

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

ONEONTA MONTESSORI SCHOOL

JANUARY 2017



HOLIDAY

No School Monday, 16th

In honor of
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I Have A Dream



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

SPELLING BEE

Wednesday, 18th

The Spelling Bee elimination rounds will be held the week of the 9th - 13th. All students in 1st - 6th grade who make it to the final round will participate in the final on Wednesday, January 18th. Ribbons will be handed out to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and a special medallion as well to the 1st place winner. Good luck students; brush up on your spelling words and do well in the Spelling Bee!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Tuesday, January 17th – Friday, January 27th

Please take advantage of this time to meet with your child's teacher. The conference will give you an opportunity to assess your child's progress and assist you in effectively working together with the teachers to bring out your child's full potential. This is a great time to get all your questions answered. Conference schedules will be posted shortly; please sign-up. A progress report will be given out to the elementary school students. The grade received will be an accumulative score reflecting progress from September 2016 - January 2017. It is a special time for teachers and parents to meet.

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

We would like to extend a great big welcome to all our new students and their parents to the Oneonta family. We are so glad to be of service; if there is anything we can do to assist you, please let us know. We have an exciting year ahead of us, full of fun activities and special projects. We look forward to working in close partnership with you. To all our parents who have been wonderful ambassadors and have recommended our school to other families, Thank you for your trust in us!

POSITIVE TRAITS AWARDS

Elementary students

Our students have been working very hard to fulfill our high expectations; knowing what it is to be a good friend. Every month, students nominate two classmates who they feel have been exceptional role models to fit the two 'positive traits' of the month. We are very optimistic that all our students will have the opportunity to take home an award this year.

SPARK OF LOVE TOY DONATIONS

We know that in these difficult times charitable contributions are not easy. Your generous response to this charity was touching and overwhelming. We are so grateful for your partnership in making Christmas a little brighter for children who would have gone without a gift this Christmas. The children were full of the spirit of giving as they carried toys to the Fire Station next door. What a wonderful way to end the year! Thank You!

GONG HAY FAT CHOI!

Lunar New Year - Friday, 27th

It's the most celebrated Chinese festival marking the start of a new year, celebrated by Chinese people around the world. This is the year of the Rooster! Children born under this zodiac sign are active, amusing, talkative, outspoken, smart witted, frank, honest, determined, brave, loyal and popular with their friends! Students will be made aware of the traditions and festivities that occur around the world. We will be celebrating this Spring Festival in school on Friday with a special Chinese lunch celebration. Everyone must come to school dressed in red!

DRIVING UP AND DOWN THE ALLEY

Parents, we ask that you please be very aware when driving in the alleyway at the back of the school. The veterinary clinic shares this alleyway with us and very often dogs and their owners are in the middle of the alley trying to get across. There are signs posted; please make sure to look both ways and drive very slow. Sometimes dogs are on a long leash and you may not see them especially when driving **up** the alley so please be alert!

The upper parking lot between 8:15 - 8:30 a.m. is for drop off for elementary students only. We ask that parents who wish to walk their children into school please use the lower parking lot at this time to keep the area clear and have less traffic. Thanks!

Ms Vanessa's Ladybugs #1

This month is full of new and exciting adventures for our lil' ladybugs. They will learn new practical life skills such as; snapping and buttoning. We will learn new sounds and make words using the large moveable alphabet. Our ladybugs will have fun learning about Asia as we travel there using books & looking at pictures. We will read stories about Dr Martin Luther King Jr. and learn what a great man he was. We're thrilled for the start of a New Year and the amazing things we have in store.

Ms Esther's Dragonflies #2

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! Thank you for being such supportive parents to your amazing children. So far, our wonderful dragonflies have learned so much and have had meaningful hands-on experiences. We are getting ready for more! We will discover new scents, focus on buttoning and learning how to dress ourselves independently by practicing with the dressing frames. Thanks to Dr. Martin Luther King, we can all get along, so we will definitely include him in our curriculum.

