WHAT DOES VALENTINE’S DAY MEAN TO YOU?

Valentine’s Day is a day we use to show our love towards others. Here at Kiddie Junction we asked a few children from our Mighty Engineer and Pufferbellies classes what Valentine’s Day means to them. Here were a few of their responses:

Morgan: “I love my Ariel.”
Jimmy: “Give love day cards.”
Amelia: “Caring for others.”
Jeremiah: “Eating dinner.”
Gianna: “You love people.”
Connor: “Shape hearts, candy and flowers.”
Chase: “Love!”
Gianna Desefano: “Giving things to others.”
Jahkai: “You love people.”
Uche: “Giving love to others.”
Shaiya: “Pick so beautiful real flowers.”
Braxton: “Hearts and cards.”
Kailia: “Give pretty cards.”
Desean: “Giving people flowers.”
Jaelyn: “Love!”
Nicky: “Giving people dollars.”
Maison: “Walking with mommy.”
Max: “Pacman game!”
Alianna: “Kisses!”
Jayson: “Love!”
Jonathan: “I love my parents so much and when you get in trouble they still love you.”
Caleb: “You can visit your parents.”
Isabelle: “Hearts.”
Raven: “Giving my mommy a rainbow.”
Jayden: “When you give out cookie treats.”
K’Jon: “Valentines Day!”
Mary: “Kisses!”
Chris: “My birthday.”
Chloe: “Love!”
Brianna: “Loving your parents.”
Victoria: “Hugs and kisses for my mommy.”

The Start Of A New Month

The start of the New Year went by very quickly and here we are at the start of February with tons of fun in store for the children throughout the month here at Kiddie Junction. We’ve started the month with our Best Of South Jersey ballots being distributed. There was an enormous amount of ballots handed out and returned. Thank you to all of our families who filled out and returned ballots. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

To kick off the month of February the children also celebrated the 100th day of school on Monday February 8th. 100 is a big number and the one hundredth day of school is a big deal! To top off the day, we challenged the children to bring 100 objects to school. The items were arranged in groups of ten, five, or two and then counted. Each child engaged in counting exercises that helped reinforce counting to the number 100. Along with the counting exercises the children also created several 100th day crafts and ate a special snack for the 100th day of school. Be sure to check out pictures on our Facebook page from this day.

Later in the week, the children were visited by a dental hygienist from Holdbrook Pediatric Dentistry. The hygienist discussed with the children the proper way to brush and floss along with the importance of dental health. Please check the monitors in your school for pictures from this day.

Other activities throughout the month will also include our Valentine’s Day party where the children will be able to hand out cards and treats to their friends while eating pizza and snacks galore. Red and pink day, where the children are encouraged to come to school dressed in the most perfect shades of red and pink, to reinforce the colors red and pink. And most importantly pajama day! Be sure to send your child (ren) to school on February 28th in their comfiest pajamas.

To celebrate the 100th day of school on February 18th the children also celebrated the 100th day of school. Be sure to check out pictures from this day.

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There is nothing better than going through the day feeling comfy and cozy. After each event (marked on your school calendar) please check your school's monitor for pictures from each event.

Last, but definitely not least, Kiddie Junction’s annual eye exam is scheduled for Tuesday February 23rd at our Blackwood location and on Wednesday February 24th at our Berlin location. Information about the eye screening has been sent home to all children over 2 years old. If you would like for your child(ren) to participate in the eye screening please send back your completed permission slip signed at your earliest convenience.

Please keep your eyes open for other active that will coming in the months ahead!
Employee Spotlight

In an effort for you to get to know our staff a little better we will introduce you to a staff person who may or may not be your child’s teacher, but you have seen around the school. You will be able to tell through this spotlight, that we are extremely proud of our staff and the care they provide on a daily basis.

Brittany Cook

My name is Brittany Cook and I work at the Blackwood location in the Pufferbellies class. I’m 21 years old and am currently a student at Camden County College. My area of study is communications and, one day I wish to work in the music industry. In my spare time I’m the lead singer in a band called, “Brittany Cook”. I also enjoy spending time with my family. I love working with the children in the Pufferbellies class and Kiddie Junction.

Did The Groundhog See His Shadow?

As we all know February 2nd is Groundhog’s Day. Fortunately, there was no shadow to be cast. So... an early spring is in our forecast! Time to get out those spring jackets and pack up the shovels.

Free Eye Screening At Kiddie Junction

The Berlin Lion’s Club, in conjunction with the South Jersey Eye Center (SJEC), will offer a free vision screening to your child.

The screening provides instant readings of your child’s eyes to determine the presence of eye disorders including farsightedness, nearsightedness, astigmatism, strabismus (misaligned eyes), Amblyopia (lazy eye), and anisometropia (unequal refractive power). No physical contact will be made with the children and eye drops will not be necessary. This screening is approximately 85-90% effective in detecting problems that can cause decreases in vision.

The screening will take place at our Blackwood location on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 and at our Berlin location on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Permission slips have been sent home. Please note in order for your child to be screened, a permission slip must be signed and returned to Kiddie Junction on or before the day of your school’s screening.

