

FMA K-3 Newsletter

JANUARY 2014

PARENT REMINDERS

- Throughout the rest of the winter, we will keep all found hats, sweaters, gloves, etc. by the cubbies and on the hooks when possible.
- Please call if your child will be absent from regular scheduled afterschool. You do not need to call on snow days.
- For vacation week, it is important that you arrive on time for field trips and be sure to pack brown bag lunches that do not require heating.

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New Year Brings Changes and Snow

Hello, All. So far this year has been a cold and snowy few weeks, but there are several new changes this year that we are very excited to tell you about. Some of them are obvious and big. For one thing, we welcomed a new teacher to the classroom. Mr. Larry has only been a part of the classroom for about a month but is already a important part of our community. His biography is below.

We are also in the middle of revamping and rearranging our classroom. Mrs. Patricia is leading a change of our art area, making

it more accessible and interesting to children. There are other plans to create a storybook listening area. We will keep you posted on that.



Starting this month and throughout March, we will be having informal and optional parent meetings to talk about the afterschool program and your children. You can read more about that on page 2. We know your time is limited and we respect how busy you are, but these meetings are a chance to make sure that parent voices are being heard. We also hope to have a (short) parent survey out to you in the coming weeks.

Meet Our New Teacher: Mr. Larry

Hi my name is Larry Thompson. I'm the new teacher here at the FMA afterschool. I have been working with kids for over 10 years now and this is my 3rd year working for child care. Before I

started working at child care, I worked at the Russell Youth Center in West Cambridge. I also

coach High School and Pop Warner football in the summer/fall. I look forward to meeting all the family and

friends of these wonderful children here at the afterschool.





DIY Months: December and January/Fashion Month: February

Throughout December and January, We have been doing DIY projects, as suggested by the students. We have made our own Gym Game, towers out of popsicles sticks and straws, paper-mache volcanoes, Gak, and many other fun projects.

But, as we move into the new month, we are changing themes. February, as some of you may already have seen, is Fashion Month. We will be learning about fashion, clothes, and thinking critically about the

clothes we wear and the clothes others wear. We will be learning some fashion skills such as designing, picking out clothes, and sewing, throughout the month. We will be talking about the different aspects of clothing that go into deciding what to wear. When possible, we will be discussing the different historical, scientific, and cultural significance of clothes and accessories.

We will also be looking at fashion as a business and learning about the financial aspect of

clothes. We will be looking at what it means to start a business and keep a business, including things like branding, loans, and sales. Using the storybook *One Hen*, we will also talk about why social entrepreneurship is important and how we can make a difference in the world.

Finally, all of our work will culminate in a fashion show in March. We will update you on the date as we get closer to it.

Dates to Remember:

Program will be closed

February 16th for

Presidents Day.

We will be running

vacation hours (8:30-6)

on February 17th, 18th

19th, 20th.

February Break and Snow Day Reminders

February Vacation week is fast approaching and we have an exciting list of Field Trips coming up. Tuesday, February 17th we will be headed to Bertucci's to make and eat our own individual pizzas. Lunch for that day is optional. (We will be eating pizza early and it is possible that your child will not be satisfied with just the pizza and drink.) On Wednesday, we will be headed to an office building to visit a company called CIC. We will be looking at various startups and entrepreneurs, particularly in sci-

ence and technology fields, in a variety of settings. The children will get a chance to come up with their own logos and slogans and have an opportunity to pitch their own ideas to professionals. On Thursday, we will walk down the street to The Garment District and check out some different clothes for Fashion Month. We will end the week with a trip to the Imax theater at the Science Museum to see *Galapagos*. Please dress your children appropriately for going out in the weather and

please remember a brown paper bag lunch that does not need to be heated up. We will be carrying the lunches with us and throwing out as much as we can before returning.

In the event of future snow days, you may call the after-school line (617-349-6296) to see if we are closed, have programming at regular time, or have extended hours (10-6). I will try to check the messages as often as possible. For school closings please check www.cpsd.com



Parent Teacher Meetings

To go along with the progress reports we have just handed out, we are proud to announce an open schedule for meeting with parents throughout the months of February and March.

These meetings are purely optional and have no pressure or commitment. They can be about the progress reports or a more general idea of the program. It is a long overdue place for parent and guardian input on the program. Many parents have approached the

staff about certain aspects of the program or around their child's needs, and this is just a more sit-down version of that.

There will be a sign up sheet schedule by the sign out sheet, but if the times listed do not work for you, please let us know, what time does.