THE SCOOP

A Monthly Newsletter from St. Andrew’s Episcopal School
1819 Heights Boulevard · Houston, Texas 77008 · 713-861-2954

Important Dates

February 5 & 6
Picture Days - see below for info

February 12
Parent Education - 9am, oak table
Montessori at Home

February 14
Valentine’s Day (wear pink/red)
12:45pm Dismissal

February 17
Presidents’ Day
NO SCHOOL

February 26
Ash Wednesday
Ashes-to-go available 7-9am

February 28
Go Texan Day (western wear)

February 29
SAES Gala
7pm, 1111 Studewood

Word of Faith
Father Jimmy’s Word of Faith for February is loving.

Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14

Nancy’s Note

Have you ever observed that your children do things at school that they are not as inclined to do at home - for instance, clean up after themselves or dress themselves? If you would like to learn more about how to transfer a few Montessori techniques from school to your home, please come to our first parent education hour of the semester on Wednesday, February 12 in the oak table room right after drop-off. Bring your questions and your coffee and join us as we discuss Montessori at Home.

In addition to our parent education discussion, Picture Day, Valentine’s Day, Go Texan Day, and our annual Gala are all part of an exciting February at SAES! Please check the calendar to the left and read our weekly email newsletter for more specific information about each event.

The school Gala this year will be on Saturday, February 29 at 7pm at the Rooftop Speakeasy at 1111 Studewood Place. This our school’s only fundraising event, and I can assure you that it is a party you do not want to miss. Katie Godfrey, Carmen Haworth, Kristin Leigh Jones, and M’Lynn Mooney, along with others, have been working hard since last summer to gather silent and live auction items and plan a fun evening for everyone. With the “Roaring 20’s” theme in full effect, it’s sure to be a blast!

As you may know, in the church calendar, the time before Easter is called Lent. The season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26. For those who are interested, we will have “ashes to go” in the church parking lot from 7-9am. Jimmy, our Rector, and Bradley, our Curate, will be here ready to impose ashes for anyone who would like to receive them. We will also have breakfast tacos and coffee!

I look forward to seeing each of you around the many fun events at SAES this month!
PICTURE DAYS

Teddy Bear Portraits will be here on **Wednesday, February 5** and **Thursday, February 6** for school pictures.

**Wednesday, February 5: 3- and 5-day Toddlers**

**Thursday, February 6: 2-day Toddlers and Early Childhood**

On both days, **photos will start at 9:00am**, so it is important that all children arrive at school on time on the day of their photos. You may send extra clothes for your child if you think s/he would like to change clothes after photos are taken.

**If you have more than one child attending SAES, look for an email from Ms. Debbie regarding a special photography schedule for your children.** If you have questions about the schedule, please contact Ms. Debbie at admissions@saesintheheights.org.

On both days, parents/caregivers may view and purchase photos at the oak table from 12:30-3:00pm. If you are unable to purchase your child’s photos at school on Wednesday or Thursday, Teddy Bear Portraits will provide you with a unique code so that you may view/purchase your photos online at a later date; however, please be aware that online orders will incur a shipping charge.

The background for the photos is “flax linen” - you may view it at: https://www.teddybearportraits.com/backgrounds/.

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**News from St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church**

**February 25: Shrove Tuesday:** Dinner and festivities in the Parish Hall starting at 6pm.

**February 26: Ash Wednesday:** Ashes-to-go available in the church/school parking lot from 7-9am; additionally, there will be 12pm & 7pm services.

**February 28-March 4:** Miqra Reading of the Bible begins at 5pm on 2/28 and continues 24 hours a day until it concludes on 3/4. For more information contact: trish.mehrkam@saecheights.org.

**HIM Food Pantry Donations:** For the month of February, we will collect rice and dry beans.

**Sunday Morning Education Hour, 9:30am:** The adult class meets in the Parish Hall; children in Pre-K through 5th grade meet in the Godly Play Classroom 2 on the second floor of the church.

