Dear Kiddie Academy Families!

It’s a month of celebrations at Kiddie Academy. On 2/13, we will have a very special surprise in our lobby for all our children as well as parties during afternoon snack time. We have lots of updates for February, they include:

- **February, VPK Vouchers are available at the Early Learning Coalition (ELC)** - We currently received a perfect rating of 100% from ELC for our 2012/13 VPK classes. If your child turns four years old by 9/1/15, you are eligible for VPK funding. You may obtain your voucher at ELC and submit at our front desk.

- **February 3-5, 2015, VPK Parent Teacher Conferences.** Sign-up sheets are located on the classroom door.

- **February 13, 2015, Valentine’s Day Party** - Our center will be celebrating Valentine's Day. The classroom parties will be held during the pm snack time. The sign-up sheets will be located on each classroom door.

- **February 14, 2015, Parent Night Out** - Our next Parent Night Out will be held from 6:00-10:00 p.m. As our parents have a special evening out, their children will also have a night out enjoying activities, movies, pizza and popcorn.

- **February 16, 2015, School Age Camp (K-5)** - The Manatee Schools will be closed (no school for school age students and VPK). However, our center will be open. We will be offering camp for school age children as well as additional wrap around care for VPK.

- **February 24, 2015, 5:15 - 6:15 pm, Parent Committee Meeting.**

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**A Happy and Harmonious Home**

Throughout the month of February, Kiddie Academy's character education program focuses on the value of respect. It is important to recognize that respect means more than just tolerating and or accepting a person.

As parents, you can weave in lessons of respect at home. By articulating and living the values you hope to impart, you begin the lifelong process of raising a good grown-up:

- **Celebrate differences and similarities!** Today, more than ever, kids interact with people of differing ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Talk to your child about the world and all the different people within it.

- **Encourage your kids to share family traditions with their peers.** Honor your family's traditions and teach them to your kids. When a peer wants to learn about the diversity your child has to offer, he or she will be confident to share.

- **Show caring and respect for others through good manners.** By saying "please" and "thank you" regularly to your child (and others), it will become a part of normal communication both within your family and in the real world.

- **Adults are strong role models for children when it comes to showing respect.** Speak to your child using words, and a tone, that demonstrate respect. Whether you're referring to yourself, your child, or a complete stranger, refrain from using words like "stupid" or worse to describe a person.

Find ways to value your child, every day, for what they bring to your life. For more information, visit [www.kiddieacademy.com](http://www.kiddieacademy.com).

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**Happy Birthday!**

Olivia, Kenji, Charlie, Augusto, Charlee, Reese, Adam, Daniel, Lara, Peyton, Fabrizio, Mason, Rithik

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"I'm choosing to exercise more."

"My family will eat healthier."

Sound familiar? These are just a few examples of what many people declare as their New Year's resolutions. But resolutions aren't just for adults! Your whole family, kids young and old, can refresh and recharge as we bring in the New Year.

Making resolutions with your children is a great opportunity for family bonding. Here are some tips on how to make New Year's resolutions a positive experience for kids and to help them keep in touch with their goals all year long:

- Bring your resolutions to the table and stick to them! By setting an example and following through with your proclamations you're showing your kids they have support in their own resolution endeavors.
- We make resolutions because we want to maintain a goal. Whether you decide to go over the family list of resolutions monthly or quarterly, take time to acknowledge the successes, along with reinforcing the resolutions that need more attention.
- Help your kids decide on realistic resolutions, like improving reading skills or learning to write. Keep it simple so they don't feel overwhelmed.

Most importantly, keep a positive approach. You're in it together and that's what matters in the end!

Happy New Year from Kiddie Academy!

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Parent Reminders

- Just a reminder Kiddie Academy is a peanut free school. Due to the large number of peanut allergies, we do not serve peanut products.
- Accidents Happen. Please pack a seasonally appropriate change of clothes (including socks and underwear) in a bag marked with your child's first and last name, and place it in your child's cubby. Be sure to replace this extra set of clothes as the seasons change and your child grows.
- Like us on facebook to see what's happening at our center!