

Summit Private School Newsletter

March 2010
Volume 2, Issue 5

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 3/11: PTA meeting
6:30-7:30 P.M.
- ◆ 3/12: Elementary
Students Only : 12:00
Dismissal
- ◆ 3/16: Parent Education
Night 6:30-8:00 P.M.
Topic: Cultural
- ◆ 3/16: Teacher's
Luncheon: 11:30 A.M.-
1:30 P.M.
- ◆ 3/19: Elementary
Reports Issued
- ◆ 3/19: Grandparents' or
Special Persons' Day:
8:30-9:30 A.M.-
Toddlers and Pre-
Primary 9:30-10:30
A.M.- Elementary
- ◆ 3/24: AMS
Conference:12:00
Dismissal
- ◆ 3/25,26: Classrooms
Closed
- ◆ 3/29-4/2: **SPRING
BREAK- SCHOOL
CLOSED**
- ◆ 4/5: **Easter Monday
SCHOOL CLOSED**
- ◆ 4/6: Return to school

Service

This month has been filled with fun, special service, and Valentine's. We started the month with a wonderful Winterfest, thanks to the hard work of the PTA. Special thanks to Kim Mareira, Suzanne Materia and Marjorie Wessel for organizing and working the event, as well as the parent volunteers, Claire Brandt, Deb Austin and her sons, Shannon Kantor, Tiffany Maciulewicz, Tracy & Michael Sferes, Chris Patels, Jose Nieves for helping with set up, serving, clean up and supervision. Special thanks also to our Summit Administration and staff for their hard work in preparing for and working this event. We toured and enrolled many new families. It was great fun and we appreciated all of your support.

Our annual YAC (Youth Activity Center) Heart 2 Heart Giving Party was another big success. Thanks to your generosity, we collected over 75 new books, one for each child at the YAC, and several gently used books so they could take a book home for a sibling. A big thank you goes out to Kelle Enriquez, who organized the food, crafts and volunteers. We would also like to thank the many parents and staff who volunteered for this event; all of the children enjoyed snacks, including fresh fruits and veggies, cookie decorating, spin art, bowling and extra give away treats with their book. Over 20 Summit students enjoyed tennis, soccer, crafts and games with their friends at the YAC (enjoy the pictures)! Volunteer parents and staff read with children, helped with spin art and cookie decorating and helped them pick out their books. The children really had a good time and books were being pulled out and read even before the children were picked up by their parents.

What excites us even more is when we hear of service that our students are doing in addition to our campus projects. Ricky Rose served spaghetti dinner as a Boy Scout, Jordan Zakka, assisted his father at their church benefit which raised money for a future orphanage and addition to their parish and Olivia Mike shared prayers at an Interfaith Memorial Service for the people of Haiti at Atlantic High School. As you read in the last newsletter, Ms. Lourdes' and Ms. Crystal's classes gave their 100th day money, collected and counted by the children, to Haiti relief efforts and students in the Upper Elementary helped to provide a garden for Twin Palms Center for the Disabled just down the street. Those are only a few of the service acts we are aware of and knowing our families, there are more! As we often emphasize to the children, the purpose of education is to serve humanity and make the world a better place.

We would also like to thank the Toddler families who contributed the wonderful food, beverages and sentimental heart decorations for the Teachers' luncheon. We walked into the kitchen with large hearts hanging from the ceiling with sentiments from students and parents for each staff member. It was a thoughtful gesture that left us all feeling loved and appreciated. Special thanks to Nicole Smith for coordinating the special valentines.

Thank you, for this wonderful month of service and for the special memories created.

Gratefully yours,

Drs. John & Susan Mike

Ms. April and Ms. Johanna

Much to our surprise our class is still enjoying the chilly Florida weather. The cool breeze and low temperatures have allowed us to add another form of caring for oneself to our practical life routine. We are assisting the children in putting on their sweatshirts, jackets, hats, hoods and scarves and have made some great leaps in encouraging their own initiation in zipping, buttoning and dressing themselves. We've spent some sunny mornings in the garden and even succeeded in taking a class picture in the upper elementary garden. The gardens look beautiful and the children have seen peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, green beans and many colorful flowers. Many thanks to Lisa Arnold - our room mom, for organizing the Valentine's celebration. The children were immersed in the art form of cookie decorating. We are proud to say that they have mastered cookie decorating through practice of spreading frosting with the use of small cheese knives. FUN! We hope you enjoyed their creations at home (tee hee hee). We also thank our class parents for their contributions of "Love" to our classroom lessons. We had so much fun decorating cookies for Valentine's Day. Thank you to Lisa Arnold for making the cookies. They were so good! March is approaching quickly and we will be adding several challenging lessons to the classroom for our absorbent and expanding minds. We hope your children will share some of the new ideas and activities planned for the upcoming Florida Spring season.



