

FEBRUARY

Laguna Division of Early Childhood

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*See
What's
Inside*



EHS CLASSROOMS

- SUNNYSIDE
- CHINATOWN
- NEW YORK
- TURQUOISE SPRINGS

PHS CLASSROOMS

- PAGUATE
- ENCINAL
- SEAMA
- VILLAGE
- CASA BALNCA

ALSO INSIDE

- FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS
- HEALTH AID
- ERSEA COORDINATOR
- SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR
- PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Upcoming Events

2/12

NUTRITION ACTIVITY
(STRAWBERRY HEART
SANDWICHES)

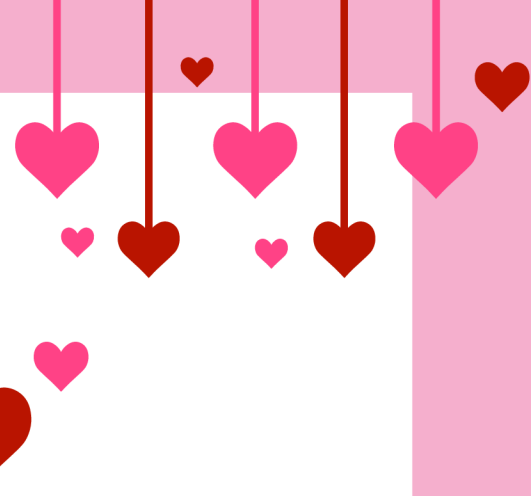
2/17

NO SCHOOL
(PRESIDENT'S DAY)



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

SUNNYSIDE



We welcome a new peer to the classroom and wish our friend the best!

Creative Curriculum: We are entering the second month of the new year. How time is flying by. The theme is Balls. Activities we are looking forward to exploring are: how many different types of balls we have, and comparing how they are the same and different.

Experimenting with how the balls move: rolling, kicking, throwing and using ramps. The children will have the opportunity to see what the balls are made of and make their own ball.

Home activities: Name and describe the different types of balls you have at home. Talk about how they look and feel. Engage and explore how the balls move with rolling, kicking, bouncing, and throwing.

Social-Emotional: Mornings are still a little challenging for some of the children. Adults are there to help them regulate their emotions: comfort and hearing a gentle and soothing voice.

Cultural lifeways: Pottery. We will explore what pottery is made of and see paintings of pottery. Children will experience the texture of playdough.

Conscious Discipline: Using songs to engage in moving our bodies to the music.

HIGHLIGHT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS/MILESTONES ACCOMPLISHED

- K.L. is pulling self to stand at the chairs and couches. Walks along.
- N.P. is sitting on the potty and using her words to communicate with others.
- J. P. is walking by herself.
- M.M. shows interest in how things work.
- K.G. is saying and repeating words
- S.A. is new to the classroom

- Birthdays – No birthdays
- Children engage in teacher-led activities. Working one-on-one.
- Reminders to parents: With the weather being very cold, dress your child warmly.
- Parent tip(s): Use every opportunity to engage in a conversation, when feeding, bathing, and working near your child.

Andrea Lucario & Makayla Sarracino

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m.sarracino@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6544 ext. 5201





Chinatown



Color: Green

Culture: Pottery

Curriculum: Balls

Nutrition: Strawberry Heart Sandwich

STEAM: Exploring Rocks

Hello Parents and Guardians,

The first month in the year has come and gone. We were happy to see the children back in school. In that short time, they were enjoying time with family, and seemed to have grown. Since coming back from winter break Chinatown classroom has sent some friends to join their new friends at Preschool Head Start and we are gaining some new friends. We have been taking time to help our new friends adjust to our daily routines.

We learned about LIGHTS, took a walk around the school pointing out the lights that can be seen in our school community, looked at lights that communicate information: Stop light, exit lights, message lights, and played with some flashlights.

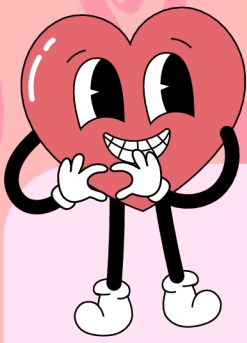
In February, we will study BALLS. Through hands on activities, the children will learn similarities and differences, how balls move, what they are made of and how to make a ball. One other thing that balls can teach is playing together and taking turns.

STEAM activity: Rocks. Maybe you can start up a rock collection, if you haven't already. Teachers plan to send a home activity "Rock Hunt" which will include finding different shapes, colors and/or unique rocks. You can get a head start on your search by taking pictures of the rocks, and collecting them will give your child a chance to share your wonderful rock finds with the class.

