

Dear Kiddie Academy Families,

We look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day & President's Day with your children this month. On February 14th, we will have a very special surprise in our lobby for all of our students.

Mark your calendars for the following events during the month of February:

· **February, 2017- VPK Vouchers are available at the Early Learning Coalition (ELC)** - We currently received an "A" rating from our 2015/2016 VPK classes!! If your child turns four years old on or before 9/1/17, you are eligible for VPK funding. You may obtain your voucher at ELC and submit it at our front desk.

· **February 11, 2017-Parent Night Out-** Our next Parent Night Out will be held on Saturday, from 6:00-10:00 pm. As our parents have a special night out in honor of Valentine's Day, their children will have a fun filled night here with their Kiddie Academy friends.

· **February 14, 2017- Valentine's Day Party-** Our center will be celebrating Valentine's Day. The classroom parties will be held during the afternoon snack time. The sign-up sheets will be located on each classroom door.

· **February 20, 2017-School Age Camp (K-5)** - The Manatee schools will be closed in honor of President's Day. Our center will be open and we are offering camp for school age children as well as additional wrap around care for VPK.

· **March 17th-24th, 2017- School Age (K-5) Spring Break** - Our spring break calendars will be available at our front desk.

Happy Valentine's Day!!

The Kiddie Academy Family

Happy Birthday!

Olivia, Lyla, Daniel, Charlie, Augusto, Amelie, Riley, Reese, Evangeline, Emma, Chloe, Lara, Sebastian, Mia, Kellan, Elizabeth, Olivia M, Rayaan, Ethan, Rithik, Zachery H

Teaching the Twin Values of Respect and Tolerance

Throughout the month of February, Kiddie Academy's character education curriculum focuses on the joint values of respect and tolerance. These abstract values, which affect every single interaction children have with others—from family members to peers and teachers—can't be taught from a textbook. But you can weave in lessons of respect and tolerance into your family's everyday life. Here are some ways.

Teach your child that she has value, and should treat herself with respect. You can help your child understand the intangible concept of self-respect by applying it to tangible concepts, like eating healthy, using good hygiene, getting enough sleep. As your child gets older, the conversation about self-respect can naturally segue into more complicated related topics, like sexual activity, alcohol and drug use, etc. Only when children learn the importance of self-respect can they be expected to respect others.

Share stories that demonstrate respect and tolerance. Intangible concepts like respect and tolerance may be better understood by children through stories—whether those in a book or from your imagination. After sharing, ask your child how the characters acted respectfully (or not). Also ask your child what he would have done in the same situation, both as the protagonist and the antagonist. Here are some examples of children's books that address these values, and can help you open up your own conversation about them: The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate; My Head is Full of Colors; Ellis Island: Doorway to Freedom.

Respond to children's disrespectful comments. Children, especially very young children, tend to possess a very egocentric view of the world. They often assume that everybody looks, acts and talks like they do. So when they see someone who doesn't, they may make comments that appear rude to adults. If and when your child does this, use it as a "teachable moment." You needn't scold harshly. Instead, talk about how everyone is different and unique. Also, point out that it doesn't feel good to be made fun of, or to be stared at, and that we wouldn't want people to do that to us. This lesson takes on far greater significance, of course, when we display through our own actions respect and tolerance of people who appear different from us.

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ACADEMY.
EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

FEBRUARY

- RESPECT -

What is it?

RESPECT:

- The ability to recognize and appreciate the rights, beliefs, practices and differences of others.
- The ability to value others for their unique contributions.

Note to Parents

- Adults are strong role models when showing respect.
- Encourage children to share their family traditions, special skills and talents (their differences) with their friends and others.
- Encourage children to practice manners as a form of mutual respect in the home.

- VOCABULARY BANK -

Acceptance	Value
Consideration	Fairness
Manners	Beliefs
Tolerance	Different/ Same

Resolutions in Respect

WEEK OF FEB 6

Listen and Share. Show children respect by listening and acknowledging their feelings. By not forcing your child to do something they don't want to do, you are respecting their limits and preferences. Share your own preferences and feelings with them. This dialogue is about learning mutual respect.

WEEK OF FEB 13

Mind Your Manners. Throughout this week, stress the importance of using kind words and manners when speaking with one another. The simple words of "Please," "thank you," "excuse me," and "you're welcome" are all markers of respect for others.

WEEK OF FEB 20

Practice Self-Respect. Just as we hold others in high regard and treat them kindly, it is important that we also treat ourselves the same way by eating healthy foods, exercising, bathing and brushing teeth. Implement a positive self-care routine this week.

WEEK OF FEB 27

Adopt a park. As a family, "adopt" your favorite local park and try to keep the area clean of litter, weeds or left-behind items. Talk to your child about how we show respect to public spaces by picking up after ourselves.

Early Literacy Week

Students have special guest readers come read to them in honor of Literacy Week!



Parent Reminders

- Please pack a seasonally appropriate change of clothes (including socks and underwear). Be sure to replace this extra set of clothes as the seasons change and your child grows
- Reminder: We are a Peanut-Free Center