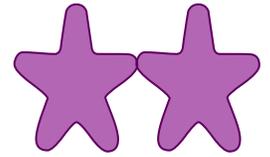


# February Preschool Press

HUMC PRESCHOOL TAX-ID NUMBER

31-064-3314



## SIGN-UP FOR CONFERENCES

A Developmental Study has been prepared for each of the children enrolled within our program. The study evaluates where the children are developmentally in terms of their social skills, emotional development, motor skills (small and large), as well as their academic preparedness. Conferences will be held February 15 and 16. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin boards outside of each classroom. If a telephone conference is preferred, please make arrangements with your child's teacher. The exercise room will be open for you to share baby-sitting with other parents. Staff members will not be present in the exercise room, so arrangements with other parents should be made prior to the day of the conferences. We ask that the children not attend the conferences.



## VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 13 and 14. The children may bring Valentines for their friends. Your child's name should be written on the card. However, please leave the outside of the envelopes blank. If you are unsure as to how many children are in the class, either ask the teachers or call the preschool office. The children will deliver their cards, while engaging in dramatic play. Luckily the cost of postage at the preschool is simply a smile.



## REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Hopefully everyone has turned in his or her application for the fall. If you have not done so, PLEASE contact the preschool office immediately, as we are unable to hold spaces for students without the proper application forms. Remember, you are able to make payment arrangements for the registration fee of \$125.00. New student registration is now underway, and some of the classes are already full, so please check with the office for availability.

Letters of the Month

Dd, Oo, Jj



The child who knows unconditional love  
has the greatest gift the world can offer

Author Unknown

## February Calendar

February 1: Tuition Due

February 5: Tuition Due Without Late Fees

February 13 & 14: Valentine's Celebrations

February 15 & 16: Conferences No School

February 17: Professional Development No School

February 20: President's Day No School



February Themes

Groundhog's Day

Winter Picnic

Dinosaurs

Paleontologists and Fossils

Post Office

Valentine's Day

Ocean Life

A House for Hermit Crab (Eric Carle)

Transportation

## Snow Science

**Snowflake Observation** On a snowy day, take a piece of black construction paper and catch snowflakes on it. Use a magnifying glass to observe the individual snowflakes. Ask your child to describe the differences between each snowflake, explaining that no two snowflakes are exactly alike.

**Melting Snow** Fill two bowls equally with snow. Place the bowls on an indoor counter or table. Pour salt on one bowl of snow and leave the other bowl salt free. Ask your child which bowl of snow does he/she think will melt faster; hence they are creating their own "hypothesis" as to the rate of melting that will occur in each bowl. Check back throughout the day to see if their hypothesis was correct.

**Expanding Ice** When water turns to ice, it expands. Fill an empty can with water, stopping about 1/2 to 1/4 inch from the top of the can. Use a permanent marker to mark the water line on the outside of the can. Put the can on a tray and place it into the freezer. Leave the can in the freezer for a few hours or overnight. The ice will be higher than the water line and will have appeared to have grown overnight.

## Play Dough Recipe

5 tbsp of cream of tartar

¾ cup of salt

3 cups of flour

.14 oz. pkg of unsweetened Kool-Aid

3 cups of water

3 tbsp vegetable oil

Food coloring of choice (the Kool-Aid will color the mixture also)

Stir all of the dry ingredients into a large pot. Slowly add the water and oil. Using a large wooden spoon. Blend the mixture until all of the lumps are gone. Stir in several drops of food coloring till you have the desired color. (the dough will darken as it cooks.) Cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring constantly with a large spoon until it forms a ball. While the mixture is still warm, knead it on a lightly floured board for several minutes or until the dough has a soft, satiny feel. Store the dough in a sealed container at room temperature for up to a month.



## 6 Reasons Why the HUMC Preschool Reading Challenge is Important to Your Child

### Creating All Star Readers - One Book at a Time



Beyond the stickers and prizes, the reading challenge gives you and your child the opportunity to actually boost your child's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of your daily schedule. While we know that all of our parents are reading to their children, it seemed like a fun idea to share the top 6 reasons why we want you to read, read, read!

1. **Reading with your child promotes cuddle time.** Reading time is quality time. A time when you are able to slow down and spend time focusing on just the two of you and the wonders of the printed word.
2. **Reading aloud gives children the opportunity to practice listening.** The ability to listen and follow instructions are crucial skills in creating a successful kindergarten experience. Teachers will be verbally providing instruction, with the expectation that the children will be able to cooperate and act upon those instructions in an appropriate manner. When reading to your child, you are essentially developing their attention spans.
3. **Reading develops a child's imagination.** Following the characters and plot of the story helps to develop your child's imagination. The text and illustrations allow your child to travel to different places and imagine what might happen next. Allow your child to explore the illustrations prior to turning to the next page. There is much to explore.
4. **Reading aloud helps children acquire early language skills.** Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important activity leading to language development. Among other things, reading aloud builds word-sound awareness in children, a potent predictor of reading success in later years.
5. **Reading aloud builds a strong foundation for academic excellence.** When reading to your child, you are not only boosting their language development, but you are also laying the foundation for a higher aptitude for learning in general. Children who have been read to frequently, and have been exposed to a variety of books are more likely to succeed in other areas of school. The idea being that if a child is struggling to recognize words and put together sentences, math, science and social concepts will be more difficult as well.
6. **It is never to late to start the reading challenge.** If you have lost your child's reading list, simply come to the office. We would be more than happy to give you a new set. If you are struggling to write down the titles, you have our permission to simply draw a line through the number of books that you have read with your child. We simply want you to read, because we know that **you are creating All Star Readers!!!!**

#### What's Happening In Storytime & Play With Ms. J

Our first story for this month was "Skuttle's Big Wish". Skuttle is a house mouse who loves cheese. His best friend is Tweet the bird. His worst enemy is "Pounce" the cat. One day Skuttle rescues a golden beetle who in return grants him one wish. The wish he asked for was that everything he touched would turn into cheese. His wish was granted and yes, everything "did" turn to cheese. The lesson to be learned, be careful what you wish for. A fun time was had by all as everyone danced fast and slow to the music with cheese hats on trying not to wake the cat as they scampered home.

For letter of the week G, we visited the Three Bears again in Goldi Rocks and the Three Bears. The bears have their own band but desperately need a vocalist who can hit the high notes. Guess who fits the bill? The boys and girls made their own band. We had performers everywhere...dancing, singing and playing instruments. They were unbelievable! Letter G put our bodies in slow motion. We became gates that quietly opened then closed.

We have just completed the letter Ii week. Our story was "Penguin's Big Hill". Six penguins met the challenge. They bravely climbed that big, big hill. The boys and girls did the same to a song and down the mountain. We all were wishing at the end that we would get a lot of snow so we could really do fun winter games outside.

There are new things to learn. We are about to begin the letter N. No doubt we will have fun! Next month our letters will be Dd, Oo and Jj.

'Til next time!

Love,  
Ms. J