



## January/February 2019 Newsletter

### From the Director

Dear Parents:

We hope you had a pleasant winter break. I know the staff enjoyed their holiday and were happy to spend time with their families and friends. The holidays are a time of joy, but we notice they can also be a time of stress and fatigue. Children also benefit from simply slowing down. Often, predictable schedules provide structure and comfort for young children (and some adults, too!). I hope you had time during the holidays to spend time relaxing with friends, and family and that the New Year is off to a wonderful start.

As Montessori educators, we treasure this time. Children

Mark your  
calendars:



**February**

Black History Month

**February 1**

Parent Breakfast

**February 6**

Chinese New Year Parade

return from the holidays with a fresh, eager dedication and focus. We observe this every year. Children can barely wait for new lessons, and their intellectual and social growth is tremendous during this period. With that said, I would encourage you to make an effort for your children to arrive in a timely manner each day. The Montessori work time is an essential ingredient in our approach to education. We thank you for your support.

On behalf of the staff, I want to thank you again for the generous gift cards and kind notes in the holiday journal. Your kind and gentle words mean more to us than you can imagine. We are very grateful. It is hard to put into words how much your thoughtfulness means to us.

Warmly,  
**Theresa**

**February 12**

2019-20 Kindergarten  
Orientation Meeting

**February 13**

Thanks-a-Latte Event

**February 14**

Valentine's Day Celebrations

**February 15**

**SCHOOL CLOSED**

Hope Professional  
Conference

**February 18**

**SCHOOL OPEN**

Presidents' Day

**March 3**

Grandparent Tea

**March 18-22**

Spring Break

- The school spring musical performance will be on Friday evening, May 10.



#### **FROM THE OFFICE.....**

**Year-end tax receipts** are available in the office for pick-up. They are located behind Patti's desk next to the tuition receipt book. The tax i.d. number for Hope is 23-7240338.

**The flu season is still very active** so please be vigilant of observing any sick symptoms in your child and keep them home if they are exhibiting symptoms or running any type of fever. The child must be symptom/fever free for 24 hours without medication to return to school.

#### **Holiday Giving at Hope**

I would like to thank all the families and staff that donated to Angels Arms this year. Here is a the thank you I recieved from Angels Arms.

As 2018 comes to an end, we wanted to thank you for being part of the Angels' Arms family. Thanks to you we...

- provided a safe haven to 103 children this year.
- kept 15 sets of siblings together while in care.

- supported 48 youth, 13 and older, through our Life Launch program.
- matched 28 Life Launch youth with a mentor.
- ensured 3 high school youth graduated high school, maintaining our 100% high school graduation rate.
- supported 4 youth pursuing higher education and vocational training.
- provided a transitional home for foster youth who are aging out of the system.

Whether you've attended a fundraiser, volunteered your time, sponsored an event, mentored a youth, delivered a meal to a family, adopted a child for their birthday or made a cash, furniture, or clothing donation, you've had a direct impact on foster youth who call an Angels' Arms house their home.

We hope you will join us in the 2019 as we continue to show more children what it means to be loved.

### **Parent Breakfast**

Throughout the year at Hope, we try to organize several breakfast events offering both a delicious breakfast and a presentation that we hope will be helpful to parents. The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and we do our very best to finish by 8:30.



On **February 1**, Dr. Rushanaiya Khairova, will be presenting an interesting topic of "Sleep and the Preschooler".

Her interest in neurobiology of sleep and the impact of sleep deprivation on brain development and behavioral changes in children stemmed from her personal experience.

Three years ago, as she noticed how lack of a nap in her then preschooler daughter made a significant impact on her daughter's behavior and academic progress. Since then, Dr. Khairova focused her research on understanding the interaction between sleep, brain development, and children's behavior.

I think you will find this topic very educational, providing helpful strategies for bedtime routines.

A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby soon.



