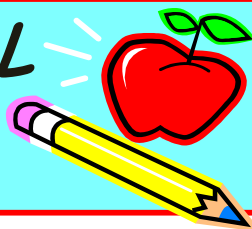


OUR SCHOOL NEWS



First Church Nursery
School
Bloomfield, CT

February 2016

Director's Corner



Valentine's Day is a fun celebration each year, especially when you receive candy and cards from your friends. There is a lot more to this day. Did you know that Valentine's Day is actually named after a real person called St. Valentine? There are many stories and legends behind who the real St. Valentine was, but most scholars agree that he was a martyr (a person who was killed

for his beliefs). Later in the Middle Ages, a great writer named Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poem as a present to King Richard II, who was going to be married soon. In it, he mentioned St. Valentine, and over time, the idea of Valentine's Day became associated with the idea of love.

During the Victorian times (in the 1800s), Valentine's Day became extremely popular! Men and women spent a lot of time making beautiful Valentine's cards with ribbon, fancy paper and even lace. In those days, people were very reserved and they did not often say what they were feeling. Valentine's Day gave them a great way to express their feelings to someone they were in love with in an anonymous manner (without showing their names). This meant that the sender would remain a mystery until they could speak more freely. Even before this time, in the late 1700s, printers would create large amounts of Valentine's Day cards so that friends and families could exchange them.

In the last few decades, Valentine's Day has changed a lot! Today we still exchange cards, but many people buy ready-made cards instead. We also give flowers (usually a bouquet of red roses) or chocolates as a gift to remind people of our friendship and love for them. Older couples sometimes also celebrate this

day by exchanging other gifts and going out to dinner. Most Valentine's gifts and cards make use of the colors red and pink, and are decorated with images of hearts or roses. Another common symbol of love on this day is Cupid, the Roman god of love. He is usually shown as a little angel with a bow and arrow. According to legend, anyone who is struck by his arrows will fall in love.

Don't forget that while it is great to remind people how much you value them on Valentine's Day, it isn't the only time to do so. You can continue doing nice things for people throughout the rest of the year too. Today, many people focus on giving gifts on Valentine's Day and some people even get quite stressed out about it because they think they have to spend a lot of money on gifts! The main thing to remember is that Valentine's Day is all about showing people that you love them and appreciate them. Sometimes the best way to do this is by doing something nice for them or making them feel loved!





There are many who ask, "Do we really need February to be designated as black history month?"

While strong and valid arguments could be made for both sides of this question, I personally feel it still serves an important purpose. That is to tell the history of those who were unable to have their stories told before, so that we might learn from past experiences and work to avoid future injustices.

It has been said that, "History is written by the winners." In many cases there are often elements of truth to that statement.

Why then would the history of what many people believe to have been the most direct beneficiaries of the Civil War, those of African American descent, still have incomplete or non-existent records of their contributions, trials and sacrifices? After all, it has been nearly 150 years since the end of that conflict.

American men and women and their families have for generations served, sacrificed and been remembered for preserving the freedoms we continue to enjoy today, but there is still more of the true history to uncover. If having February being designated as "Black History" month helps, then I am all for it, people of all colors need to learn their culture and where they came from. Get to know your history! Educate yourself!

Upcoming Events/Community News



Friday, February 12th 8-9 am

Families are welcome to come to our Valentine's Breakfast. The children have sent invitations out to the parents inviting them to come. Please join us from 8-9 for the breakfast.



Valentine's Fundraiser

FCCNS Valentine's Fundraiser will be held February 8-12th. We will set a table in the hall with some Valentine's goodies. Please check our table out. Last year we sold out of a lot of items. Don't wait until the last minute.

Upcoming Events/Community News



Friday, February 19th

The children will be going to the Lutz Museum in Manchester. They will learn about the ground hog and different animals. The cost of the trip is \$12 per child. Any person (s) that wants to chaperone the trip is more than welcome for free. The bus leaves the school @ 9:00 am, please have your children on time.



Monday, February 15th the school will be closed



Picture Day is March 16th



During the month of January we had a lot of fun learning all about winter. Some of our favorite activities from the month were making our winter collage together, counting the bingo dabber dots on the snowman, and playing with some snow and ice in our sensory table.

Themes:

- Colors
- Friendship
- Weather
- Dental Health

February Special Events:

- Library- February 9 at 10:15
- Valentine's Day Family Breakfast- February 12 @ 8:00am-9:00am Fellowship Hall
- Presidents Day- No School- February 15
- Field Trip Lutz Museum - Friday, February 19 Chaperones Are Welcome! Please let your teacher know if you would like to join us on this fun trip!

