



## Early Learning Academy February Newsletter

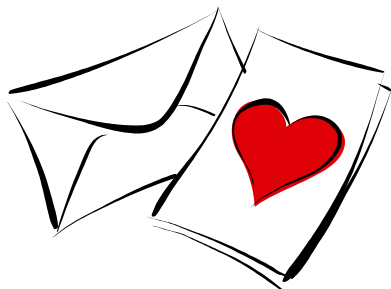


### Message from Mrs. Hao Welcome to February!

It may be cold and wet, but the sun is surely shining at Early Learning Academy. Our children are smiling, we have terrific teachers, and we have many things to celebrate: Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and Presidents' Birthdays.

In the beginning of the month, the children can all look at their shadows, just like the groundhogs do, and see if we can guess how many more weeks there will be of winter. (We hope not too many, as it is awfully chilly!)

As tax time approaches, you may need to know that the school's Tax ID number is 200-00-5511 and that our school is registered under the company's name, Pinnacle Schools.



### FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- January 26** Lunar New Year  
"Year of the Ox"
- February 12** Valentine Celebration  
(Dress in Red Day)
- February 13** Staff Development Day  
**School Closed**
- February 16** President's Day  
**School Closed**

### HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Belated Happy Birthday to Antonio  
Napoleon and Happy Birthday to  
Gaia Splendore!

### VALENTINE'S DAY/ DRESS IN RED DAY

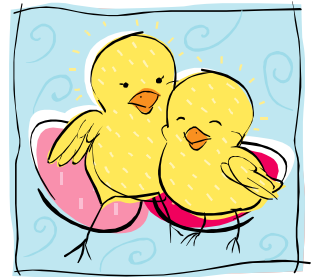
We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 12. Your child is welcome to bring in cards and candies/chocolates. We ask that you or your child sign the cards with his/her name, but not address them to anyone in particular. That way your child will have an easier time giving them out. **NO HARD CANDIES PLEASE!**

# Learning Corner

**Theme:** My Senses and Feelings  
**Events:** Black History Month  
Chinese New Year  
Valentine's Day  
President Lincoln's & Washington's Birthdays

**Shape:** Heart  
**Color:** Pink

**Chicks (Toddlers):**  
Letters – P, Q, R  
Number – 4



**Pandas (Preschool):**  
Letters – P, Q, R  
Number 7

**Caterpillars (Pre-K):**  
Letters – Review Ll-Nn, Oo, P, Qq  
Numbers – 13, 14



**For more details on February curriculum and events....**

**Read the teacher's weekly newsletters.**



# PARENT'S CORNER



## Black History Month

Our country is becoming more and more multi-racial. Being tolerant and respectful of people of different ethnic backgrounds and race is essential in our society.

The staff at Early Learning Academy strives to respect the diversity of our families. We come from many diverse backgrounds. We are proud to have multi-lingual teachers who are prepared to work with many of our families in their native languages.

Children form attitudes about race early in life, learning from the important adults in their lives. Our goal is to take advantage of the children's natural curiosity and to help them see differences in individuals as interesting, exciting, and enriching. This month, we will read stories about them and introduce them to their traditions through food and art projects.

Introduce your child to the history and heroes of African-American culture by logging on to the interactive Kulture Kids site ([aakulturezone.com/kidz](http://aakulturezone.com/kidz)). You'll find children's book recommendations, A-to-Z bios (Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and many others), plus fun activities, including word scrambles and searches.



# PARENT'S CORNER

## Lunar New Year Across Asia

The deafening bang of thousands of exploding firecrackers. Magnificent flowing silk dragons dancing in the street. Opulent feasts of auspicious-sounding dishes and sweets. Red envelopes stuffed with cash doled out to bowing children.

China rings in the Lunar New Year in a big way. The festivities begin on the first full moon of the new year and last for 15 days. Chinese New Year, which falls on January 26 this year, is the single most important holiday in the country. It is a time for renewal, family gatherings, eating rich foods and paying respect to your ancestors and elders. Also, what you do and how you act during the period is crucial in determining how the rest of your year will go. So, eating the right foods, such as black moss seaweed, which is a symbol for gaining wealth, and dried bean curd, which is another symbol for fulfillment of wealth and happiness, is a must. These customs are widely known by most mainstream Westerners, but in many parts of Asia, New Year celebrations take on a different and richly diverse flavor.

In Korea, the Lunar New Year celebration is barely a blip on the party radar, while New Year is a month-long vacation and matchmaking fest among the Hmong. And in Thailand, New Year festivities include a splashy good time with a water sprinkling ritual. Also, because many countries interpret the lunar calendar differently or use the solar system, the dates of celebrations vary as well. The Indian holiday of Diwali falls in late October or early November. The Cambodians enter their Chaul Chnam Thmey in mid-April. And modern Japan celebrates New Year, oddly enough, on January 1st.

Despite a number of differences, there's one common theme that takes center stage for all Asian New Year celebrations: family. No matter what the country, religion or race, New Year's Day is a time for family reunions, gatherings, reflection, and reaffirming bonds.

People born in the Year of the Ox (1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997) are supposed to be patient, speak little, and inspire confidence in others. They tend, however, to be eccentric, and bigoted, and they anger easily. They have fierce tempers, and although they speak little, when they do, they are quite eloquent. Ox people are mentally and physically alert. Generally easy-going, can be remarkably stubborn, and hate to fail or be opposed. They are most compatible with Snake, Rooster, and Rat people.

# PARENT'S CORNER

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

### What Children notice at Each Age

At **3**, children begin to notice differences in skin, eye, and hair color.

By age **4**, most children develop a greater interest in how they are alike and different from other kids. They may notice that a neighbor moves around in a wheelchair as opposed to walking. They may also start to identify with their ethnic group and see themselves as belonging to a family. Imitating the way their parents speak is very common, as is absorbing and imitating what they see on TV and read about in books. They begin to classify people by physical attributes: John and Joey are boys. Abby has brown skin. This “sorting by characteristics” is a normal part of learning.

By age **5**, children generally have developed a solid awareness of gender and of racial and physical similarities and differences among people. They begin to notice socio-economic differences and age and to show curiosity about how other families live.

Scholastic Parent & Child, November/December 2002





# Children's Corner

## What Makes You Happy?

**Kiley Annis** – Going to the **playground**.

**Grace Bajek** – When I see my **toys**.

**Drake Canete** – **Mommy**, because she cooks for me.

**Kimorah Castaneda** – **Mommy**.

**Sujean Doo** – Playing with my **sister**.

**Lea Elarde** – When **Mommy** tickles me.

**Kira Federoff** – My **bed**, because Santa bought it for me.

**Dylan Francis** – My **teddy**, because I can cuddle him every night.

**August Heinen** – My **mommy**, because she washes my clothes.

**Ryan Hilliard** – **Mommy**, because she gives me stuff.

**Elizabeth Langley** – When I go to **school**.

**Kiely Madrid** – When I see my **sister**.

**Carlos Mayorga** – **Sujea**.

**Antonio Napoleon** – **Santa**, because he brings me presents.

**Samantha Santiago** – **Playing** with my friends.

**Gaia Splendore** – Getting a **present**.

**Jada Stine** – When I **play outside** with my friends.

**Gabriela Tamacas** – **Toys**.

**Jessica West** – My **sister**, because she plays games with me.

**Vinnesa Whitaker** – **Mommy**, because she gives me love.