### **Chinese New Year, February 6 - 10:00**

One of our favorite days of the year is our annual celebration of the Chinese New Year. Each class creates a dragon/animal head for the children to parade behind. Some play instruments and others wiggle under the long red cloth. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., Hope will host its annual Chinese New Year Parade. Parents are welcome to join us. The entire parade takes only 15 minutes, so if you plan to join us, please be sure to come on time. Weather permitting, we will parade outside. If you are interested in sending a special Chinese dish for lunch, please talk with your child's teacher. **Please do not send dishes with nuts or pork.** Many countries in Asia celebrate the lunar New Year; please feel free to send in dishes from Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, or Vietnam.



**2019-2020 Kindergarten Orientation,  
February 12 - 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

Mark Robinson and I invite you to attend a Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on February 12th at 4:30 p.m. in the Kindergarten room. This meeting provides an opportunity for you to meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum and the Hope Kindergarten program. One of our Hope parents will also share their insights about our Kindergarten. We always save time for you to ask questions. We know this is a big decision for parents, and we welcome your attendance at this meeting. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the lobby. Parents are also welcome to observe the Kindergarten class any afternoon between 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Please call or email the office to arrange a visit.

This meeting is geared toward those families whose child is eligible for Kindergarten in 2019; we use the cut-off date of July 31<sup>st</sup>. Families who are interested in their child attending Kindergarten for future years may stop by the office and place their child's name on a waiting list. Our Kindergarten program generally is full nearly a year ahead of time.



### Valentine's Day Celebrations

The classrooms will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 14th. Check with your child's teachers on the specifics for the room's celebration. If time permits, you might consider making valentines with your child - the ones they bring to share can be very simple. The teachers ask that they do not address the cards to anyone, only to sign your child's name - it makes the distribution much easier. The Kindergarteners may sign and address their cards.



### Thanks A Latte Coffee Event - February 13 - 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Sometimes it is hard to find the right words to thank our Hope families for everything you do. We are so fortunate to have such committed, caring families. For the past several years, we have treated our families to an early morning cup of delicious coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. Carol Schuermann from *The Friendly Cup* brings her espresso machine and delicious flavorings and makes each coffee individually. Please be sure to schedule a few extra minutes on your morning drop off on February 13th: she will be serving between 7a.m. to 9 a.m. in the lobby. You will not be disappointed, and the line is shorter than at Starbucks!

**Annual Teacher Professional Conference, February 15 - School Closed**

On Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, the entire staff from all of our schools will be attending a professional conference at The Doubletree Conference Center in Chesterfield. Approximately 350+ of our St. Louis staff will be in attendance. **School will be closed on the 15<sup>th</sup>**; classes will resume on the following Monday.



**Grandparent Tea, March 3, 2019**

Sunday, March 3, is our annual Grandparent Tea. This is a very special event for both children and grandparents. It is always such a joy to see the love and special relationship between children and their grandparents. We just wanted to alert you to the date, realizing that some children's grandparents do not live in the area and

might require a little more notice if they plan to attend. And if it is not possible for them to attend, your child is welcome to bring another relative or a friend of the family. More details will be available in a couple of weeks.



### **Spring Break, March 18-22**

During the week of March 18-22, Hope will be open regular hours for childcare; however, there will be no Montessori classes.



### **MANY THANKS ...**

TO all of the families who donated so generously to the Staff Holiday Gift. The staff and I thank you so very much! And a special thank you to Saurabh Chiwane and Pournima Navaleke (Nandini, Rm 3) and Minjie XU (Sophia, Rm1) for all of their time and efforts in organizing the collection. It is greatly appreciated by all the staff!

Mark Robinson and Gayle Dorshow for the beautiful and touching Hanukkah ceremony. Also a thank you to Gal Amir (Neta, Rm 6 and Goni, Rm 1) and Tal Barak-Manela (Maya, Rm 6) for telling the story of Hanukkah, Our celebration was truly inspiring.

Mark Robinson, Beth Chu, Divya Parikh (Meera Rm 5), Liz Negrau (Sebi Rm 6) for sharing their musical talents with us during the Christmas celebration. Their exquisite performance enhanced our program more than words can express. Also, thank you Amanda Allmeroth for interpreting the story of Christmas.

All the many parents and grandparents who helped make potato latkes and christmas cookies, and to those parents who took the time to read books in the classrooms. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have parents who are so generous with their time to create special moments for our Hope children.

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