Caleb



Trey



Bradley



Jordan

Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

March is almost here and the school year is moving quickly. In the month of February we had our Valentine's Day celebration. Parents cooperated by bringing in food and presents for all the children. We also decorated cookies and we all had a great party. Thank you for all your help, without it, none of this would have been possible. In the following months, we will have the opportunity to learn new lessons as well as perfect our current lessons. We will be exploring such themes as the continents, the hours on the clock, colors in English, Spanish and French, and numbers from 1-20 as well as the planets in our solar system. I want to thank the parents from both Toddler classes for the teacher luncheon, everything was amazing! Thank you for the wonderful comments written on hanging hearts for the staff here at Summit, it was a great idea! Thank you for taking the time to do this for us. Room mothers and ex-room mothers, you did a super job. We love you! I would just like to remind our parents to please send your children in with a sweater or jacket on nippy or cold days. We really appreciate all of your help and support! ~ Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

Ms. Lourdes and Ms. Shelley

We had a fantastic Valentine's Celebration. We wish to thank all the parents who came and assisted us with the baking and the many crafts. The kids had a fantastic time. On the 100th day of school, the children each brought in 100 quarters, dimes, nickels, or pennies in celebration. We decided as a class that we would like to send the money to assist another school in need. We will be donating the many coins on World Peace Day to the Pennies for Peace since it is a reliable source that uses the money for schools and children around the world. We have collected over \$400 between our class and Ms. Crystal's class! Looking forward is World Peace Day. Our class is beginning to make preparations for it. It is a very special occasion, I hope all families will be able to participate and celebrate with us!

Toddlers



Above: Ms. April and Ms. Johanna's class mastering cookie decorating!



Christian M and Daniel B.



Buffet table at Ms. Norma's party



Zachary, Ella F., Daniel B., Christian M., Zoe, Cruz and Lucas T.

PRE-PRIMARY

Above: Ms. Cindy's class celebrating Valentine's Day.



Ms. Lourdes' class celebrating the 100th day of school.



Anderson and Ella at work in Ms. Crystal's class.

ELEMENTARY

Elementary overnight camping trip.

Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena

During the month of February we celebrated Valentine's Day. The children enjoyed a very special hot lunch which our homeroom moms organized for them. All the children in our class got to make and receive a special valentine's card for a friend. Everyone had a wonderful time. We also had our winter fest which was a great day. We got to see a lot of our families past and present. It is always fun to catch up with the families who have moved on to other classes and schools.

Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria

Hello everyone! Spring has sprung and we are all delighted, although daylight savings time is a little difficult getting adjusted to. March has been a bustle of activity. Our trip to the Miami Metro Zoo was amazing, as usual. The variety and beauty of all the animals really brings home the beauty of our earth and the need to protect each of its inhabitants and their environments. We are continuing our study of simple machines and the children are enjoying experimenting with the inclined plane, the screw, the fulcrum balance and the lever. Our overnight camping trip to Apopka, which was attended by most of the third graders and a large contingent of students from upper elementary, was outstanding. The days were warm and lovely and the night...very brisk to say the least. We all enjoyed pitching our tents; working on a crew for dinner, breakfast etc. tubing, canoeing, and swimming in the springs. The children were extremely self-reliant and truly rose to the occasion. We would like to thank all of the classes for the gourmet teacher luncheons. They are always a wonderful treat. We do wish you all a wonderful spring vacation. *Sincerely Miss Ann and Miss Maria*

Ms. Margy and Ms. Deirdre

Wow, this school year is certainly going fast! The students have grown so much academically, socially, emotionally as well as sprouting up in how tall they are. Our classroom is normally a quiet and industrious place with students focused and engaged in their lessons, which are done both individually and in groups. An integral part of student success and happiness has been the partnership that the teachers and parents have forged this year. It surfaces in a variety of ways: a parent volunteering to work with all three grade levels with their social studies weekly once a month which the students look forward to great enthusiasm and interest, the Valentine's Day party put on by the parents, the support parents give their children practicing math facts and reading on a consistent basis and the group effort of parents to help the children make crepes in February. We also encourage parents to schedule an observation so that they have a better idea of what actually goes on in a Montessori classroom. We are blessed indeed to have the students and families that we have this year, and are happy with the community we are creating together.

Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie

February has come and gone in the blink of an eye! We had a wonderful field trip to Billie Swamp Safari. Once again the weather was cool, but not as bad as last year. We learned how vultures are essential to our ecosystem and that not all armadillos can roll up into balls. For Valentine's Day, the class drew names to have secret valentines. It was fun guessing at our party who our valentine's were. Only a few of us got it right. The students then enjoyed ice cream sundaes with their parents. It was a fun afternoon for all. *~ Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie*

Mr. Sesame, Ms. Angela and Ms. Giulia

Well, it is March and Spring Break is almost here – yes, you heard it – Spring Break. It has been a busy few months. We participated in our first ever National Geographic Bee – Tasman Rosenfeld won the school bee and we are waiting to hear if he made it to states. Then, we entered the National Spelling Bee this year for our first time and Martina Cavard and Nicholas Updike were the victors and they will participate in the district bee at St. Andrews on Saturday, February 27th. Please wish all our students luck. The annual Science Fair will take place in April and we have decided to participate in the Palm Beach County Fair this year too. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event. In addition, our African project culminated in a play on Friday, February 19th. The students worked very hard on the project, researched many different countries and made all the props themselves. Along the line of special projects, Gatlyn Ligon, Caitlen Macias, and Nicholas Updike have been working on a community service project at Twin Palms Adult Rehabilitation Center at the end of NW 3rd Avenue. The project started as a math assignment and has now turned into a huge landscaping project. They are currently working on grants from Disney. Take a look at the pictures and see how kids can really make a difference!

