

# Fountain Valley Montessori

## February 2019 Newsletter

### Important Dates:

Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>  
Lunar New Year  
Celebration

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
PTU Pizza Party

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and  
Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
School Closed for  
President's Weekend

Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Re-Enrollment Packets Out



**Dental Awareness Month:** In honor of dental awareness month, Dr. Beanca Chu will be coming into the classrooms to give a brief demonstration on the importance of brushing and keeping our teeth clean!

**Lunar New Year Celebration:** All classrooms will be celebrating the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, February 5th. The students may wear festive attire including traditional clothing or red clothing to help celebrate. The children of Room 4 will jumpstart the celebrations with a festive parade. All preschool children will get an opportunity to watch and enjoy the parade. We will also have the option for your child to participate in a Chinese lunch. To participate, pay the office \$4.00 (like pizza days). If your child will not be participating in the Chinese lunch, please pack a lunch from home. Happy New Year!

**Re-Enrollment:** Re-enrollment will be taking place for the upcoming summer and the **2019-2020 School Year** between Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. We offer placement for summer and fall to existing students and siblings first, before we open up to our wait list.

We will be placing your enrollment packet in your child's file. We will be offering an early enrollment incentive of zero enrollment fees for those families who turn in their re-enrollment no later than **Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**. All reenrollment forms turned in after will be subject to the reenrollment fee of \$100.

Please make sure to return your re-enrollment forms no later than **Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**, in order to ensure placement for the upcoming summer sessions and fall. We will open enrollment to new students after this date and will be unable to guarantee any late registrations we receive.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Conferences are coming up on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see the conference sign-ups on classroom doors for available times. Please note that the school is closed to children for this day. However, we will be offering child care for your child during your parent conference. If you are unable to make this day/time, please email your child's teacher to schedule a convenient time.

**Tax Time:** Our tax ID # is 33 0961742. Please see the office if you need any statements for the 2018 school year.

**Correct Information:** Please make sure the office has your most current information. If you have changed cell phone numbers, switched emails, or recently moved, please make sure to double check the information with the office.

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*Visit us at [fumontessori.com](http://fumontessori.com) for the newsletter, calendar, etc.*

**Room 1- Ms. Jahaira & Ms. Vicky:** Happy Lunar Year! The year started off with fun activities for the children. We traveled to Japan within our continent of Asia, where we learned about the flags and animals of Asia. The children enjoyed learning about the parts of a horse. We had so much fun re-creating ‘Fine wind, clear morning’ by Katsushika Hokusai with various sponge tools. Our art is beautifully displayed on our outside wall.

Next month we will be learning all about dinosaurs and making a fun art project using pasta. We will continue to learn about Asia and focus on China and Sri Lanka. The class will continue to learn about Asia's culture, landmarks, animals and plants. We will be learning about parts of a fish. In Spanish, the children will learn the names of the animals from the Lunar Year Calendar. We will also make a fun Valentine day project. The class will also be introduced to a variety of music from China and we will also be making our own masks for the celebration of Lunar New Year!

We will be celebrating Valentine’s Day on Thursday, February 14th. The children will be given a bag and they will have the opportunity to decorate them for the big day of love. If your child will be bringing valentines for their friends, please write: To: “My Friend” From: your child’s name. Please remember our low sugar policy. The children and I are looking forward to our Lunar New Year Parade and our delicious Chinese food lunch.

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**Room 2- Ms. Lindsay & Ms. Marian:** The first month of the year has been amazing! We had a lot of fun studying about Penguins and traveling around the continent of Antarctica. We made a book about 6 different types of Penguins and learned about other animals of Antarctica. We also made Marc Chagall art for the hallway. We had a lot of rain but made the most of it staying inside by playing on our floor keyboard and singing into our microphone.

We have another fun month planned for February. We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year. Since it is the year of the Pig, we will be going to the farm and learning all about the pig. We will trek around in the mud and learn why they love getting dirty, what they eat, and what else we can find on a farm. The students will be making dragon masks to wear during our celebration. We will once again be boarding a flight on the Room 2 Airlines and traveling to the continent of Asia. While we are exploring the largest continent, we will taste their fine foods, look at the beautiful clothing that they wear, and even learn some of their language. We will learn how to say "hello" (Ni hao ) and "thank you" ( Xiexie ) in Chinese. The students will also learn to write a few simple words in Chinese. We will be listening to some music from east Asia. The students will be learning about the famous artist Jim Dine and recreate some of his beautiful work. I have many more exciting new jobs planned for the shelves and a writing project about what we love. We will also be celebrating Valentine's Day this month. If your child is bringing valentines for their friends, please write: "To my Friend" and "From: your child's name". Please remember our low sugar policy. This month will be filled with new adventures, fun, and lots of laughter.

A few of reminders:

\*When bringing snack for your child's snack day, please remember to bring in two different food groups. The children enjoy crackers, popcorn, pretzels (something with carbs) along with a fruit, vegetable, cheese, or yogurt.

\*Please check the coat rack as we have collected many extra coats over the rainy month. Thank you!