Room A5

At Home Activity:

Here is an activity you can try at home with your preschooler.

Winter Snowstorm Bottles

What You Need:

- Plastic Bottle With Cap
- Silver Glitter
- Snowflakes (Craft Store or Dollar Store)
- Water
- Hot Glue Gun OR Super Glue (To glue the bottle shut once complete)

Directions:

1. Let your preschooler add the water first this will help their pouring skills (A funnel might help).
2. Add the snowflakes and glitter.
3. Add the cap (Adult should apply the glue to the cap) Once complete give it to your preschooler and let them shake it up!

~ Heather Cadenhead & Judy Joseph



February

Download from
dreamstime.com



Happy February,

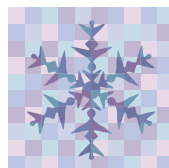
We have a jam packed month full of learning and fun. Our themes are identifying colors, mixing primary colors, the meaning of friendship and sharing, dental hygiene, and the changes in the weather.

Upcoming Events:

Valentine's Breakfast- 2/12 from 8 A.M. to 9 A.M. Please stop by for a delicious breakfast with your child for such a wonderful occasion.

- Story Time- 2/16 with Ms. Linda at 10:30 A.M.
- Lutz Children's Museum- 2/19
- Please have your child at school by 8:45 A.M.

We finally have snow!!! We ask that you provide your child with snow pants, boots, gloves or mittens, and hats for some outside fun. When weather permits we go outside to enjoy the fresh air.



BIRTHDAYS



Bryce- 2/8

Alexander- 2/26

Naomi- 2/29

~Ms. Shaneé & Mrs. Dillon





Hello,

The children have been doing a great job in terms of discussing and making progress in the following topics:

- Nursery Rhymes
- Friendship/Chinese New Year

Through participating in the experiences provided by the theme friendship the children may learn:

- Who friends are
- Why we are friends
- Activities we can do with friends
- Places we can make friends

Vocabulary:

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Friend | Cooperating |
| Sharing | Togetherness |
| Like | Giving |

Important Dates:

Library ~ February 16th

Lutz Museum ~ February 19th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Sanaiya ~ February 3rd

Uriah February 17th

Please check your Parent Pocket for important notes, replace clothing, toothbrush and toothpaste!

Fondly,

Mrs. Swaby

Winners of the Survey Raffle Mariah & Family!



Notes and Reminders etc...



We are looking for parents that would be interested in being a part of a fundraising committee at the school or perhaps taking the lead in starting a fundraiser committee. If anyone is interested please see the office. Thank you!



Just a reminder if you don't know already. Tuition is due before the four weeks cycle has ended. The dates are displayed on your bill as well. The last date on your bill is when the tuition is due. You have the choice to pay weekly, biweekly or monthly but it needs to be paid in full by the next billing cycle. As always, if you ever have a hardship because things happen please let the office know and we can in most cases come up with a plan to make things work out in your best interest.



Please remember to dress your child appropriately for outdoor weather. The children do go outside when weather is permitting. The teachers will let all families know when to bring in snow boots and snow pants. Please check your child's cubbies each day for artwork and special notices.



Just a reminder, children should be in school no later than 9:30 am. If your child is going to be out or late please call the school to let us know so we can pass the message to the teachers. Most parents are really good about letting us know and we appreciate the call. We thank you in advance.



This year we will be selecting another teacher of the year at FCCNS. Last year, the parents selected Mrs. Swaby!!! We will see this year who the parents will choose. Teacher of the Year is something new and it identifies a teacher that goes above and beyond for the children. We have great teachers at the school and we appreciate them all. But we want to recognize one that has done exceptional work here at FCCNS. We will need the families help. In the month of March we will be giving all of the families a ballot to cast their vote for a teacher and why. The teacher's pictures are on display outside the schools office and a synopsis about the teacher as well. Please take the time to get to know the teaching staff.



We have a Facebook page please like us on Facebook. Our page name is First Congregational Church Nursery School.



Refer a friend...

Get 1 week

FREE TUITION!

* Free week credit will be applied once child has been actively enrolled for 6 weeks.

Refer a Friend!!

If you know anyone that is looking for a licensed, NAEYC Accredited Program refer them to us. We have income based sliding scale for residents in the town of Bloomfield and half/full day for children that are 2.9-5 years old.

~Mrs. Shantel Bremmer, Director