



Harbour Highlights

Happy Harbour ECP

February 2018

www.happyharbourecp.org



Important Dates

Feb. 1 st -2 nd	No School - Teachers' ECMC Training Conference
Feb. 7 th	Registration drawing for returning students- 10:00 AM
Feb. 8 th	Scholastic Book Orders go home
Feb. 9 th	Early Release 11:30 AM
Feb. 11 th	Registration drawing for BHUMC members - 9:30 AM
Feb. 13 th	Registration drawing for the community -10:00 AM
Feb. 13 th	Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner @ 5:30-7:30 (call church office for more info.)
Feb. 14 th	Valentine's Day!
Feb. 23 rd	Scholastic Orders DUE
Feb. 24 th	Journey Women 2018 Retreat at BHUMC (call church office for more info.)

From The Directors

The New Year is off to a wonderful start! In our classrooms this month, we are looking forward to Valentine's Day festivities.

From a staff perspective, the **Early Childhood Methodist Conference** is an amazing and rejuvenating annual training for your teachers and staff. The conference is a great source of creative classroom ideas and teaching techniques that we will be able to share with your children.

2018-2019 Registration is in full swing and we hope to have our Happy Harbour families returning again next year. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions you have. We feel so blessed and privileged to have the opportunity to teach and learn from your students!

Joy! Heather and Sheri

Calling All Dads: Happy Harbour is asking for a few dads to help with set up for some of our special events (3-4 time per year). Please contact the office @ 281.538.1515 to sign up. We'd love to have your help!

Office Reminder



- ALL accounts must be current to register for the 2018-2019 school year





**YEE HAHHHH! Rodeo is coming!!!
March 6th & March 7th**



**Rodeo is one of our favorite school wide celebrations
and we need you to help make it a success!!!
Volunteer Sign Up coming soon!**



Happy Birthday!

Azlee B.
Ayden C.
Ollie C.
Sullivan F.
Avery F.
Cooper G.
Brayden H.
Claire K.
Rocco L.
Claire M.
Aariz R.
Thomas R.
Charlie R.
Peiper R.
Erin S.
Evan T.

Curriculum Corner

February brings to mind **love**, red and pink, conversation hearts, doilies, chocolate and of course valentine cards. Did you know that folding and ripping apart valentines, peeling and sticking stickers, writing names, placing valentines in envelopes, all are wonderful fine motor activities?

The physical development of fine motor skills has to do with using and coordinating the small muscles in the hands and fingers. **The Creative Curriculum** focuses on three objectives for fine motor -- controlling small muscles in hands, coordinating eye-hand movement, and using tools for writing and drawing. As these fine muscles develop, children are able to perform self-help skills and manipulate small objects with increasing accuracy. Strong fine motor skills are essential to completing tasks such as using a fork or spoon, threading beads, manipulating puzzles pieces, zipping, buttoning, and tying shoe laces. Without

well-developed fine motor skills, a child may have difficulty learning to write or perform many of the other critical tasks presented in the classroom.

Each day at Happy Harbour, our students have the opportunity to work on their fine motor skills. Here are a few examples of what that might look like in each age group:

2's—Threading large beads on a string, fitting puzzles pieces into corresponding openings, connecting and manipulating links and blocks, inserting and removing pegs, making simple strokes with paint/markers/crayons.

3's— Drawing recognizable objects, tracing objects, inserting and removing pegs, squeezing clothespins, cutting playdough with scissors or paper along a straight or slightly curved line, threading small beads on string, building tall block towers.

4's—Copying and drawing simple shapes, writing their names, cutting with scissors along straight and curved lines, threading small beads on a string, using pinchers/tongs to sort small items, pouring water into a funnel or from container to container at the water table.

Fine motor skills are directly linked to early writing development. Encourage fine motor activities at home with your children. Whether that is scribbling or random letter writing. Drawing, coloring, painting with watercolors or be bold and give them some playdough. Get out the construction paper, scissors, stickers, stamps, etc. and make their own valentines for grandparent, parents and/or friends. Whatever you do, make it fun!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Letitia Hardin – Curriculum Specialist

At Home Folding Heart Activity

Materials Needed: Large red construction paper heart

Ask your child to share words they have heard which are hurtful and unkind. As each word or phrase is shared, have them fold down a piece of the heart until it is folded into a small shape. Explain that this is how we feel when we have been hurt. Then ask your child to share words that are kind and encouraging. As each is shared, have them unfold a piece of the heart until it is back in its original shape.

Holding up the heart, ask your child what they still see on it – the wrinkles or scars that are left. Make the point that even if we say we are sorry, we can still leave lasting scars with hurtful words.

This is a great fine motor activity and also gives them a greater understanding of the importance of kind, loving words. Happy Valentine's Day!