Happy Birthday: Nolan T.-16<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 3- Ms. Christine & Ms. Bea:** It's February, let's spread the love! I will set out a basket of blank hearts that I am requesting each parent write 2 to 3 short and sweet love notes to your child and return them to class. We will be putting these hearts up in our class tree to make it a "love tree" and we will read the hearts in class.

During the month of February, we will be continuing with our continent of study which is Asia and we will be talking in more detail about the people that live in different countries on this continent. We will learn about their cultures and clothing.

Our unit of study this month will be land and water forms. We will also be studying the parts of a fish and will be working with corresponding nomenclature cards and matching work. In Spanish we are learning about different animals and their names. Our composer of the month who originates from India is Ravi Shankar and our artist of the month will be Jim Dine and we will recreate one of his works of art with oil pastels.

Valentine's Day will be celebrated here at school on Thursday, February 14. This is a very exciting participatory event for the children which they truly enjoy. If you want your child to participate, please have them bring 25 valentines/cards to exchange with their friends in the classroom. Please address the Valentines to: "my friend" / from: your child's name. We will be providing the bags that we will have the children decorate.

In observance Presidents' Day we will be discussing past and present presidents of the United States of America. Have a great month ahead!

Happy Birthday: Amanda W. - 5<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 4 Lower- Ms. Paula & Ms. Yasmin:** February is the second and shortest month of the year. Usually, this month has only twenty-eight days. But every fourth year - called leap year - an extra day is added. This keeps the calendar in time with the seasons.

Here comes the dragon! The Lunar New Year begins on the date of the first new moon between January 21st and February 19th. This is because the ancient Chinese calendar is based on the moon. Our cultural curriculum will appropriately be the continent of Asia. The cymbals and dragons will be on parade on February 5th. We will be having an eventful month with Groundhog's Day (2/2) Valentine's Day (2/14), and President's Day (2/18).



We'll be doing a writing project on the four-footed forecaster, the groundhog. Will this small, furry animal see his shadow? Looking forward to sharing our love on Valentine's Day and learning some history about our American presidents. Did you know that George Washington's was born on February 11<sup>th</sup>, not February 22<sup>nd</sup>! I look forward to sharing more facts with the children.

Our musician of the month will be Yo Yo Ma and in art we will be working on the special art of "Rangoli", from the great country of India.

Have a great month ahead.

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**Room 4 Upper- Ms. Neranja & Ms. Yasmin:** Welcome to the month of Valentines and sweets treats! It is hard to believe that our first semester progress reports have been distributed already and we are on to the final half of the school year. The children have been working so hard and we would like to remind you that our classroom work time will start promptly at 8.45 am. Please remember that if you are running late, please let your child enter quietly by themselves. This helps maintain the order of the classroom and helps to not distract the children that are working. We are strictly adhering to this work time schedule to ensure a longer work period for the children.

One of the most popular units for the month of February would be the President's Day which falls on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The children will be doing a Timeline of the Presidents as well as other creative writing projects

### Units for the month of February will be:

#### Creative Writing Topics

- Write an Acrostic Valentine poem
- Create a Presidential Information Board
- Do research on two Presidents and compare using a Venn Diagram
- "My Teacher for President" writing project.

#### History

- Study of Abraham Lincoln
- Study of George Washington

#### Cultural/Physical Geography

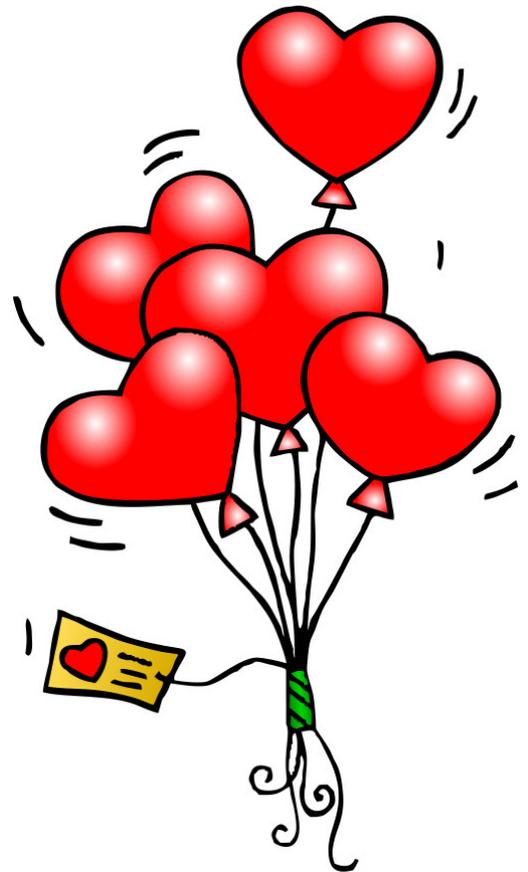
- Asia
- Astronomy: Stars

#### Biology

- Parts of a Porifera
- Food Chain
- Nocturnal, Diurnal, Crepuscular

#### Art

- Jim Dine inspired Art.