Ms Melinda's Honey Bees #3

Welcome back every one and a very Happy New Year! We will start our month with an art project; decorating snowflakes and snowmen with sequins and dot paints for our new winter season. We will visit the school library to read why Martin Luther King Jr. was a special man and talk about his DREAM of all people being treated equal. In Geography we will learn about Asia which is the largest Continent by looking at pictures and learning the different foods and animals that come from Asia. For Science we will make snow by mixing cool stuff together.

Ms Audrey's Butterflies # 4

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017, Butterflies! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with beautiful new memories to cherish. Butterfly kisses and warm hugs to the new little Butterflies entering our class. We have so many fun science, art and history projects ahead of us. The Butterflies will be learning to tell time. We will also be celebrating diversity as we learn about Dr. Martin Luther King's powerful message. Role play and character building activities will help us to keep his dream alive. The Map of the Continents will give us an opportunity to learn more about the physical and cultural beauty of our planet. We will be reminded that we are so lucky to have such a diverse classroom and have so much to learn from each other. I am looking forward to celebrating the milestones and goals our little Butterflies have reached this year...please sign up for a conference!

Ms. Vangie - Class # 5

Happy New Year and welcome 2017! We are excited to be starting the New Year, ready and eager to get back to learning. The children will start reading their new book for literature: James and the Giant Peach -2nd grade, An Orange in January -1st grade. Verbs and its tenses and synonyms for language, more word problems and multiplication exercises for math. Cultural Arts Lessons: Needs of Man – food, parts of a reptile and flower, solar system and Asian continent for 2nd grade. We will discuss / read books about Martin Luther King and learn more about his dream of being treated equal.

Ms. Sue - Class # 6

January brings so many exciting lessons and activities our way; starting with the great Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.; the children will have an opportunity to learn what it means to be a good citizen. In botany we will be covering parts of a leaf and their use and discussing the external parts of a fish for zoology. Africa and all its famous landmarks will be our topic for Geography. In keeping up with the rigorous curriculum, all 1st graders will be learning verb tenses, synonyms and use of 'is' and 'are'. An Orange in January is the literature book for the 1st graders. Kindergartners will be mastering simple addition/subtraction and moving onto the green language series. Welcome back to the world of learning!

Ms Blossom – Class # 7

We are ready to kick off the year by learning verbs; (present, past, future), synonyms, and compound sentences. Both 2nd and 3rd will read their assigned literature books; 2nd; James and the Giant Peach and 3rd; The Miniature World of Marvin and James. We'll start the first few chapters at school & students will complete the book report at home. In math, students will continue to sharpen their logical thinking in problem solving. In geometry, we'll learn how to find perimeter and area of a basic figure. Cultural Arts lessons are: Needs of Man: shelter/ communication, Earth's blankets, parts of a stem, & classes of invertebrates. 2nd graders will start with the continent of Asia, leaf facts & reptiles. Whew!

Ms Terri – Class # 8

Happy New Year! Welcome back to an exciting New Year. For History we will be learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and how he has taught us to be good citizens and make good choices. Chinese New Year and the Chinese Zodiac calendar will be discussed as well. We will be getting to the root and its parts in Botany. We are excited about zoology where we are discovering the Dinosaurs, and covering traffic symbols and their meanings for social studies. Lastly, we will be traveling to the continent of Africa where we will be learning about people, places, and all the different types of animals who make their home in the jungles & on the savannahs.

Ms Ernamarie – Class # 9

A happy and prosperous 2017 to all and welcome to the month of new beginnings! Others call it the National Soup and Oatmeal month as it brings with it the coldest time of the year. Our students have made resolutions to ring in the New Year and real goals promised to accomplish. Diligence is the key to carry on with all the tough tasks ahead and room # 9 is eager to be tougher and brighter! We will step into the Spelling Bee as soon as we return so polish up your skills!