

# Newsletter February 2018



**School Director**  
Blanca Eubank

**Assistant Director**  
Samiya Clark



**Happy Birthday!**

Loren D. 02-03

Avery H. 02-17



**We have our quarterly Quality Assessment this month. All of our children loved sharing what they are learning.**



## Welcome!

Welcome our new staff member

- **Ms. Jasmine**, who will be in Rooms 1 and 2.
- **Ms. Claudia**, our new Kitchen Manager, who joins us from our sister Childrens Lighthouse in Spring

## Parent Teacher Meets

A parent-teacher conference is a face-to-face meeting between your child's teacher and one or both parents (or guardians). It is an opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress and social growth. If you need some time to meet with your child's teacher reach out to our front office to schedule a time.



## Dr. Seuss Week - Read Across America

Do you love to celebrate books with your kids? March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day. We will be planning fun Dr. Seuss themed literacy activities, writing projects, science explorations, sensory fun and more to celebrate throughout the week of February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Great Sites for  
Parents

[Parenting.com](http://Parenting.com)

[Babycenter.com](http://Babycenter.com)

[Dr. Spock.com](http://Dr.Spock.com)

[Parents.com](http://Parents.com)



## Open-Ended Questions to Help Children Think

Using open-ended questions is a wonderful way to stretch a child's curiosity, reasoning ability, creativity and independence. Asking open-ended questions gives parents an opportunity to see what a child is thinking and feeling. A question like, "What color is that block?" evokes a one-word answer. An open-ended question like, "Tell me about the blocks you are using," encourages children to use their language to describe the blocks or what they are doing. There is no right or wrong answer to an open-ended question, so all children can be successful in answering them. Parents can use the questions below to help incorporate open-ended questions in their classroom instruction. Extend children's thinking by:

- Asking questions that encourage language development (verbal, written, and receptive).
- Paraphrasing—repeat what the child said. Then add extra information to keep the child thinking.
- Adding new vocabulary. Use new words like "observe", texture words (sticky, rough, silky), measurement words (gigantic, tiny, humongous, miniscule), etc. when repeating and extending what children say. Remember: If you can answer "yes" or "no", the question is not open-ended.
- Open-ended questions require more "think" time so be patient as you wait for children to respond.

### Teacher of the Month

Ms. Ami Novelli



Ms. Novelli is the happy smiling teacher in Room 4. Her commitment to our school is evident in the happy faces of the children running to her in the mornings.

Ami has been with us since August 2017. She went to school at UTSA where she graduated with a degree in Developmental Psychology. In her spare time she enjoys reading and spending time with her family. (She has an awesome dad!) We are very fortunate to have her here. Thank you Miss Ami for your dedication to our children and being a fantastic member of our Childrens Lighthouse team.

Spanish

The LANGUAGE SPARK

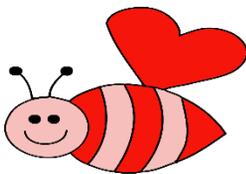


## Valentine's Day February 14

Love, Cupid, hearts, chocolates, cards and flowers are everywhere--it's Valentine's Day! On February 14, Americans celebrate love and friendship. But where did this holiday of affection come from?

The origins of Valentine's Day are murky. We do know that the ancient Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia, a spring festival, on the 15th of February. With the introduction of Christianity, the holiday moved to the 14th of February--the saint day that celebrated several early Christian martyrs named Valentine. But somewhere along the way, Valentine's Day came to represent romance. You can watch a romantic movie right here, "The Kiss," produced by Thomas Edison back in 1900. The romance we associate with Valentine's Day may spring from the medieval belief that birds select their mates on February 14th. During the Middle Ages, human lovebirds recited verse or prose to one another in honor of the day. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" wrote William Shakespeare.

[americaslibrary.gov](http://americaslibrary.gov)



Classroom Parties  
February 14  
Time TBA

Please bring cards not addressed to anyone.

If you would like to help check with the teacher in the classroom for details.



### Building Blocks and Learning

Sometimes the simplest activity is the most effective.

Child development scientists have found that playing with simple building blocks can help children learn the basic principles of math and science.

When children are figuring out how to put blocks together they really have to estimate and calculate the relative size of things and the number of things they need, and so it's a very concrete math experience,"

While playing with the blocks, children use their imaginations to design and build their projects while getting hands-on experience with measuring, counting, organizing and problem solving.

Playing with smaller blocks help kids develop fine motor skills, like improving movements in their fingers; larger blocks help them understand structure and stability.

There were benefits in terms of their understanding of basic physics concepts having to do with gravity and balance.

We will be glad to give you a tour of our school in the evening or on weekends by appointment.

<https://childrenslighthouse.com/woodlands>