



2023 NEWSLETTER HEARTSTRINGS and HISTORY — FEBRUARY IS HERE

The shortest month of the year is the one of the most awaited. While the winter weather fills the air with cold and rain, the HEAT is on. The warmth of heartfelt wishes will be part of our Valentine's themed month. Expect surprises, straight from our precious children's hearts.

It is also a History filled month of activities, as we join with the rest of our country celebrating Black History Month, honoring achievers, milestones in the story of our United States, of African American descent. We continue our commemoration from last Month, marking Martin Luther King Jr. and his crusade for justice, equal rights and brotherhood. A red-letter day for the month, a welcome three-day weekend, would be Presidents' Day, with integrated activities marking the contributions of our Chief Executives, through art, story telling at Circle time, and other engaging activities. A welcome break for all of us as well.

We welcomed our new students last month, three vibrant girls (cat lovers, Pokémon and Unicorn fans and a dog buddy as well) who have filled up our Circle Time with fun, enthusiasm and unbridled energy. Our Show and Tell Fridays just got more upbeat and interesting than it was before. I thank Mr. Peterson and our staff for taking over my class, bringing fun, music and joyful discovery when I was away for milestone events for our family. It was a pleasure also bringing Philippine handmade souvenirs and other gifts (the UNO team just got a DOS, ARRIBA!).

We continue our experience with musical Instruments, the Orchestra, while winding up our Dinosaur Month with a Roar. Our Science adventures will make us creepy with the crawlies (INSECTS) and wispy (REPTILES).

Our Language Arts will take us to beginning grammar, and the older kids are set to start their poetry, keeping their verses for our Universe Event this April, Poetry Month. Our activities will be integrated to Music, Arts and even in Math, as we keep in time and tandem with the beat and the time signatures.

On the 14th of February, feel free to have your student come in anything RED, hats, headbands, shirts, socks, beads and bangles. Except for RED or PINK EYE, it will be a VALENTINE'S DAY OF HEARTS, with our prevailing theme adapted from Dr. Seuss, KINDNESS RULES.

On WEDNESDAYS, we introduced WORKOUT WEDNESDAYS, when we try to work up a sweat and limber up with ZEN YOGA Exercises, to build up energy as the winter winds down, moving into spring. You may have them come in comfortable clothes, shoes for jumping, dodging and breaking down (I brought in authentic Martial Arts materials – Arnis sets, the Filipino Martial Arts sticks which I had trained on before). I still hope to keep up with my SONIC students intact.

As expected, the cold, wet weather keeps us in on certain days, a passion for CHESS has taken place, and I am proud to have the Renaissance Chess Set out for our budding grandmasters. It complements our board games, UNO (and its variants) and other devices to enhance creative and critical. We welcome board games you may wish to lend or give for us to work on, engage in. There is simply no time for us to get BORED (pun intended).

Thank you again for your generous support; we received cherished reading materials, art and writing materials and others to enliven our classroom and class days. Our students have been enjoying MAPS, and MAZES, and if you have them from your trips and journeys, we can jumpstart our collection as well.

FEBRUARY is for the HEARTS (and MINDS) BOUND BY KINDNESS. LOVE CONQUERS ALL. WAKANDA FOREVER.



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 14 — Valentine's Day

February 20 — Presidents' Day — No School

March 1 — Spring Picture Day — Lifetouch will be here on the morning of 3/1 to take photos for our yearbook. Photo packages will also be available for purchase.



LANGUAGE ARTS, PHONICS, GRAMMAR, HANDWRITING

Beginning, Continuing Punctuation

Introducing Proofreading

Beginning Sounds

Continuing Lower Case Letters, Mastery and Matching Upper Lower-Case Letters

Vowel Sounds, Lower and Short

Cursive Handwriting Integrated with All Subjects and select activities

MATH, SCIENCE

Continuing Mastery of Numerals, Counting to Hundreds, Multiples of Five

Introducing Continuing Mastery Operations, Problem Solving Using Calculations

Multiplication Practice Exercise and Introducing Division (No Remainder)

Roman Numerals Integrated to History Social Studies

Introducing Beginning Currency

Continuing Geometric Shapes, Introduction Advanced Geometric Concepts (Dimensional) integrated to Science

Sight Words (Integrated to Spelling), Days of the Week, Months of the Year

REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, INSECTS – Creepy Crawlies



SOCIAL STUDIES, MUSIC, VISUAL and CREATIVE ARTS

CONCEPTS and Insights, Integrated Activities – BLACK and AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

BRAVE, BLACK and FIRST: Celebrating Lives of African American Women who Helped Change the World integrated with Language Arts, Visual Arts, Creative Writing

Continuing the Orchestra, Musical Instruments and Families

Patriotic Songs and Hymns, American Folk Songs, AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL: Our Country and Heritage

THE PRESIDENTS: LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT Integrated to Creative Writing, Language and Visual Arts, Service to Country and the American People, Values and Insights for Study

VALENTINES' DAY AND THEME: Integrated to Art, Creative Writing, Music, Introduction to POETRY

Selected Musical Themes from Motion Pictures, Stage and Television, Integrated with Activities in Art, Language Arts, Phonics