P.S. We had a PJ party in February and you have to see the pictures to believe them. Remember the days of making forts in your bedrooms – check these out.

Mr. Sesame, Ms. Angela and Ms. Giulia

Garden and Library - Ms. Jayne

GARDEN: A big thank you to our wonderful PTA. Thanks to you, we have beautiful new long handled tools, as well as lovely natural sorghum and bamboo brooms. The children love them! ALL the students are picking, and most of them, eating vegetables from the gardens. Our thirty broccoli plants are producing a great mid day snack: these varieties are truly enjoying the cooler temperatures as they are yielding large, sweet crowns. A thank you to Tracy Sferes who has volunteered her Friday mornings to assist me with the large lower elementary classes. Her help is greatly appreciated. The most popular spot on campus is the "red, white and blue" corner. It is in Ms. Margy's garden alongside the potted tea rose. The blue Delphinium is THE favorite plant. Ask your child to point it out to you. We are harvesting and drying lavender. Drying it in bunches, it will be hanging, wrapped in ribbon in the music room and the library. What a clean, beautiful fragrance! We lost all of our basil during the last cold snap. There are many requests to plant a spring crop that will supply the gardens until the end of the school year. Thank you so much to anyone who would like to donate some plants.

LIBRARY: February has been a busy month in the library. It was our "seahorse month". Have you seen our sea creatures swimming around on the library walls? It is a decorative, visual representation to the children of the large and growing number of books they have read. We read Ground Hog Day and Valentines Day stories and poetry. The lower elementary students learned about "biographies" and received book marks that were donated by the Spanish River Library. There was discussion about the organization of a library and "book care" with all students (except the toddlers). Two of our favorite stories were "The Great Blueness and Other Predicaments" by Arnold Lobel, and "Konstantine" by Wagener.

Computers - Ms. Risa

The children are continually learning new computer skills and computer programs through challenging and exciting projects. The lower elementary projects include drawing and creating a book of planets, a volcanic eruption slideshow and writing and illustrating an original story or fairy tale told through the eyes of a different character. The upper elementary students have completed their biome PowerPoint presentation project and a digital copy will be provided to Ms. Angela and Mr. Sesame. They have just started the unit on Excel spreadsheets and will be entering and charting data collected in their classroom. As always, some class time is set aside each week for the children to continue learning keyboarding.

Art - Ms. Rachael

The Kindergarteners and the Upper Elementary classes looked at Jim Dine's heart paintings and designed their own hand drawn hearts. Jim Dine is a living pop artist who is best known for his colorful heart paintings. Some children formed their designs with rulers, some traced hearts and others created a free design. The children put thought into the colors they chose. We mounted our hearts on black paper to make the colors stand out. Lower Elementary classes designed their own clay hearts. We used Sculpy clay that was purchased by the PTA to make these colorful creations. All classes made Valentine cards for the YAC party. The children also had the opportunity to create a card for a boy named Kyle. A mom from the PTA shared information about this boy. Kyle is 20 and lives in the Boca Raton area. He is suffering from complications from a medication he took to overcome an illness he has been battling since he was in 8th grade. He appreciates cheerful notes and well wishes. Thank you! ~ *Ms. Rachael*

Elementary Spanish - Ms. Simy

Our advanced class is following its own path ... Spanish reading and writing comprehension, description of different sceneries and conversation practices are encouraging the students to further extend their use of the language. The upper elementary students are learning about all the different family members and their relationships implemented with interactive videos where they listen to and answer the questions exposed to them. We are also working on "HOW do we feel". The lower elementary classes are learning the seasons, days and months of the year and they are reviewing the parts of the body. I am including some Walt Disney videos in Spanish... furthermore I encourage parents to have their children watch their favorite movies at home in Spanish by simply changing the sound track from English to Spanish with the control remote... Good season to all! ~ *Simy Jelaso*

Music and Pre-Primary Spanish - Ms. Xiomara

The instrumental groups continue to work on their music for the spring recital and program. I encourage parents of instrumental students to continue helping with their practice schedules. Practice logs are available in the music room by the door. Every minute that is spent practicing will help with the final outcome. The general music classes are learning a song for peace day, and are continuing to work on their recorder skills. Pre-primary Spanish classes are continuing to learn vocabulary from the kitchen, and reviewing older lessons. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Summit Family on behalf of myself and my family for the out-pouring of prayers, cards and condolences on the passing of my father - Victor Flo. My family was blessed to have him for 90 years, 10 days short of 91. He is loved and will always be remembered. I wish for you a happy and peaceful spring break.

~ *Ms. Xiomara*

N.B. Contributions for the Summit Newsletter can be sent to msxiomara@summitschools.com
Please visit our web page to view Newsletter Supplements

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