Happy Birthday: Evlin A.- 5<sup>th</sup>    Madeleine Y.- 11<sup>th</sup>    Sophia C.- 12<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 5- Ms. Gloria & Ms. Karla:** January was a fun month with children working and exploring many areas in the classroom. I hope everyone received their child's progress reports. Please let me know if you have any questions.

We have lots of celebrations ahead of us! We will start the month with Lunar New Year decorations and celebrations. Is anybody aware of the animal for this year? Again, no Google! The schedule for Lunar New Year celebration will be sent in an email. I am so excited to see the children in traditional attire or anything in red. This month we will be showing a lot of love for Valentine's Day! The children will pass out valentines or any treat they want to share. We will decorate bags to hold their precious valentines.

Remember we were in the land down under during January? Well, during February, the Room 5 ship will sail to the east to discover the fascinating countries in Asia! The beautiful architecture and serendipity of Taj Mahal in India, the gigantic, never ending Great Wall of China and the humongous Sigiriya Rock Fortress in Sri Lanka (also called the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world) with serene pictures hand carved on the rock will be discovered during our journey.



The delicious food of Asia, Spring rolls (China and countries of the Far East Asia), Chapati (India), Nasigoreng (Malaysia), Fried rice (Vietnam), Chow Mein (China) and string hoppers (Sri Lanka) will be introduced. Did you know that Sri Lanka is also known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean? Being a descendent of Sri Lanka, I will present to the children the heritage and the world's only elephant orphanage at Pinnawala, Sri Lanka. Be ready to be quizzed by your children about the types of elephants!

We will listen to Sitar music by Ravi Shankar and cello played by YoY o Ma. Ms. Karla will be teaching numbers in Spanish. Parts of a horse and types of horses will be discussed. You may send books for share day pertaining to the subjects discussed and presented during the month.

We will learn about the parts of a plant and talk about past and present presidents of the USA and will watch a documentary on animals and landmarks of Asia.

The children will continue with P E lessons every Friday.

I always look forward to your feedback about the classroom activities. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me. I also invite you to talk about/present a country in Asia if you are interested. Please let me know so we can arrange for a suitable time and date.

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**Room 6- Ms. Enoka & Ms. Josie:** Hope everyone enjoyed the exciting beginning of 2019 with all the rain!

For the month of February, we will explore the vibrant continent of Asia! We'll begin our journey through Asia by visiting east Asian countries such as China and Japan where we'll learn about the Great Wall, panda bears, and join in on the Lunar New Year celebrations throughout Asia. As our craft of the month, we will make lanterns and dragon masks for the dragon parade. We will also explore Chinese calligraphy.

Next, we will explore the countries of South East Asia, such as Vietnam and continue the journey through South Asia to learn about India and Sri Lanka. We will awaken our senses by exploring various spices, teas, and colorful fabrics of Asia. Lastly, we will end with the biggest country in Asia, Russia. We are also planning to make and color a 3D Koi fish!

In addition, we will learn to recognize a variety of fruits and vegetables. We will explore the five basic flavors of salty, sweet, sour, bitter, and umami. Children will get a chance to differentiate the flavors and taste some fruits and vegetables.

While we are learning about the vibrant continent of Asia, we will listen to the music of Mozart and discover famous Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky.

As always, children will continue their exploration of math, language, and practical life. Older children will be introduced to decimals and understanding of units, tens, hundreds, and thousands and formation of higher numbers. We will also learn about our Presidents and their valuable contributions to this nation. We will talk about the White house, Oval office, Washington DC etc. We will make a "star spangle banner" to celebrate this day. Children will also learn about the Parts of a Flower and the Parts of the Horse.



Friendly reminder to make Valentine's Day celebrations smooth for all, please make sure you only write your child's name on any valentine cards that you plan to bring to class. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. (Valentine's day is on the 14th, Thursday). Also, please remember to write your child's name on their jackets. It is difficult for us to differentiate since most jackets look alike! Please remember to check your child's folders daily.

Happy Birthday: Adam K.- 3<sup>rd</sup> Coral F.- 10<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 7- Ms. Britney, Ms. Alicia, & Ms. Nicole:** January was a fun filled month. We star gazed through our telescope, napped with the moon (goodnight moon), and painted the town yellow! The children had so much fun making their glitter stars and staying warm with their snowy mittens on the art wall! We have been focusing on fine motor skills using droppers and basters in our practical life area and the children are enjoying it. We love how full our snack calendar is every month! Thank you for encouraging your child to participate.

For the month of February, we will be waddling with the penguins. We will talk about where penguins live, what they eat, and learn more about their unique body parts. There will be fun penguin jobs set around the class. Feel free to have your child show you “Pierre the Penguin”, our book for the month.

We will “oink oink” along as we celebrate the lunar new year; year of the pig! What color is a pig? Pink! That’s our color of the month. We will be making paper fans to celebrate our Lunar New Year parade.

We will also celebrate Valentine’s day where the children will talk about the things they love while singing their hearts out to cute songs such as “I Like Hearts”. Feel free to let your child bring cards for their classmates, a total of 26. Check out our class board in the hallway for your little penguin art and feisty dragons on the class board.

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