

February Newsletter

Issue 6



WELCOME

The month of February has been filled with so many fun activities, hard work, lot of events and above all, amazing progress being made by our students.

It is very exciting to see the great progress made by our afternoon students who started this January. They have settled in very well and are doing great.

We whole heartedly welcome our new teacher Cristina to the Dublin 15 team.



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

KIDS COOK

Kids cook activities were very beneficial for our children last term so we started with it again this term in the second week of February. It is very exciting to see the children work with the food items in a functional way. All the kids are comfortable wearing aprons.



The Kids Cook activities have helped the children in exploring with different food ranging from vegetable, fruit, rice, couscous, flour and name it. Seeing the children practicing skills like, cutting, squeezing, mixing, spooning, kneading and even tasting different food has been extremely great. **So, moms, when next you need a chef, remember you have got one right in your house.**



SWIMMING SESSION

The first six sessions of swimming were a great experience for all the children. We can confidently say that the children are now very comfortable in the water compared to when they just started. Before the mid-term break, some of the children have already moved on to becoming independent swimmers while some still required just a little help. This activity is helping the children to develop their gross motor skills as well as building confidence in their abilities



The second swimming session kicked off immediately after the mid-term break and guess what? More children graduated to independent swimmers' club. We are so delighted about the huge progress so far.

VALENTINE'S DAY AT HOPE

Roses are red, violets are blue, having loads of fun and we all love you.

Love was in the air this February as students learnt all about valentines with games and crafts. Students celebrated the day with a valentine's party and making cards for their loved ones.



INTEGRATION PROGRAM

As part of our integration program in preparing the children for the mainstream school, some of our children Dublin 15 and Dublin 8 have been taking a visit to see their friends in the mainstream Montessori class in Fortlawn to participate in the day's activities. Let's hear about their experiences so far:

Hello everyone

Every Wednesday, we in Sunflower and Sweetpeas classes take a trip to visit our friend in the Montessori class in Fortlawn. Everyone is always very excited to have us just as we are to see them. We love going to the

Montessori class, because its big with loads of toys, books to read, plenty of activities with our friends, lot of chatting when we play. The teachers are amazing too. In the Montessori class, we do practical activities like taking off our coats, hanging up our coats, taking out our lunches from our bags and putting our bags away. We learn to take turns and listen to each other. These practical life skills are very important to us so that when we go to the big school, we will be very capable of helping ourselves.



We are currently working on a

Montessori project with our friends. It is all about building a community with the use of recycled materials. We are also working on a fashion show with our dolly friends. We dress up the dollies, brush their hair, put make up on them and make them look very beautiful. We love caring for others.

MONTHLY THEMES

Our themes in February include Chinese New Year, Valentines, Spring Time and Birds. It was fun and interesting learning about the Chinese culture and how to extend love to everyone around us. We made lovely valentine cards for our loved ones.

BLUEBELLS CLASS VISITS THE POST OFFICE

The children in Bluebells class took a trip to the post office as they practice their road safety skills. It was a great adventure.



SPECIAL GUEST IN FORTLAWN

We had a very special guest visit us in Fortlawn this February. Rosie, an officer from Blanchardstown Garda Station came in to talk to the children about safety and awareness that the Gardai provide for the community. Thanks Rosie for taking time out to talk to our children at Fortlawn.





PANCAKE TUESDAY

To round up the month, we had a great time decorating and eating our pancakes to mark Pancake Tuesday. Big thank you to Claudia Gelling, who provided loads of pancakes to Mountview and Fortlawn Centres.



UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Patrick Day: HOPE will take part in the Blanchardstown St. Patrick Day Parade holding on the 17th of March this year.

Highlight from last year:



World Autism Day: this year's WAD comes up on Friday, 31st of March. Watch out for more details.

ENROLEMENT CONTINUES



Enroll now for preschool

We still have free ECCE places available in our mainstream Montessori class. Both afternoon Autism classes in Dublin 15 and Dublin 8 is full. We will look to open new classes after the Easter break.

GOOD NEWS

HOPE is spreading beyond DUBLIN 15 & DUBLIN 8. We will be opening classes in Limerick in May 2017. Watch out for more information in our next edition.

FUND RAISING

HOPE remains grateful to all who keep working tirelessly in raising funds for the school. We would like to appreciate Andrew and Claudia Gelling for their fund-raising event with the PFA, Claire Flood and other parents who joined in the bag packing in Tesco. HOPE says a BIG thanks to you all.