hours in front of the television or the computer, but it is well worth the effort to support the natural development of the child. Television accustoms the child to be a passive receiver of information rather than an active questioner or researcher. And the intelligence of computers does not hold a candle to the kind of creativity inborn in the human being. The child needs large muscle movement and gradually more and more refined large and small muscles—legs, trunk, arms, hands, to the pincer movement of thumb and fingers.

*Reprinted from: Child of the World, Michael Olaf’s Essential Montessori for 3-12+years.*  
[www.michaelolaf.net](http://www.michaelolaf.net)

**February**

**Theme:** The Solar System

**Virtue:** Pride

**Continent:** Asia

**Author:** Faith Ringgold & Graeme Base

**Artist:** C. M. Russell & Faith Ringgold

**Composer:** Louis Armstrong

**Peacemaker:** Mandela