Events in February:

2/14 Valentine's Day - Children may exchange cards, please be mindful of our NO outside food policy.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the teachers.
c.deutsawe@lagunaed.net and r.kie@lagunaed.net (505) 552-6544 extension 5200



New York

Creative Curriculum: Our focus this month is on Balls. Our children will explore the different balls there are ranging from size, texture, and weight. We will also be discussing balls used in different sports, or maybe some they might see at home.

Teachers will continue to use repetition, visuals and hands on activities to keep children engaged and focused in their learning environment.

Cultural Lifeways: Pottery. What pottery is, where we see it, and why we use it in our culture.

Conscious Discipline: Our children will continue to sing the morning song and the wish you well song to see and remember our new friend's name. We will also continue doing the S.T.A.R breathing when children have strong emotions.

Health / Nutrition Activities: Strawberry Heart Sandwiches

Achievements / Goals:

- One child has transitioned to Preschool Head Start (PHS). Yay!
- We have a new child in our classroom.
- One child using the big kid potty along with two more.
- Our children enjoy the culture class with Ms. Lente and look forward to more interactions with her.

Goals:

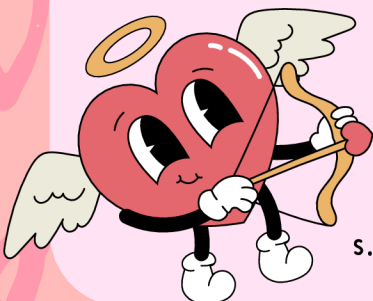
- Continued potty training
- Growing our speech and vocabulary, daily

Birthdays:

NO Birthdays this month

Teachers: Sandra Lewis & Kay-Mani Riley

s.lewis@lagunaed.net / km.riley@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6544 Ext. 5107



Turquoise Springs



Teachers: Candice Lucero & Marilou Arkie

c.lucero@lagunaed.net / m.arkie@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6544 Ext. 5202

January

Welcome 2025! It took us some time to get back into our daily routine of coming to school and saying Good-Bye to mom for a while or for the day, but we did it.

Some children came back with nice haircuts and more vocabulary words, its like they grew over the break. We learned about lights, how we can use a switch to turn them on, how lights brighten rooms, Christmas trees, and how flash lights help when it is dark.

February

Moving forward into February we will study:

•Curriculum Theme: Balls. Yay...something all children enjoy playing with. Not only will we look at pictures of different sports that use a ball but we will look and describe pictures of balls, posted up in the classroom. We will take some balls out to the playground to play with our friends. Using some math, we will also compare sizes of all the play balls that we have.

•Conscious Discipline: Power of Unity. We are in this together. We want to continue to build our school family, by having our children at school every day, building those friendships with each other, having fun at school, and also, establishing strong connections with parents.

•Cultural Lifeways: Pottery. The children will observe many different types of pottery (real pottery or pictures). We will discuss the many uses of pottery: for drinking, storage of seeds, serving and eating out of bowls. We will experience the making of pottery by using some salt dough.

Goals / Milestones

- We will continue to increase our vocabulary. Having daily conversations with the children has really helped increase their vocabulary.
- We name pictures, colors, sing songs, and name our friends on a daily basis.
- Milestones: J.V. has been working on potty training. Yay!

Birthday's: Here's to another year of goodness.

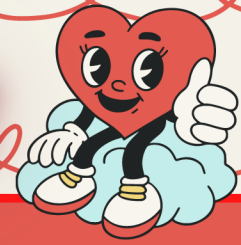


F.L. 2/2
I.G. 2/21





Paguate



Greetings, Families!

We began the year filled with some changes. First, we transitioned back into Modular 2 with a brand, new, double sink with motion activated faucets! I appreciate that the water flow is measured and is not splashed onto the floor and the temperature is adjustable. The children had some challenges turning on the faucet, some looked for a handle, or a button. They were shown where to place their hands in order for the water to turn on (which we had to remind them to move away when they are finished so the water can stop).

Second, we have welcomed our last two children into our room, which brings our total number up to 15. There was some crying at the beginning, but the children seem to know that this is their new school family. For those who transitioned from Early Head Start (EHS), they are always happy to see their former teachers from Chinatown and Turquoise Springs and run to greet them during our playground time.

