

C O L D S P R I N G S S C H O O L

The Cold Springs Tale

February, 2012
Volume 1, Issue 6

COMING EVENTS

- February 1- 17 Pennies For Patients
- February 3 PreK visits the GC Library
- February 6 - 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissals
- February 10 ♥ Parent Involvement Kindergarten 100th Day
♥ PreK visits the GC Library
- February 13 SLC - Meeting
Media Center 3:30
- February 14 Family Night
- February 17 PreK visits the GC Library
- February 20 President's Day
No School
- February 21 - 23 "Shine Your Smile"
Mobile Dentist visits CSS
- February 21 GC Fire Department visits
PreK classes
- February 24 ♥ PreK visits the GC Library
♥ Mother Goose visits Kindergarten
- February 28 Parent Workshop
"You Read to Me, I'll Read to You"
ECC Multipurpose Room



FYI: If you are looking for some educational sites and games to play at home try our **Cool Sites** link on our home page.
<http://www.gcspd.k12.nj.us/css>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe but we are at the midpoint of the school year.

Parent-Teacher conference will be held Monday evening 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 PM and Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. These conferences are so important to inform you on your child's progress.

The second half of the school year is so crucial to help and keep your child on top of his/her academics. Please make every attempt to attend your child's conference day.

The PTO will be sponsoring their annual book fair during these conferences.

School will be closed on Monday, February 20 in honor of President's Day.

Mr. Ken Wagstaff

Classroom Highlights

Sydney and Mikayla interviewed Mrs. Woodhouse from our cafeteria staff to discuss the February character trait of "Citizenship".

February's character trait is "Citizenship".

What does being a good citizen mean to you?

Being a good citizen means being nice to everyone, voting, treating others the way you want to be treated.

Who taught you how to be a good citizen and how did he/she teach you this trait?

I learned to be a good citizen from my mother and father. They were always nice around everyone and taught me what to do and what not to do to be a good citizen.

What advise would you give Cold Springs' students about being good citizens?

Mrs. Woodhouse would tell Cold Springs' students to always listen, be good, raise your hands, be friendly and kind and remember to use your manners always. If you do these things, you will be on your way to being a good citizen.

YOU READ TO ME; I'LL READ TO YOU



Research has shown the significant benefits when we read aloud to our children. Reading aloud develops imagination, increases a child's vocabulary, helps children to become better writers, and teaches critical thinking skills. Most importantly, when we read to our children our relationship deepens.

The Cold Springs School Early Childhood Center is hosting a parent workshop entitled, "You Read To Me; I'll Read To You" on **Tuesday, February 28th**. This event will take place from **6 to 7:30 in the Early Childhood Center Multi-purpose room**.

Jannett Pacheco, a New Jersey Educational Specialist from Standards Solution will be presenting ideas on how you, as parents can make reading to your child interesting and enjoyable. **Babysitting** services will be available and **door-prizes** will be raffled off. We strongly urge all parents of Kindergarten and Preschool children to attend this valuable workshop.

At this time I would like to remind all parents of the conferences that are scheduled for February 6th, 7th, and 8th. Monday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 8th are evening conferences and the 7th is an afternoon conference. All three days are early dismissal days. Please be advised that the BEST after school program will not be open on these days. BEST will be open for the morning program.

We look forward to seeing our parents in attendance at these events.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Karen Kessler
Director, ECC/Assistant Principal

Good Sports

The following classes were "Good Sports" in gym during the second marking period: Ms. Barikian, Ms. Wall, Ms. E. Carlino and Mr. Dailey. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Ms. Athey and Mr. Woodruff

Celebrating Valentine's Day



Every February on Valentine's Day, cards, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones.

Preschoolers love to sing, and with the daily rhyme, "How can I say I love you," the song helps our Pre-K students learn to enunciate and boost vocabulary. With rhymes, songs, movement and rhythm, there is always something to see, hear and, most importantly, to join in with at rhyme time.

Celebrate with your little Valentine's with not only extra hugs and kisses, but also fun and creative activities! Here's an example:



Make a Family Photo Book.

Cut a cover page out of red construction paper and write the title "I Love My Family" on the top of the page. Cut a heart out of pink construction paper and decorate with glitter, or markers or crayons. Each family member creates a page for the family book. Have each family member add a photo(s) to their page and decorate. Punch holes in the pages and tie them together with ribbon or string. Cut out a small heart and attach to the end of the string. This makes a really cute coffee table book.



Valentine Breakfast

Valentine's Day is a great excuse to get creative in the kitchen, and anything you can serve up in a heart-shape is bound to go down well with the kids!

♥ Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut hearts out of your morning toast, and spread thickly with strawberry jam.



♥ Make a heart-shaped fried egg, placing a metal cookie cutter into your greased frying pan and breaking the egg into it.



Ways to say I love you?



There's nothing wrong with saying those three little words every day to your child, over and over again. But many children with special needs are unable to respond to that loving message the way we'd like; they may be puzzled by emotions, uncomfortable with hugs, unable to process anything but the most concrete language. Then, too, siblings of special-needs kids may value your time and attention more than your words if they're feeling underappreciated. Sometimes you can get your message through in a more sincere and meaningful way if you show rather than tell, or find fun and disarming ways to sneak your feelings in. Here are 31 ways to start.

1. Spend a little time each day playing entirely at your child's direction.
2. Cuddle up under a blanket and watch what he or she wants to watch on TV.
3. Give a chocolate kiss along with a real one.
4. Exchange [butterfly kisses](#) or nose-to-nose Eskimo kisses.
5. Find something about your child's appearance to compliment.
6. Do one of your child's chores for him or her.
7. Run fingers through hair.
8. Read books about family love, like *I Love You, Good Night, On Mother's Lap, Guess How Much I Love You, or If You Were My Bunny*.
9. Send an [encouraging note](#) with your child's lunch.
10. Pick out candy conversation hearts with appropriate messages and present them to your child.
11. Talk in the car on the way to school instead of listening to the radio.
12. Take a long walk together, at your child's pace.
13. Find a video game you can play together.
14. Do a jigsaw puzzle together.
15. Use magnetic letters to put loving messages on the fridge.
16. Send your child a card in the mail, with stickers or a treat inside.
17. Stick an encouraging note on your child's mirror as she

sleeps.

18. Set aside a little time each day, maybe before bedtime, to talk about what's going on in your child's life, judgment free. If your child doesn't like to talk, say "Tell me three things that happened today." If it helps, tell three things that happened to you in return.
19. Find a board game you both enjoy and schedule regular tournaments.
20. Develop a secret word or gesture that only the two of you know the meaning of.
21. Kids who don't like to be hugged may be okay with sitting on your lap and being held from behind, particularly if they're watching TV or reading.
22. Take your child out to lunch every now and then, just the two of you.
23. Play hide and seek with your child, and while you're searching talk very loudly about how sad you will be if you can't find him or her. Then be *very* happy when you're

Character Education Trait for February "Citizenship"

Tips to be a Good Citizen

- * Obey the rules and work to make your school, home and community a better place.
- * Be Cooperative
- * Get involved in community affairs
- * Be a good neighbor
- * Respect authority
- * Protect the environment
- * Volunteer



Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in bonds of fraternal feeling.

-Abraham Lincoln