

# Ms. Toukatly's Newsletter

**February 2019**

## Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 27-Feb. 2: Catholic Schools Week
- Feb. 4 & 5: **Noon Dismissal** Parent Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 14: ASB Spirit Day St. Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16-24: **No School** Winter Break

Our word of the month is **Serve** which we will discuss through our ongoing service projects—cleaning up the playground and collecting coins to donate to Helpline.

## Highlights from January

Our class started back after break with the addition of some visiting friends. A small group of students from the Early Childhood class at Bainbridge High School came to observe our morning meeting, recess, and even joined us for snack time (our favorite!) three days at the top of the month.

I'm so proud of the warm welcome each of my students provided and how excited they were to share what we do and how we do it with their new "special friends". Our class was sad when our observers had to return to their own school. Any time we have a prospective family touring the school or guests observing, it's heartwarming to see the welcoming spirit of our students—open to making new friends and sharing what they've learned in our classroom.

We continued our focus on colors this month and painted quite a bit to continue building motor skills. We discussed our word of the month Appreciate and the people in our lives who we appreciate, especially our families. Then we each painted a family portrait to decorate our classroom, I will be laminating these to use as placemats for snack time.

Problem solving and patterns also carried on this month and progress was impressive! What a leap ahead from where we began. Students doing puzzles time independently would comment the puzzles at school are hard, but with the trust and teamwork skills we've been building students know how to help each other and to accept help positively from both me and their peers. They don't even ask me to help them much anymore. Instead they join forces and work together in groups or pairs to complete puzzles they would previously be frustrated by. Seeing the pride in their finished product

sometimes they clap for themselves or exclaim they finished it eager to share what they made with classmates and me. It's such a gift to watch them grow!

Thank you to our families for making our Catholic Schools Week and Open House celebrations so special; especially Jamie and Alice Watson for decorating my door so beautifully and Jenny and Emery Clemens for coordinating and set up/clean up, and everyone who made it to school on a Sunday for Open House! Looking forward to seeing everyone at conferences next week.