Center News Richmond Center

Hello Richmond Families and Hello Year of the Dragon!

All the staff at our Richmond Center wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year!
We are moving into February and are excited to let you know about our science curriculum for this month. We will be learning all about barn owls in California and their importance to the environment. I want to let you know that we will be looking at owl pellets and will dissect them. We will also observe and identify bones of animals the owls have eaten. This does not mean we are digging in owl poop! Owls actually do not poop, they have two stomachs and their second stomach compacts the bones and fur of the eaten animals and the owl then spits it out like a small ball. These balls are collected and sterilized so we can safely use them in school. We are purchasing them from the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. If this topic interests you, you can join us in class on dissection day. This will be a great opportunity for you to learn and explore along with your child.
We started our Richmond parent knitting group on January 31st. There is still time to join us if you would like to learn how to make a fashionable scarf or child's sweater. Some parents are even knitting socks!
Reminder: On February 10th, we will conduct our second home visits to discuss your child's progress. Teachers will be talking with you to schedule a time to meet. There will be no school on that day. We are looking forward to meeting with you!

Meet the Assistant Teacher: Wendy Xie
Wendy started working for Kai Ming in 2002. She was a former parent in our program. She came to the U.S. from China and she is married with two children, a boy and a girl. Their ages are sixteen and fourteen years old. In her free time, Wendy enjoys going shopping with her children. She is also currently enrolled in classes towards a degree at San Francisco City College.
Here are some activities that can help prepare your children for kindergarten:
How parents can foster literacy development in young children

• Please read, read, and read some more to your children. Reading aloud to them builds so many language skills (comprehension, rhyme, concepts of print such as where to begin reading, vocabulary building, etc.!).
• Visit the library often to read, hear a storyteller, or watch a puppeteer!
• Don't neglect the power of children's own names! Young children naturally like to see their name in print and have a great desire to know the letters in their name. Have children start with the letters in their own name when attempting to recognize and name letters.
• Also, use the beginning sound in their name as a foundation for building sound knowledge! For example, if your child's name starts with P, find other items that start with /p/ like popcorn, puzzle, pillow, etc.
• For writing their names, let children practice (first letter uppercase and all the others lowercase) in sand, a small tray of rice, shaving cream, pudding (Yum!), finger paint, glitter crayons, write it big with sidewalk chalk, shape playdough into the letters, etc. Have fun!
• Print is all around young children for them to notice and make literacy connections! Some print is already meaningful to your children such as names of favorite cereals, restaurants, toys, stores, and more! Letters and words are everywhere in your home, on the street, in the store, etc. - Make it a fun learning game in which you play "I spy" - I spy something with my little eye something that starts with the letter M or /m/ (say the sound the m makes) depending on the developmental level of your child.
• Place magnetic letters on the refrigerator at the children's' eye level so they can manipulate the letters to form their name, group like letters together, etc.
• Create a letter scrapbook with your child. For each page, write the upper and lowercase letter. Have children hunt for small objects, environmental print, etc. that begin with a certain letter. Make sure to include photos of their friends, too!
• Let your children see you writing letters, checks to pay the bills, the grocery list, anything! Give them their own piece of paper, letting them write out their own list using kid writing (It's all right if you can't read it at this point - You are modeling for them uses/reasons for writing and reading which is much more important at this stage.)
• Create a writing toolbox to store fun writing utensils, different types of paper, envelopes, stickers, etc. for your child to have their own writing materials to encourage writing. Source: www.hubbardscupboard.org

Dates to remember
Feb. 10th 2nd.Home Visits – no school
Feb. 14th Parent Meeting 8:45am
Feb.14th Valentine's day
Feb.16th PC Meeting
Feb. 20th Presidents day- no school
Every Tuesday 1:30 pm- knitting group
Jan.31 - The first of six nutrition workshops with Jenny Lam.