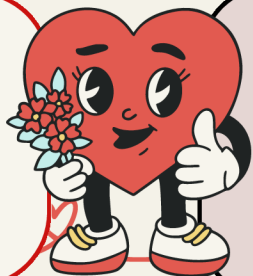
Our exercise study has been a lot of fun, along with squats, tummy tucks, and stretches. We have introduced a few dances like "The Cha Cha Slide", "Cupid Shuffle", and a different version of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes". Children have noticed their heart beating fast and that they feel warmer after dancing. By incorporating different cross-lateral movements, we are helping their brain development, build skills on how to move their bodies (left, right, up, down), learning coordination skills, and understanding their spatial awareness.

This month we will be studying Boxes. Your children will explore the different types, shapes, and uses of boxes. They will be given opportunities to explore boxes and use them in different ways (building blocks, pretend play, and sorting activities). This will be a great introduction to learning about 3D shapes!

We will send a list of our children's names home for Valentine's cards that your children can send on the 14th. Also, we will send some craft materials for you to make a Valentine box for you and your child to make at home (in-kind opportunity!). If you have any spare shoe boxes, cereal boxes, or different shaped boxes, that you don't mind giving away—feel free to send it with your child in their backpack. We can use these boxes in the classroom throughout February and maybe the rest of the school year.

Teachers: Evelyn Garcia & Angela Yawea

e.garcia@lagunaed.net /
a.yawea@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6544 Ext. 5109



Friendly Reminder: please check your child's folders for any notes that are sent by the school, read and sign the reading logs (another in-kind opportunity!), and email us or send a note with your child if you have any suggestions or questions. Thank you everyone!

ENCINAL

Teachers: Juana N. & Raina V.

j.natseway@lagunaed.net / r.victorino@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6544 Ext. 5110

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Unity. Our focus will be on learning how to cooperate as a class or with friends, caring for our friends, and taking action.

Cultural lifeways: Pottery time! Children will learn and observe the use of yucca, sand and materials in the natural environment. Showing the children pictures of our ancestors making/holding pottery and how modern pottery looks like in today's world. Asking the children questions like "Where do you think pottery comes from and "Is there one color of pottery or more"? Children will identify the different ways pottery is used: for drinking, storage of seeds, serving, and eating. For our activity, we will use Air Clay to make our own pottery and take them home 😊

Creative Curriculum: In February the theme is still cameras, through the middle of the month. Then, we will move to the next theme: Grocery store.

As technology advances, cameras have evolved from devices that people used occasionally to document special events, into tools that people use frequently to capture photos and videos of their everyday lives, communicate with others in real time, create art, and do so much more. The children will transition from being the subject of pictures and videos to engaging with cameras as photographers and videographers, experiment with strategies for taking a good picture, and explore different types of photography and videography.

Nutrition Activity: Strawberry heart sandwiches! Yummy! The ingredients we will use are yogurt, sliced strawberries, and a slice of whole wheat bread. Have your child show you how to make them at home.

Reminder to parents:

- PLEASE send your child in a warm/thick jacket and a hat if they don't have a hoodie on their jacket. The weather is still very cold!
- If your child is sick or showing symptoms, PLEASE keep them home for more than a day. PLEASE be mindful of other children and teachers in the classroom!
- Continue to check your child's bag/folder, DAILY, as notes are sent home.

Parent tips:

- Read to your child for at least 10-15 minutes. Don't forget to write it on their Reading Log! 😊 When reading to your child, it helps them recognize letters and words, which will help them read.
- Practice writing their names using capital and lower-case letters. Talk with them about their first and last name
- Have conversations with your child about anything. 😊 It helps expand their thinking skills and using complete sentences.

If your child is late for school, sign them in at the front office. The gate in the back is locked for safety purposes!! Thank you!

Student achievements/milestones:

Encinal classroom is doing great with learning which letters are in the following category of letter formations: Skyline Letters, Plane Line Letters, Plane Line Round Letter, and Plane Line Slide Letter. YOU GUYS ROCK!



SEAMA

Teachers: Kayla Martinez & Carol Day

ka.martinez@lagunaed.net

c.day@lagunaed.net

505-552-6544 x 5112

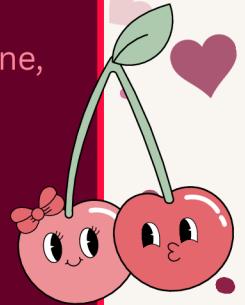
January

January was full of changes, including weather changes, two-hour delays, and schedule and routine changes. Thank you for being patient and helping the children adjust to change.

This month children were introduced to letter formation (skyline, plane line, grass line, worm line) They have shown interest in writing.