**Sunday Services:** 8:30am, 10:30am, 2:00pm (Rhythms of Grace); 2nd Sunday - 5pm Choral Evensong
# February 2020 Snack Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Toddler 1</th>
<th>Toddler 2</th>
<th>EC Downstairs</th>
<th>EC Upstairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Madeline</td>
<td>Hugo</td>
<td>Nora</td>
<td>Emma</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>Madeline</td>
<td>Hugo</td>
<td>Bess</td>
<td>Foster</td>
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<td>Hugo</td>
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<td>William</td>
<td>Blake</td>
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<td>William</td>
<td>Bowen</td>
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<td>Alice</td>
<td>Claire</td>
<td>Ebba</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Alice</td>
<td>Ellie H.</td>
<td>Pierce 🎈</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
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<td>Bennett</td>
<td>Gus</td>
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<td>2/13</td>
<td>Jamie</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Eloise</td>
<td>Emmy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Jamie</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Stella</td>
<td>Margaux 🎈</td>
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<td>2/17</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day - NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day - NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day - NO SCHOOL</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day - NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>Grant</td>
<td>Annie</td>
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<td>Penny</td>
<td>Stefano</td>
<td>Andy</td>
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<td>Nathaniel</td>
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<td>Ellie B.</td>
<td>Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/28</td>
<td>Booth</td>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Nora</td>
<td>Sam 🎈</td>
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Early Childhood News

What an exciting and fun month February will be for our Early Childhood environments! We will continue to learn about Chinese New Year, Presidents’ Day, Groundhog Day, and mountain animals and their unique characteristics.

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

This month in our Language studies, we will work on strengthening our ability to identify the beginning sounds of words, which is an important early reading strategy. The downstairs classroom will focus on the sounds of the letters d, n, l, and r, and the upstairs classroom will focus on the sounds of the letters m, a, s, and t. We emphasize the beginning sounds of words in many different ways on a daily basis.

Our Language lessons help our friends fine tune their ability to focus, and also stimulate the perception and memory of sound patterns of spoken English. Our friends focus on the elements that need to be in place to recognize spoken words and to prepare to decode and identify words in print. Phrasing and intonation, stressing phrases and words, visual imagery, and social skills are all integrated into the curriculum.

In addition to our Language studies, we continue to incorporate Math lessons in our daily routine. For example, during calendar time we use our golden beaded material to make the day we are in; on January 20th, the “2” is in the tens place and the “0” is in the ones place. When we discuss the calendar, we also focus on the sequence of the days of the week and the months of the year. Additionally, at snack time our friends look to numeric cards to determine snack portion sizes. We also practice rote counting skills by counting how many friends are present at school each day.

We will delve into Texas history this month in our Geography lessons. Our Early Childhood friends will explore the state of Texas through art, stories, and maps. We will also learn all about the rodeo this month!
IMPRESSANT DATES
February 6: Picture Day
February 14: Valentine’s Day - see below for more information
February 17: Presidents’ Day - NO SCHOOL
February 28: Go Texan Day

REMINDERS
• Valentine’s Day: This year, rather than bringing cards for each child in the class, our Early Childhood friends will draw one other child’s name for our Valentine’s Day card exchange. It has been our experience that the children enjoy receiving a personal, original card in lieu of several store-bought cards. When your children are making cards, please encourage them to think about their friend’s interests. If you would like, you may include a special gift (for example, pencils, erasers, stickers, or tattoos) along with the card. We will draw names in class, and we ask that each child bring in their card by February 12 for our exchange on the 14th.

• Show & Tell: Please encourage your children to leave special treasures and toys at home unless it is their show & tell day. Our show & tell time is limited, so please bring no more than two items on your snack/show & tell day.

• Please remember to label all of your child’s belongings (lunchbox, food containers, coats, extra clothes, etc.).

• Please remember to write down what you bring for snack on the sign in/out sheet.

WELCOME
We would like to welcome Kate and Madeline to the downstairs EC environment, and Austin to the upstairs EC environment!

BIRTHDAYS
Happy Birthday to our friends Pierce (February 11), Margaux (February 14), and Sam (February 28) 🎂

* Please note that EC upstairs will hold birthday circles/celebrations at 9:15am.*
**Toddler 2 News**

February is an exciting month in the Toddler 2 community!

**WHAT WE ARE LEARNING**

This month we will celebrate love, friendship, and kindness. We will discuss emotions, mindfulness, and little ways we can show kindness to make our friends feel happy and loved.

