

Dear Parents,

We had a lot of fun at MDO for the Chinese New Year Celebration. Fortune cookies were sent home in the lunch boxes. A fortune for the parent and cookie for your child. I hope your fortune was good. Three children wore red shirts for good luck, and Mrs. Hinkal gave the other children a red sticky dot for their good luck. Several children had red strawberries in their lunch. Bryce had a red fish on his yogurt container. We read about the Chinese New Year customs and about the Komodo Dragons. The DC zoo has some Komodo dragons. They gave one of their new babies to the Pittsburgh Zoo. The children made a dragon puppet for the parade. Hannah wore the Chinese hat for our parade. (see photos on the wall) Some children were lucky to attend the parade in D.C.'s Chinatown. Mrs. Hinkal gave each child their own Chinese Zodiac animal picture from the year of their birth.

Congratulations to Joshua who became a big brother with the birth of his sister, Amelia (7 lb. 23 oz) on Feb. 1 . She was born in the year of the Dragon. We look forward to seeing her at school some day.

"O" day on Thursday was Outstanding. We read about Owls, and made a hand Octopus in an Ocean of Oval Orange fish. Our interactive books helped the children learn the Opposites of Old, Off, Out, and Over. We played an Opposites Obstacle Course game in the classroom by jumping Over Orange flowers, going around, under, beside, between, etc. Mrs. Hinkal wore Orchid glasses. Four children and both teachers wore Orange shirts. Two children had orange stripes on their clothes. Caroline had a big Orange flower in her hair. Ediz and Joshua had Olive green shirts. Hannah's brother Ovie visited during playtime. Rachel had Oscar on her shirt. Six children have an "O" in their name. Kaho showed us a talking pig that said "OINK". We also had clever Origami designs made by Kaho's mom. Ethan showed us a blue wooden Oval. Violet has a Orange Tiger lunchbox. Two children had bagels that were shaped like an "O". Christelle had Lorna Doones. Three children had Cheerios. Steven's kiwi fruit was on Oval. Bryce had an Orange and a cute "O" note from his mom in his lunchbox. Mrs. Hinkal played a game of "collect all the Orange things" in our classroom. The children scurried around and filled her Orange shopping bag. They were great at finding Orange paper strips, plastic Orange carrots in the toy kitchen, Orange crayons, and other Orange toys. We had such a good day despite the fact that the RDR was unavailable and the playground was wet. The groundhog did see his shadow, but in Cheverly it did not sunshine until we were leaving school. We saw our shadows on the way home.

MDO on Feb 7 is a salute to some Black History Heroes. My favorite is George Washington Carver with his invention of Peanut butter. We will make no-bake peanut butter cookies for a treat at lunchtime. Mrs. Hinkal will tell the children the

story of Matthew Henson who was born in Maryland, worked at a store in Baltimore, and became the first man to find the North Pole with Admiral Peary in April 1909.

Thursday ESP class will enjoy activities beginning with the letter "P" and Prepare for our Valentine exchange. Pink and Purple will be the colors of the day, and Playdough will be popular, along with Mr. Potato Head toys.

Thursday is also the Peace/Black History dinner at the American Legion, sponsored by Joyce Lang's Peace Project. Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish to share. I do not think there is any cost.

Please pass the word that WDN and MDO will be having an Open House on Feb. 23 (6:30-8:00). If you plan to put your child in WDN this Fall, you might want to bring the registration form and \$ with you on Feb 23. Registration forms are available at WDN, MDO and some were sent home already in book bags. MDO will also be registering for the July Summer Fun Kid-Olympics on that day. Registration forms are available on line at our website.

Lastly, as you drive anywhere with your child, ask them to find the Letter of the Week on signs, or the first letter of their name, or a certain color or shapes of on signs.

Mrs. Tamai