We also started our new theme: Cameras. We started looking at different types of cameras from older models to newer models.

Children have also been working on numbers focusing on 11-20. We have given children more opportunities to count using higher numbers.



February

This month children will continue with the theme cameras as they will play act being their own photographers.

Children will also continue practicing letter formation and will practice sounding out three-letter words. During our number's unit, we will be focusing on addition. Our focus will be adding numbers 1-5 and working our way up.

This month we have our first visit to the Laguna Library, and we are happy to partner with the library. The library staff will provide story time along with an activity.

We are also continuing the Laguna Language class.

Reminder to parents:

- If child is feeling sick or ill, please keep them home. Be mindful of other children and teachers
- Reminder to call the school if children will not be attending school for the day
- Reminder to check backpacks / blue folders daily
- Update contact information if any changes

Happy Birthday

- 2/07 M-L.C
- 2/25 P.B





VILLAGE



Hello Village Room Families and Friends,

For February we will be learning about boxes: what we can do with boxes, what some characteristics of boxes are, what boxes are made of, what jobs involve boxes, and how we can move boxes

As we study boxes, we will learn concepts and skills related to literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts and technology. We will also develop thinking skills as we observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

We would also like to welcome new students and families that have transitioned to the Village Room. WELCOME FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

Great Job parents for reading the Lending Library books to your child every evening, you are awesome!

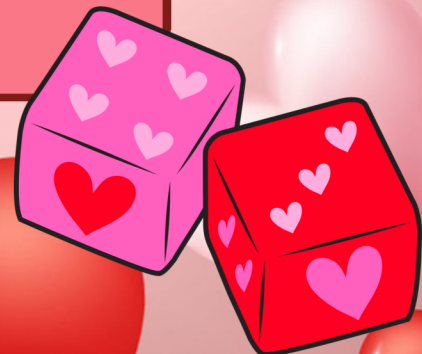
We will also be getting ready for a Special Friendship Day Valentine's.



Teachers: Mrs. Peacock & Miss Mariah

l.peacock@lagunaed.net / m.whitmore@lagunaed.net

(505) 552-6544





CASA BLANCA


Mr. Levantonio & Ms. Yvonne

g.levantonio@lagunaed.net /
y.francis@lagunaed.net

(505) 552-6544 Ext. 5113


Greetings Families and Friends,

It has been a cold winter and it is good that we have made it through. We are looking forward to the upcoming spring time and warmer weather. As we do move forward, make sure you remember to continue to dress your children for cold weather. We do go to the playground when the weather allows and sometimes the breeze can be a bit chilly. Keep sending your children with jackets and hats. Also, as a reminder, if your child is sick, please make sure they get well before returning to school. We have been going over washing hands, using tissue to wipe noses and covering our sneezes and coughs, as a precaution. However, small children still tend to put their hands, fingers, and toys in their mouth even with reminders. So let us all be safe and healthy.



January was a fairly busy month in our classroom. Our study for the month was exercise and let me tell you, your children have plenty of energy. We have been moving, jogging, running, dancing, jumping, and stretching. We also began to utilize yoga as well. The children are experts at yoga and made sure Ms. Yvonne and I were doing the moves correctly. It has been a long time since I have performed yoga and it definitely showed. We plan to incorporate this into a weekly exercise, hopefully, at least twice a week.

As January moved on, we also had a lot of traditional and cultural activities in and around our homes. We have had the installation of new tribal officials, religious officials, and village officials. Here in our classroom, we have talked about what is happening and discussed all the dances that have been happening. The other aspect is all the delicious foods that our families have prepared. It is always a good time when January comes around. So make sure to take your children to the dances that will be coming up in the next month and beyond.



For the month of February, we will start a new curriculum study: Boxes. In all the years of my being in the early childhood field, one thing I have noticed is that no matter what the size, boxes are very interesting items that children will play with. Ms. Yvonne and I have been looking ahead to see what we want to do with boxes, where we can obtain boxes, and how to finish out the study in the end. I have an idea that I hope we can implement, but it will be a surprise... shh.

With our Cultural Lifeways curriculum, we will be looking at what it takes to make and design pottery. If any of my families make traditional or even non-traditional pottery, or know of anyone else that does make pottery, please contact me so that we can talk about a classroom visit to show us the basics. The only thing I know about pottery is that I don't know how to make them, much less paint the pots.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all my families for all you do for your children. Please remember to continue to read to your child. This is the first stepping stone for your child to become proficient at literacy. It is also a great way to sit and bond with your child about what you are reading. With that in mind, please make sure you sign the paper in the folder after reading the book to your child. Have a great February, and we will see you once March comes around.

