

# PARENT CONNECTION

February 2018

School to Home Connection, 2018 School Survey for Parents

Featured Family, STEM Spotlight, CDA Class,  
February Birthday Celebrators, Family Home Project

February Calendar of Activities

Kids "R" Kids of West Houston

"The First Step to Higher Education"

Home of Oscar, our Ocelot



Our preschool has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, (SACS CASI), since 2011. We are currently involved in the process of improvement and focus on best practices of instruction in order to achieve our second accreditation, National Accreditation Commission.

The beneficiaries of this effort is always the students: a quality early care and education experience. Part of processes with both accreditation involves the administration of parent and staff surveys, each of which is directly linked to the Standards for Quality Schools.

In the month of February, each family will have an opportunity to complete an online survey which we will be sending you via email.

Surveys are a means to systematically engage all our stakeholders in a two-way communication. They provide school leaders and teachers a lens into the thinking and perceptions of our stakeholders. Careful analysis of the results enriches understanding of areas of strength and effectiveness as well as those areas that possibly need improvement.

Your cooperation and support in completing the surveys will be greatly appreciated. Please be on the lookout for your survey invitation in the coming weeks!

## School to Home Connection

Research consistently shows that a strong school to home connection helps children build self esteem, curiosity, and motivation to learn new things.

Home and school are the two most important places for young children. A successful teacher/family partnership assures children that there are people who care about them and provides a unique perspective about the child.

Here are some ways to make a strong school to home connection:

1. **Reinforce learning at home.** Families are encouraged to do finger plays and read books and nursery rhymes at home. Modeling these behaviors/habits is critical to their child's growth and development. For families whose children's first language is not English, please sing and read to them with rhymes in their home language. Coupling in English to reinforce is appropriate as well.
2. **Model language and thinking skills out loud.** Children benefit from hearing adults talk and solve problems. They learn vocabulary and critical thinking skills. Families can share thoughts throughout the day. For example, "It looks like it's going to rain outside. I'd better take an umbrella."
3. **Read to the children as much as possible!** Reading is fun and helps build comprehension and language skills.
4. **Help prepare your children to write.** Encourage them to learn proper grip and support their child in holding a crayon correctly. Children love to see their names in print. Help them write their names in block capitals. These are the first and easiest letter to write.
5. **Help children recognize letters and notice that print is all around them.** Point out signs, logos, and letters wherever you go.



## Eight of Our Teachers attending Child Development Class Being Held at Our School this Semester

To meet the demand for high-quality early childhood educators, our facility is working alongside the Council for Professional Recognition to support the training and development of our classroom Lead Teachers. This is a powerful practice to bring forth individuals with an educator's heart for children, and rise them up with the critical knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices to support their work in the classroom to develop the whole child - in physical, cognitive, social emotional, and language development areas. Over the course of 120 hours, they work through the standards and competency goals to earn their credential.

A CDA is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA course of 120 hours, the CDA assessment process and has been awarded the CDA Credential by the Council for Professional Recognition, a national association that supports professional development in early education and care. Child Development Associates (CDAs) are trained to meet the specific needs of children and work with parents and other adults to nurture children's growth in a child development setting. A CDA performs according to the awareness of her CDA Competency Goals in program.

As we prepare to host this course for 8 of our staff members to grow and develop as educators and professionals, we are excited to encourage their accomplishments this semester. As families, you will certainly be able to observe the positive impact on the classrooms and young children in their care.

# Happy Birthday!

Date	Names	Classroom
02/01	Noah G.	550
02/03	Maya A.	250B
02/06	Amyrise S.	250B
02/06	Ms. Christina L.	Mgmt.
02/07	Lochlan M.	150
02/07	Enzo D.V.	550
02/09	Ariana F.	400
02/10	Alexander H.	350
02/12	Shiloh E.	Gym
02/14	Gavin S.	Gym
02/16	Ellyce C.	Gym
02/17	Anson C.	300
02/18	Ariel L.	500
02/19	Aaron B.	350
02/19	Vincent H.	250B
02/20	Elliot S.	400
02/22	Adrian DM.	400
02/23	Rohan M.	Gym
02/24	Daphne Z.	500
02/24	Sophia H.	Gym
02/25	Hyland W.	Gym
02/25	Travis W.	600
02/26	Brixton A.	550
02/26	Albert S.	600
02/28	Manori W.	150
02/28	Alexa V.	Gym
02/28	Isabella N.	Gym

## Meet our Featured Family, The Azzams

We are so delighted to introduce Tia and her parents as our featured family this month. She began preschool with us two years ago and look at this shining example of success she is in Pre-K now!

This is true because of the effort on her parent's behalf to connect to classroom experiences and learning goals each week. These discussions at home by way of the family connection letter and periodic conversations with teachers about progress can truly bridge the gap between home and school. This is powerful to see language acquisition and evident application of language in context such as our 'word of the week.'



When families talk about the same things teachers are saying, the children engage even more – they understand how important it is! Letter identification and other cognitive skills rapidly fall into place when we partner together just as the Azzam family has done.

Please read more about their experience with us, in their own words....

“Having Kids R Kids next door has been quite a blessing for our family. Our Little Tia started going to Kids R Kids since September 2016 at age 2. She started with Ms. Deetsy where she was potty trained, became more social and even learned how to talk. This was a challenging stage but with Ms. Deetsy's encouragement and the sunshine reports, the experience was smoother for Tia and us; it was quite a major milestone we achieved together with KRK.

