

## Small Scholars Academy January 2009 Newsletter



### ***Winter Wonderland***

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. This month our topic is Winter Wonderland! Children will work on snow projects, conduct wintery science experiments, and learn about the animals that inhabit areas with a colder climate. The week of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, children will be reminded to celebrate differences in others and will work on getting along.

### ***Accreditation Surveys***

We are asking all parents to complete a survey which is essential for our self assessment stage of accreditation. When we began the accreditation process, parents completed an initial survey. This follow-up survey will allow us to track our progress in the areas in which we have made improvements. Please fill out the attached survey and return by January 9. All surveys are to be filled out anonymously. We really value parent input and look forward to using the results to further improve our program. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to compile the results of the surveys from parents and staff. We will be in touch when all the surveys are returned.

### ***School Year 2009-10***

We are now enrolling for our next school year. All preschool classes at Jefferson Avenue as well as our Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and now 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at Cherry Tree Drive are included in this enrollment process. Our current families will be given priority. Beginning February 1, enrollment will be open to the general public. We invite families to visit our Kindergarten and First Grade program throughout the month of January. Please talk with Miss Traci if you are interested in setting up an appointment. Attached is an enrollment packet for 2009-10.

### ***Gloves vs. Mittens***

We will be doing many activities this week that pertain to these winter staples. Your child should decide independently, which ones they prefer. Please bring them to class by Wednesday, January 7, 2009. No gloves or mittens will be harmed in the process!

### ***Chat With Miss Jessica***

If you need to contact Miss Jessica and prefer to do so by e-mail, please feel free to use her school account. It is [smallscholarsacademy@gmail.com](mailto:smallscholarsacademy@gmail.com). As always, Miss Traci can be reached at [smallscholars@gmail.com](mailto:smallscholars@gmail.com) or [traci@smallscholarspreschool.com](mailto:traci@smallscholarspreschool.com). If you need to reach Miss Michelle, her account is [smallscholarsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smallscholarsoffice@gmail.com).

### ***WOW! Cards***

Small Scholars is starting an employee recognition program. There will be WOW! cards available at the parent station. When parents or other staff members witness a staff member exhibiting excellence, they can fill-out a WOW! card and give it directly to the employee. The employee will turn it in to management and it will be posted for others to read. At the end of each month, all cards will be taken down and placed in a drawing for prizes. We will start again at the beginning of each month. Please take time to recognize those staff members that you feel are deserving.

### ***Snack Sign-Up***

The snack sign-up for January has been posted on the classroom door. Thank you in advance to those who volunteer and provide the needed food items.

### ***Cold Weather Reading Center***

I need your help in acquiring 100 empty, rinsed and completely air-dried gallon sized milk jugs, to make a life-sized igloo in our classroom! Children will have the opportunity to sit in it, when visiting our classroom reading center, throughout the winter!

### ***Taking Care of Our Teeth***

According to state regulations, children are required to brush their teeth daily, while at school! Therefore, we will begin encouraging the habit of brushing after lunch. Please send an unused and labeled (first and

last name) toothbrush to school by Friday, January 9, so we can start this daily ritual.

### ***Field Trip***

On Thursday, January 15th we will be visiting the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum by Dulles Airport. Students will participate in Fancies of Flight cool exploration station at 10:30. With a group of 20 or more we are able to get a discount on the McDonald's meals. The prices would be 4.25 for a Happy Meal and 7.50 for an adults value meal. No food or drink is allowed in the building, with the exception of baby bottles.

Parking is 12.00 per car. Our parent volunteer, Melissa Bugaj needs a head count on who will be attending, and who will be buying a meal at the McDonalds in the museum. Please let Miss Jessica know your plans by Friday, January 9.

### ***S.I.T. Meeting***

Our S.I.T. Team has a lot of work to do on our accreditation candidacy documentation which is due on January 31. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 7 from 6:30-7:30 at Cherry Tree Drive. As always, all parents are invited to attend.

### ***Inclement Weather***

As a reminder, when Jefferson County Public Schools close due to inclement weather, Small Scholars will close as well. This includes closing early when weather becomes an issue during the day. However, if there is a morning delay, Small Scholars will most likely open on-time. Please call the school and listen to our voice message for confirmation.

### ***E-mail Distribution List***

Many of our families receive important information through e-mail. These e-mails include, but are not limited to; newsletters, illness updates, snow closings, etc. If you are not receiving these e-mail updates and would like to start receiving them, please send an e-mail to Traci at [smallscholars@gmail.com](mailto:smallscholars@gmail.com). You can also ask to be taken off the list at any time.

### ***Specials***

Now on Monday afternoons, Andi Sugrue, Small Scholars parent, presents an art lesson to our Academy students. Andi is an art history graduate

and is currently in school studying to become a teacher.

We continue to enjoy Busy Bodies Playnasium for P.E. every Wednesday. Every other Thursday, remember to send your child's library book to school so it can be returned on our trip to Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Library.

### ***Tuition***

Tuition is due on Thursday, January 15.

### ***Scholastic Book Orders***

Scholastic book orders are due by Friday, January 16. Magazines will be handed out at school, or you can view and order on-line. To order online start by going to: [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs)  
Go to - Place and Order then Parent Sign In.  
Enter the class user name: SmallScholars  
The password is: cherrytree  
If you encounter any problems please feel free to e-mail parent volunteer, Cathy, at: [cgreenan@comcast.net](mailto:cgreenan@comcast.net)

### ***Nightlight Stories***

Small Scholars parents, Melissa and Chris Bugaj, have started a podcast featuring original stories for children. You can download them free at iTunes or at [www.nightlightstories.blogspot.com](http://www.nightlightstories.blogspot.com). Visit the blog for future updates and interesting vocabulary from the stories. Feel free to email them with any feedback at [nightlightstories@gmail.com](mailto:nightlightstories@gmail.com).

### ***Important Dates***

Monday, January 5—Enrollment begins for Fall  
Thursday, January 15—field trip, see details above  
Thursday, January 15—tuition due  
Monday, January 19—no school, MLK Jr. Day  
Monday, February 2—Enrollment open to public