**Books**

- Lily’s Chocolate Heart by Kevin Henkes
- I Love You Through and Through by Caroline Jayne Church
- The Feelings Book by Todd Park
- How Kind by Mary Murphy
- Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller
- I Love Hugs by Lara Jones
- Lovely by Jess Hong

**Songs**

- Skidamarink
- Little Heart Box
- Rainbow Song

**Montessori 101**

In February we will focus on work cycles, or the cycle of activity, from start to finish. This is something we encourage daily in our classroom, and we will spend extra time working on it this month. **The “cycle of activity” identifies the basic structure of a single activity from beginning to end.** The work cycle includes the following steps: choosing a single material from the shelf; taking it to a table or rug; engaging with it for as long as the child is interested; restoring order to the material on its tray or stand; and, finally, returning it to the same place on the shelf so it is available for another child to enjoy. Allowing children to **choose their own work** reinforces their sense of ownership over the classroom. Expecting that they will **complete their work** at a table or on a work rug allows them to attend to a manageable area, both physically and cognitively. Finally, ensuring that they **return their work** to the shelf ready for another child to use supports the developing inter-reliance of the children’s community.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **February 5:** 3- and 5-day Toddler Picture Day
- **February 6:** 2-day Toddler Picture Day
- **February 14:** Valentine’s Day - see below for more information
- **February 17:** Presidents’ Day - NO SCHOOL
- **February 28:** Go Texan Day

**REMINDERS**

- **Valentine’s Day Card Exchange:** on February 14, please send your child with a Valentine’s Day picture card for each of the friends in class (15 total). We will have a special Valentine’s Day circle where each child will have the opportunity to give out his/her cards and to collect cards in a bag we will decorate in class. *The Walgreens and CVS apps are a quick, convenient way to have photo cards made inexpensively.*
- Please remember to sign your child in/out each day on the sheet located on top of the cubbies in the classroom.
- We are working more with our friends on **food preparation.** If it is your snack day, you may send snack unprepared (uncut, etc.) so that the children may help prepare snack for their friends.
Toddler 1 News
We would like to welcome our new friends Isabella B., Booth M., and Madeline G. to the Toddler 1 community! We would also like to say goodbye to our friends Alice A., Natalia G., Rua A., and William O., who have moved up to the Toddler 2 community - we wish you well on your new adventures!

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING
This month we will learn all about pets, community helpers, and Valentine’s Day. Our lessons about pets will focus on animals that are most commonly found in homes and pet stores. We will discuss different types of pets, what they eat, and how to care for them. When we learn about community helpers, we will talk about what different community helpers do at each of their jobs. Finally, we will talk all about Valentine’s Day, and we will have plenty of Valentine’s Day work on the shelves.

Help Me Do It Myself!
We encourage our young friends to be independent every day. You can also help your children learn independence by letting them walk into school, instead of carrying them inside; this also sets the tone for an easier goodbye. Another thing you can do to foster independence is help your children learn how to dress and undress themselves. This will get them a step closer to toilet training, and it is also a necessary life skill. By helping your children to achieve goals like these, you are giving them the gift of self-confidence!

Encouraged Language
**Pets:** cat, dog, bird, iguana, snake, rabbit, bearded dragon, parrot, dove, hamster
**Community helpers:** police officer, firefighter, mail carrier, baker, teacher, doctor, nurse, veterinarian
**Valentine’s Day:** heart, valentine, sweet, candy, chocolate, love, kind

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Songs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is a Firefighter</td>
<td>Tiny Turtle Tim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love is You and Me</td>
<td>Skidamarink</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Cat and a Dog</td>
<td>All the Little Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Little Heart Box</td>
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<td>The Wheels on the Bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi Cat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurry, Drive the Firetruck</td>
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REMINDERS
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- Please make sure to check your child’s cubby & wall pocket.
- Please remember to bring in a family photo for the classroom.
Don’t miss out, old sport!

The deadline for sponsorships, tickets, and auction donations is **February 13**!
Visit [www.saes.schoolauction.net/2020gala](http://www.saes.schoolauction.net/2020gala) for more information.