Then Tia moved to Ms. Paola's class and we were worried because we knew how happy Tia was, but the great thing at KRK is that every time Tia moves to a new class, she loves her new teacher as much, and this shows how amazing the teachers are. Now she is in Ms. Angel's class and we are so proud of her.

She is making big steps and great progress, writing her name and some numbers and also trying to draw our family. We regularly review her progress with her teachers and Mrs. Valerie, and we really enjoy working the structured program KRK has between class and home development. We plan to keep Tia for another 2 years, unless KRK actually opens a 1<sup>st</sup> grade class for us!”

*You can see more about this family in our display in the lobby. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Azzam!*

## S.T.E.M. Spotlight

*Sink or Float?* Feb. 5-9

*Magic Milk Hearts,* Feb. 12-16

*Baking Soda & Vinegar Experiment,* Feb 19-23

*Squishy Balls,* Feb. 26-March 2



## Valentine's Day Family Home Project

Make a Valentine Mailbox with your child to use on Valentine's Day! You can decorate a shoebox, or bag, with your child using anything from around the house, like pictures, stickers, paper, etc. Make sure your child put's their name clearly on it.



Bring it as soon as it is ready, or at the latest Wednesday, February 13. Your child may bring a valentine for each friend in their class. Have your child write their name on the inside and leave the address blank to better facilitate your child's delivery efforts. Reading their valentines with friends is a great application of what they are learning about this month with

**"EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE" KIDS R KIDS WEST HOUSTON "THE FIRST STEP TO HIGHER EDUCATION"**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Jan. 29</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450 <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>Feb. 1</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 HATCH Tech: 350 &amp; 400 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><b>Classroom Themes:</b> <i>Love is in the Air (100-250); Happy Hearts (300-350); Count Me In (400-450); Taking Care of Animals (500-600); The Penguin Who Wanted to Fly (AP)</i></p> <p><b>Literary Features:</b> <i>You Are My I Love You</i> by Mary Ann Cusimano, <i>A Pet for Miss Wright</i> by Judy Young, <i>The Penguin Who Wanted to Fly</i> by Catherine Vase</p>				
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450 <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 350 &amp; 400 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><b>Classroom Themes:</b> <i>We Care (100-250); Happy, Sad, Glad (300-350); I Love You Because You are You (400-450); Endangered Animals (500-600); Penguins, Penguins, Everywhere (AP)</i></p> <p><b>Literacy Features:</b> <i>The Way I Feel</i> by Janan Cain, <i>Mama, Do You Love Me?</i> By Barbara Joose, <i>Penguins, Penguins Everywhere</i> by Bob Barner</p>				
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450, <i>Soccer Shots Day</i> <b>Valentines Exchange</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 350 &amp; 400 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><b>Classroom Themes:</b> <i>Happy, Healthy Me (100– 250); Healthy Me (300-350); Open Arms (400-450); Weather Wiz Kids (500-600); I Can Save the Earth (AP)</i></p> <p><b>Literacy Features:</b> <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> by Eric Carle, <i>Eat Your Peas</i> by Kes Gray, <i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i> by Judi Barrett, <i>I Can Save the Earth</i> by Alison Inches</p>				
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 HATCH: 550 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 HATCH Tech: 600, AP S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450, <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 350 &amp; 400 Technology: 400, 550</p>
<p><b>Classroom Themes:</b> <i>Kindness Counts (100-250); Shiny Teeth (300-350); Friends Forever (400-450); As the Wind Blows (500-600); The Three R's (AP)</i></p> <p><b>Literacy Features:</b> <i>How Full is Your Bucket</i> by Mary Reckmeyer &amp; Tom Rath, <i>The Crocodile and the Dentist</i> by Taro Gomi, <i>Bear's New Friend</i> by Karma Wilson, <i>The Three R's</i> by Nuria Roca</p>				
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Technology: 150, 250A, &amp; 450 Spanish: 200 &amp; 250A <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p> <p><b>Seuss-tastical Week: Wear crazy socks!</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Technology: 250B, 300, 200 Spanish : : 350 S.T.E.M Time: 450, 550, 600 <i>Dance Adventures Day</i></p> <p><b>Seuss-tastical Week: Wear a Crazy hat!</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Technology: 350, 500, 600 Spanish: 300, 450 &amp; 600 HATCH Tech: 450, <i>Soccer Shots Day</i></p> <p><b>Seuss-tastical Week: Wear your hair wacky!</b></p>	<p><b>March 1</b></p> <p>S.T.E.M Time: 400, 500, AP Spanish: 500 &amp; 550 Technology: 550 &amp; 400 HATCH: 500</p> <p><b>Seuss-tastical Week: Wear a Crazy hat!</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Spanish: 250B, 400 &amp; AP Show &amp; Tell: 400-600 Special Snack: 500, 550, &amp; 600 Technology: 400, 550</p> <p><b>Seuss-tastical Week: Wear a character !</b></p>
<p><b>Classroom Themes:</b> <i>Good Morning, Sun (100-250); Whirling Whirlybirds (300-350); A Salute to Seuss (400-450); Way Up in the Sky (500-600); A Clean Community (AP)</i></p> <p><b>Literacy Features:</b> <i>The Sun is My Favorite Star</i> by Frank Asch, <i>Feathers for Lunch</i> by Lois Ehlert, <i>Cat in the Hat</i> by Dr. Seuss, <i>Little Owl's Day</i> by Divya Srinivasan, <i>Trashy Town</i> by Andrea Zimmerman</p>				