Mr. Levantonio
Ms. Yvonne



FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS

NEWSLETTER

FEB.
2025

Family Engagement Activity

Family Service Providers will be sending home a Valentines Activity for families to do together.

Parents please fill out the in-kind form and return to teachers. (By Feb.12.25)

Upcoming Homebase Event

Group Social

Date: February 14, 2025

Time: 9am-11am

Contact: Kathleen Herrera

Location: DEC Computer Lab

Contact Information

Tiffany Touchin
t.touchin@lagunaed.net
(505) 220-2549

Kathleen Herrera
k.herrera@lagunaed.net
(505) 290-9163

Venessa Deutsawe
v.deutsawe@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6544



Health Aid

Greetings DEC Families,

I hope you all enjoyed your first month of the New Year! A friendly reminder that we are still in a quad-demic: Flu, RSV, Covid-19, and Norovirus. Please keep children home if they are not feeling well or have a fever.

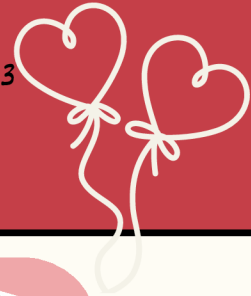
Take these steps to increase your chances of staying healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and running water
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover your mouth (with a tissue or into your elbow) when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Get vaccinated
- Clean or disinfect shared surfaces or commonly touched items if someone in your household is sick

P.S. Thank you for your continued support and for being your child's best advocate!

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at (505)552-6544 ext. 5103

Thank you,
Angelica Baca, DEC Health Aide



Valentine's Day Snack Idea Strawberry Ladybugs

- 1 lb Strawberries
- 1/2 cup Blueberries
- 1/2 cup Dark chocolate chips

Instructions:

Remove the tops of the strawberries by cutting a small V-shape (this will leave a nice little pocket

- 1.to attach their "heads"). Cut strawberries in half lengthwise.
- 2.Melt chocolate in microwave safe bowl or according to instructions on package. Scoop into a disposable piping bag and cut off the corner.
- 3.squeeze small dots of chocolate onto the strawberries. Use chocolate to attach the blueberry "head." Use chocolate to draw legs and antennae on the serving plate.
- 4.Allow chocolate to harden before enjoying.

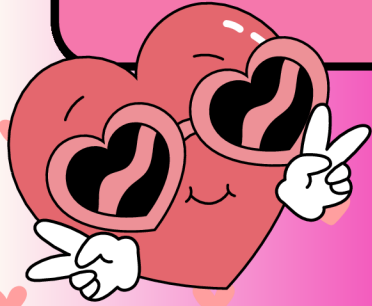


Health Aid Continued...

Upcoming events:

·February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

·ACL Dental will be coming to DEC to conduct dental screenings for the children. Letters will be sent home to families with more information.



DENTAL HEALTH

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BRUSH



EAT LESS CANDY



FLOSS



VISIT THE DENTIST REGULARLY



Happy
Valentine's
Day





Baby teeth are important. They help your child chew, speak, and smile. They also help permanent teeth grow in the correct position. Did you know that children can get cavities as soon as their teeth first appear? Nearly one in four children ages 2–5 has cavities in their baby teeth.¹ Cavities can hurt. Cavities also can cause children to have problems eating, speaking, learning, playing, and sleeping. Children learn healthy habits from their parents and caregivers. Read below to find out how you can help prevent cavities and promote healthy habits.

HELP PREVENT CAVITIES

DURING PREGNANCY



Children's teeth begin to develop between the third and sixth months of pregnancy. To help baby teeth develop correctly, be sure to get plenty of nutrients and eat a balanced diet. For tips on how to eat a balanced diet, visit choosemyplate.gov.

It is important to go to the dentist during pregnancy. Also, remember to brush your teeth two times a day for two minutes, clean between teeth, and drink water with fluoride to help keep your own teeth and gums healthy and strong.

BIRTH to 1ST TOOTH (around 6 months)



Gently wipe baby's gums with a clean, damp, soft washcloth or gauze after each feeding. Breastfeed your baby for at least the first six months of life, if possible. To help prevent tooth decay, fill your baby's bottle only with formula or milk. Finish bottle feedings before putting your baby to bed.

