

K-K News

January 23, 2009

Dear K-K Families:

This week's newsletter is a bit of a laundry list. I apologize, but there are so many special events going on in the next few weeks that I want to be sure that everyone is up to date. First of all, I neglected to mention in last week's newsletter that the children enjoyed a wonderful performance last Friday of Kids on the Block. The program focused on respecting differences and honest conversations about differences and disabilities. It was a perfect connection to our discussion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as our discussion of the inauguration on Tuesday of this week. I offer sincere thanks to the Hunnewell parents who performed for us last Friday!

Monday, January 26 is the Chinese New Year. We had a brief discussion of this holiday this morning, and compared traditions for this holiday with other traditions we have studied together this year. To those families that are celebrating next week, we wish you Gung Hay Fat Choy (Happy New Year)!

Next Monday, we also will see a performance by the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers.

On Tuesday and Thursday of next week, we will be working with Nan Rumpf and KM to prepare and perform a play of Hill of Fire, a work of historical fiction about the eruption of Paricutin volcano in Mexico. The children have enjoyed reading the book and talking a bit about volcanoes (which we will continue to

discuss next week). Thanks to Liz Butcher for her help coordinating volunteers for this project, and to all of the parents who have signed up to come in next week. For everyone, our *performance* will be **Thursday, January 29 at 10:15 in the gym**. Please be on time, as the performance will be brief! (Plan on fifteen to twenty minutes for the show.)

In addition to all of these events next week, we have several other events in the weeks ahead. On Monday, February 2, volunteers for the water unit will be meeting at 3:15 to prepare for the coming unit. On Thursday, February 5, we will be taking a field trip to Newton Wellesley Hospital. Please print the permission slip at the end of this newsletter, sign it, and return it next week. Thanks in advance to Katie Gryska, Lois Lee, Jenny Cavallarano and Christie Kovacs for volunteering to join us that morning!

On Friday, February 6, progress reports will come home with your child. I wrote about these reports last week, and will have more to say about those in a future newsletter.

Somewhere in that week, as well, we will celebrate our 100th day of kindergarten. Details will be coming about the date and plans for that event as it gets closer (and we see if there are any more snow days)!

Finally, on February 11, we look forward to welcoming families for Open School Night. At that time, you will have the opportunity to see the hard work the children have been doing in our unit on Mexico, including creating maps of Mexico; weaving work they have completed in class; and models of Mexican homes that we have been talking about this week. You will also have the chance to see some of the work your children have been doing as

readers and writers, and to try a few of the math games we have been using to further the children's problem solving and math skills in the past few weeks.

In closing, please note the letter from Kathy Flood in the home folders today. While it is addressed to the entire school community because of the large number of cases of strep in the building, our classroom has had two definite cases in the past week. There also seems to be a great deal of coughing and sneezing going on. Mrs. Flood came in to speak with the children about effective hand washing this morning. I encourage you to discuss this lesson with your children and for you to be vigilant about possible signs of strep in the days ahead. With that said, Julie and I wish you a happy and healthy weekend with your children. We look forward to seeing them - and you - in the busy weeks ahead!

Sincerely,

Lynn

I give my child, _____, permission to visit Newton Wellesley Hospital on Thursday, February 5, 2009. I understand that the children will be traveling by bus that morning.

Signature and date