



## January 2017

### Important Dates

January 16th – No School, Martin Luther King Jr. birthday

February 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – No School, President's weekend

### Calendar

This link will take you directly to our calendar to give you a reminder about which days we do and do not have school: [Gardenview Calendar 2016-2017](#)

### Parking

One of our very sweet neighbors has called to ask us not to block her driveway anymore. She lives in the house on the same side of the street and shares the chain link fence. Her husband is at home and receiving hospice care and the nurses are coming and going frequently and need to be able to see when pulling out of the driveway. We appreciate your help and understanding.

### Mid-Winter Break

This is a reminder that we do celebrate President's Day with a long weekend off from school. I know that this break seems to follow closely after our winter break, but it is also a very important break. January and February are often the months when illnesses, such as the flu, hit the school pretty hard. The week off from school gives all the children a chance to get healthy and a chance for us to completely sanitize the school once again.

### Make-up days

We will be making up at least a couple of snow days at the end of the year. We will make those days up in June. More information will come when we get closer.

### School Closures

Who knew that Winter would hit us so hard this year? I can't believe all the snow and ice we have had already!! We typically follow the public school schedule as far as closures go. If the public schools close due to snow or ice, we will most likely be closed as well. The decision to close is usually made by about 6:30 a.m. This is the best place to find out about closures: <http://kgmi.com/closings/>. We will also try to update the [Gardenview Community Group](#) on Facebook. If you are not yet a member, please click the link and ask to join. ☺ If you are still unsure if we are open or closed, please feel free to text me at 360-510-1974 or John at 360-201-8758.

## Grace & Courtesy

My mentor in Montessori told me “Learning to be in a space with other children is the biggest work in a Montessori Classroom.” This is something we are constantly working on in both classrooms. We do this by reminding the children of the rules frequently. The three main rules we have at school are 1) Be Kind, 2) Be Safe, and 3) Be Helpful. The start of school is spent going over what these rules mean for the children while they are at school.

We are trying to help the children be independent, and we encourage them to use their words with each other before coming to a teacher for help. If someone calls a child a name this is what we have told them to say, “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. You can call me, \_\_\_\_\_.” If someone hits a friend we ask them to say, “Please keep your hands on your own body.” If they have tried using their own words with a friend and are still having problems, we will help them talk to each other.

We also need your help, since we can't be everywhere at once. If you hear a child call another child a name, you can get down on their level and say, “This is \_\_\_\_\_. You can call him/her \_\_\_\_\_.” If you see a child put their hands on another child, you can say, “Please keep your hands on your own body,” or “That doesn't look very safe.”

Thank you all for your help and support in keeping the children safe, happy and healthy!

**Office Max:** Did you know that you can help Gardenview Montessori through Office Max? If you shop at Office Max, just tell them you have a Max Perks card at the register and give them this phone number, 360.510.1974, and we will get a percentage of the sales to help us purchase toner cartridges and other office supplies for the school.

**Cold Weather** Winter is upon us!!! The small snow storm at the start of our Winter Break was a good reminder of this fact. I have told the children that they must wear a warm coat when we go outside. We have a thermometer on the railing leading up to the mudroom which has been clearly marked for the children to see. **If the forecast is for anything below 40 degrees, please send a warm, winter coat for your child. *If the temperature drops lower, we definitely recommend and encourage mittens and a hat as well.***

## Illness

This is a reminder of our illness policy. If your child is presenting any or all of these symptoms, please keep them home from school:

- ♥ Diarrhea or vomiting in the last 24 hours
- ♥ A fever of 100° F or more in the last 24 hours
- ♥ Drainage from the eye, or a pink color in the white of the eye
- ♥ A sore throat, especially one with a fever (no matter how slight)
- ♥ A rash with fever or behavior change
- ♥ Any illness diagnosed by a doctor to be contagious
- ♥ General signs of illness, such as unusual fatigue, irritability, persistent crying, bodily pain, or difficulty breathing

\*\*\*\*\*Children must be symptom free for at least 24 full hours before they can return to school.\*\*\*\*\*

This will make for a much healthier classroom.