You can pass cavity-causing germs to your child, so don't put your baby's pacifier in your mouth to clean it. And don't share feeding spoons. Rinse pacifiers with water to clean them. Don't dip pacifiers in sugar, honey, or other foods.

1ST TOOTH to 3 YEARS OLD



Take your child to the dentist for a first checkup after the first tooth appears or by the time your child turns 1.

Brush your child's teeth two times a day (morning and night). Use a baby toothbrush and a smear of fluoride toothpaste the size of a grain of rice. Start cleaning between teeth daily as soon as your child has two teeth that touch.

Protect your child's teeth with fluoride. Talk to your dentist or pediatrician about your child's fluoride needs.
Sippy cups should be used only until around your child's first birthday. Do not let your child sip drinks with sugar all day.

3 to 5 YEARS OLD



Brush your child's teeth for two minutes, two times a day. Use a pea-size amount of fluoride toothpaste and a small, soft toothbrush. Take turns—brush your child's teeth one time and then have them do it the next time. Supervise brushing until your child can spit out the toothpaste instead of swallowing it, around age 6.

Clean between their teeth daily—for example, with dental floss.
Encourage your child to eat fruits, vegetables, and foods that are low in sugar and to drink fluoridated water. Limit snacks, candy, juice, soft drinks, and sticky treats.
Ask your child's dentist or doctor about putting fluoride varnish on your child's teeth to prevent cavities.

Visit MouthHealthy.org for more tips from the American Dental Association to help your child have their best smile!

¹ Dye BA, Thornton-Evans G, Li X, Iafolla TJ. Dental caries and sealant prevalence in children and adolescents in the United States, 2011–2012. NCHS data brief, no 191. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db191.pdf>



SUPPORT SERVICES

COORDINATOR

Child Developmental Milestones

KEY POINTS:

- The early years of a child's life are very important for their health and development. Healthy development means that children of all abilities, including those with special needs, are able to grow up where their social, emotional, physical and educational needs are met.
- Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave and move (walk, run, jump, etc.). Every child develops at their own pace, so it is impossible to tell exactly when a child will learn a certain skill. HOWEVER, the developmental milestones give a general idea of the changes to expect as a child gets older.
- Classroom teachers will monitor these milestones and communicate results with families.
- As a parent/guardian, you know your child best! If you feel your child is not meeting the "milestones" for his/her age, speak to the teacher or contact the Support Services Coordinator directly.

Don't wait. Acting early can make a real difference.

Parents/Guardians: As your child's first and most important teacher, you can help his or her learning and brain development.

- Play with toys that encourage your child to put things together, such as puzzles and building blocks.
- Ask your child what she/he is playing. Help your child expand their answer by asking, "Why"? and "How?" For example, say "That's a nice bridge you're building. Why did you put it there?"
- Use words to help your child begin to understand time. For example, sing songs about the days of the week and let them know what day it is. Use words about time, such as today, tomorrow and yesterday.
- Set up a special time to read books with your child/children. Discuss stories.
- For Preschool-Age children: Help your child develop good language skills by speaking to them in complete sentences and using "grown up" words. Help them to use the correct words and phrases.

Have a great and fun time with your wonderful children.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT



Greetings parents and families,
I hope this finds you doing well and keeping warm from the cold weather.

We are very happy that our Paguate classroom is open again. I want to thank our families for their flexibility.

The Parent Resource Center (PRC) Building has been undergoing renovations and remains closed until improvements are completed. We look forward to the day when we can provide family engagement activities for all to enjoy.

REMINDERS

1. Please use the front parking lot and front gate entrance to drop off and pick up your children from school. The south gate, by the playground, is not an entrance or exit to drop off children and pick them up.
2. Adhere to the 5 MPH speed zone while you are on campus.
3. Practice pedestrian safety by holding your child's hand as you walk them to class from the parking lot.
4. DEC does not allow any outside food or drinks. Please keep this in mind if your child will be sharing Valentine's with their friends. Thank you for keeping children free from allergens.
5. Dress your child in layers. The mornings are cold and the afternoons tend to get warm when the sun is out. We do not want them to get sick, unnecessarily.
6. If your child is sick, please keep them home. They will be more comfortable and less likely to spread illness.
7. Call the front office when your child will not be attending school. There is a message machine which allows you to leave a message stating your child's name and reason why they will be absent.
8. No school on Monday, February 17th, in observance of President's Day, a national holiday.

You may always call the front office, we are happy to assist with your needs.

Until next time, you all have a Happy Valentine's Day and enjoy the President's Day holiday.

HAPPY
Valentine's Day