Quote Of The Month

“Some people are worth melting for.” – Frozen

Key Fobs At Kiddie Junction Blackwood

Key fobs are issued to each family upon enrollment to obtain access into the building. It is mandatory that all parents and guardians dropping off and picking up children from Kiddie Junction have a key fob to enter into the building. If you have lost or misplaced your key fob a new one can be obtained by paying twenty-five dollars. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to see any director.

Indoor Winter Day Activities

Build a Living Room Campsite Kids love when their parents flip normal household routines upside down. Creating a campsite in the living room is the perfect way to take them by surprise! Turn out the lights, wear PJs, bust out the sleeping bags and sit around telling stories. If you don’t have a tent, be creative and build a fort using blankets, couch cushions and pillows. Hide marshmallows, chocolate bars and graham crackers in the pantry for snow day s’mores.

Craft an Indoor Snowman You don’t always have to freeze outside to build a snowman -- be creative and make one using marshmallows. Outline a snowman on construction paper and trace glue around each circle. Place mini marshmallows onto the glue and add details with other materials from around the house. Grab scraps of felt for his hat or yarn for his scarf and color in his face with markers or dried food products. When he’s dry, the kids can name and hang him up in the house. Don’t have mini marshmallows? Use cotton balls for a fluffier snowman.

Save The Date!

February 10th Dental Hygienist Visit
February 12th Valentine’s Day Party
February 15th Red/Pink Day
(Children are encouraged to wear Red/Pink today.
Don’t be afraid to get creative!)
February 18th Pajama Party
(Children will be having a Pajama Party in their class! Please be sure to send your children in their coziest pajamas.)
February 23rd Free Eye Exam (Blackwood)
(Don’t forget your permission slip!)
February 24th Free Eye Exam (Berlin)
(Don’t forget your permission slip!)
February Birthdays

Miss Sam 2/1  Jackson Kaigh 2/10
Ziare Langston 2/2  Mr. Paul 2/24
Jeremiah Jones 2/3  Joshua Mobley 2/28
Pierson Payne 2/4

The Importance Of Sleep
The ideal amount of sleep recommended for preschool and school aged children is **10-12 hours per night**. When children don’t get enough sleep, they can’t concentrate on their schoolwork, they have trouble remembering things, they become irritable and fidgety, and they become vulnerable to colds and flu. Here are some important things you can do to ensure that your child gets enough sleep every night of the week, including weekends:

- **Set a regular time for bed each night and stick to it.** Saying “good night” at the same time each night will ensure a good night’s sleep. The human body functions best on a regular timetable.

- **Be firm about your chosen bedtime.** Make sure that they understand that complaining about bedtime isn’t going to get them anywhere. Alert your child a half hour before bedtime and then remind them again 10 minutes beforehand.

- **Establish a relaxing bedtime routine,** such as a warm bath, playing soothing music, or reading a book. Reading is a great way to help children drift into sleep.

**The Word Of The Month Is:** **LOVE** *(noun)*

The word **L-O-V-E**

Means an intense feeling of deep affection.

How Many Candy Hearts Are In The Jar?

Located at each sign in area you will find a jar of candy hearts. Whoever guesses the closest number of candies in the jar (without going over) to the actual number will win a prize. Good luck guessing!

Did You Brush Your Teeth Today?

Did you know, children have 20 baby teeth and will have a total of 32 permanent teeth when they grow up? Dental hygiene is very important for children to know and understand. Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors Nation Children’s Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. In the month of February we will be going over the importance of proper teeth brushing and flossing. Both Kiddie Junction Blackwood and Berlin Centers had a special visitor from Holdbrook’s Pediatric dentistry. Keep your eyes open for pictures to be displayed on the monitors from our day of fun with the dentist.

Visit Us Anytime At:
www.kiddiejunction.us

Color Of The Month
This Month’s color of the month is: **P-I-N-K**

Please take the time to notice the color **PINK** on a daily basis with your child. It helps to reinforce the daily lessons.—Thank You!!

Upcoming Weekly Themes

Each month we will be providing an update on the particular month’s lesson plans, their themes and planned projects. This will better permit you to be a part of the learning process, reinforce the lessons and learning, and be aware of the marvelous projects that will be adorning your refrigerator. The upcoming themes include:

- **Week of February 28**: Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss
- **Week of March 7**: Fido & Friends
- **Week of March 14**: Iris Eyes Are Smiling
- **Week of March 21**: Here Comes Peter Rabbit
- **Week of March 28**: Spring Is Here

Valentine’s Crossword Puzzle

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S H O U T O U T S

A Special Thanks To All Our Parents For Your Kindness & Donations! We Can’t Thank You Enough!

Pierson Payne for the yummy birthday treats.
Rhys and Ryder Sharp for the delicious munchkins.
Desmond Golden for the delicious cupcakes.
Suhayb Ahmed for the birthday cupcakes.
Christopher Johnson for the yummy birthday cupcakes.
Logan Forte for the work bench donation.
Jeremiah Jones for the birthday munchkins to share with his class.
All families who brought in a snack for the 100th day of school.