

# Warner Newswire

## March 2010

### Classroom News:

Our Valentine Party was a joyful launch to the winter vacation week. Our Room Parents, Kathryn Brackett and Julie Gibowicz provided craft activities and light snacks to make it a fun-filled event. The children created sand art and beaded heart-shaped valentines. They loved receiving valentines from each other. It was wonderful to have the help of several other parents, too. One boy remarked to me: "it was the best Valentine's Day ever!"

Parent Conferences: Two early release Wednesdays, March 10 and 24, are set aside for parent conferences. While not mandatory, parents usually like an update on their child's ongoing progress. If you would like to schedule a conference, please fill in the attached form and I'll let you know the time.

### Curriculum Highlights:

Math: Our new math unit focuses on numbers, with particular emphasis on adding and subtracting numbers to ten. Using manipulatives, such as "ten frames", unifix cubes and boxed crayons, the activities enable the students to visualize quantities and thus make facts to ten more automatic. I am able to differentiate for those who already have mastered facts to ten by increasing the amounts in increments of ten.

Writing: Surprisingly, the initial lessons in writing poems did not begin with using the traditional rhyming form. Rather, the children looked at familiar objects, such as rocks or leaves by seeing it in a fresh new way. They have practiced inserting line breaks to influence the sound of a poem. They enjoy sharing their poems and learning from others who try new strategies.

Ghana: Many helpful moms helped us to make adinkra cloths. The children will learn their Ghana name that is based on the day of the week on which they were born.

Science: Miss Kelly helped the children to perform several water experiments, such as determining how drops cling together and what items either sink or float. She makes it fun and interesting for them to learn!