



# On The Mark

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## Director's Message

Dear Parents,

By the time you will have read this message, the holidays will have passed and we should be back to a regular routine. I am not a fan of the winter. At this time we have had only a little snow. I just hope that by the time you are reading this we won't have had too much.

We have many things scheduled in the next few months. Please check your child's class bulletin board and backpack. Watch for informational flyers on fun activities for the families and for flyers on special visitors that will be coming to our school. Please remember our "Sick Children Policy" We do not give certificates for perfect attendance. I do not want to send anyone home due to illness. When in doubt, KEEP THEM OUT!!! This age is notorious for spreading germs. We have many babies and pregnant mothers that we must be considerate of. Thank you for your help in this matter.

The children were screened for speech and language and also hearing provided by Molloy College. If your child missed this wonderful opportunity, you can still have your child checked. Please contact Jaonne Ascher at (516) 323-3545 and tell them that your child is a student at St. Mark's Nursery School.

Our own Mahnaz Breene, a pediatric dentist, will be visiting us in February. She and her dental hygienist will discuss with the children the importance of oral hygiene. She does a wonderful job and the children love the program.

Thank you again for all your hard work. I know that the staff and I appreciate all of your efforts. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to stop in the office or call me.

Shirley

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## ***President's Report***

Welcome back St Mark's Nursery School families! Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and your little ones are ready for some new adventures at school. Thank you for your snack and supply closet contributions – they really do help keep our costs down.

Our school has happily welcomed new members throughout the year. We welcome you and look forward to meeting you! Thank you to Pam Cliszis and the Hospitality committee for their work at the Update Meeting – the snacks were delicious and the hot apple cider was a hit! Thank you also to the Class Representatives and Deirdre O'Neill for their assistance in keeping our classes informed and organized. And a heartfelt thank you to our very own Maggie McKeever for an informative, interesting, inspiring and very relevant presentation on Fine Motor Development and Pencil Grip in the Preschool Child. If you missed it, Maggie gave us some very practical and fun activities to develop, encourage and strengthen an appropriate pencil grip. We are so amazed and grateful for our talented and brilliant parents!

We hope you took a few minutes to complete the Mid-Year survey that was sent home in backpacks – if you did not, we have copies in the office. These surveys really help us stay in the know and also helps with planning not only the remainder of this year but next year as well!!

**REGISTRATION:** Please check the website for Registration dates!

The 3s are currently enrolling and classes are filling up quickly. Contact Danielle Falanga with questions or concerns.

The 4s registration paperwork and deposit is due February 8th. The lottery will be held on the 10th and classes will be posted on February 13th. KP class registrations will begin very soon. Be on the lookout for paperwork on Feb 1. Please contact Christine Bingham with questions or concerns.

2s classes are currently enrolling as well! Jackie Cahalan is our VP of 2s Membership. There are quite a few options for next year!

The second semester of Enrichment classes have begun! There is limited space remaining in some of the classes.

**COMMITTEE WORK:** Believe it or not, we are now half way through the year. If you are having any issues completing your committee obligations, please contact Serena Masterson, our VP of Committees and we can try to help you. Please do not wait until your only option is to pay the \$400 committee non- participation fee.

Please also note that unless you attended the Fall Clean Up, or the fall leaf-raking days, or you have paid the \$100 clean-up participation fee... you are on the schedule for the Spring Clean Up on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8am. Following Spring Clean up we hope you will join us as we march in the RVC St. Patrick's Day parade... it's a fun way to show off our school and the kids have a blast!

**BOARD:** Over the next few weeks we will be forming the Nominating Committee to prepare next year's Governing Board slate. We encourage you to look through the section of the Policies & Procedures where it lists the governing board positions and see if one is a good fit for you. If you are willing to take on a position for next year, please complete an intent form (they will be available shortly) and return it to the box in the office. You can find a list of current Governing Board Members in the front of your Parents' Manual. Please contact us if you have questions regarding a particular position. Please do not be intimidated by the list of duties or the nominating process. There are positions that can accommodate every schedule and interest and it can be a very rewarding experience! Our next Governing Board meeting is February 6th here at the school. If you would like to join us, please let either us know and we will email you the information.

Our third and final General Membership meeting will be on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lynbrook Fire House. That meeting will also be our Staff Recognition Dinner and we hope you will join us!

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Our classrooms will be getting a deep cleaning, Classroom Cleaning will be held Saturday February 11th.

A new snack list has been issued – PLEASE check this list as you bring in snack items. As a reminder – no other food may be distributed unless it is on the snack list. We thank you for your cooperation in bringing fresh fruits and/or vegetables on your special days.

**Participation days:** Please make note of your special days – the teachers depend on you and often plan projects based on having another set of hands. If you miss a day or forget, you will be asked to sign up for an additional day – but PLEASE don't forget!!! If you need to change your day, kindly inform the teachers.

Wishing you peace and prosperity in 2017!

Katie Preston and Alison Henry



# Teachers Reports



In January and February we'll be on the lookout for snow with projects involving glittery snowflakes and snowmen and stories such as "The Snowy Day," "Snowmen at Night," and "Snowballs." Our wonder-filled indoor playroom will continue to keep all the little ones active as the weather turns colder. For those using the outdoor playground, don't forget to bundle up everyone with a hat and mittens so they will all stay cozy and warm outside. It's been a joy each week to watch the children get to know each other and learn about playing together and sitting for story and song times. Thank you for sharing your greatest blessing with us! We wish you a healthy and happy New Year!

2's Pam Morreale, Erin Stevenson, and Dina Testa

2's Separation Terry Mara, Jennifer Bee



We blinked our eyes and suddenly it's a New year. Those first days of school seem as if it was yesterday. The children are settled, secure and very involved in every aspect of the classroom. You may probably note the changes in them as well. As the air gets colder and the days get shorter, you can sense the energy in the classrooms and the hallways. The children are preparing by listening to stories, making fun and creative projects which introduce the concepts of colors and shapes and singing songs.

January brought winter, and we discussed Hibernation and Migration, how some animals prepare for winter and how they protect themselves. As they excitedly await snow, we read stories about snow and snowmen and make special projects about the subject. The story of the Gingerbread Man is read, and the children will bake, decorate and ultimately participate in the "Gingerbread Man Search" which is always an annual favorite. They will progress with the concepts of color mixing and more advanced shape recognition. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for your help in the classroom. Best wishes for a Happy and Joyous New Year from our family to yours.

Sharon Batkin, Mrs. Mara, Linda Spessot, Miss Alison, Mrs. Kristina Johnson, and Mrs. Erin Stevenson



February is here and the four year old classes are very busy! The children are settled in their classroom routines and they continue to blossom as each week goes by.

In 2017 we will be talking about winter and dressing properly for the playground. We will usually go outside unless the temperature dips below 32 degrees. So warm jackets, hats and mittens are a necessity!

During January we read "The Mitten" and acted out the story as well. We also created snow people and we might even have "snow" in our sensory table. The Arctic and Antarctic units arrive this month as well. The children will be learning about penguins, polar bears, and walruses.

We will continue to introduce the letters of the alphabet through stories, projects, puzzles and games to help the children recognize the upper and lower case letters. The classes will also be doing some pre-writing and handwriting activities.

Thank you parents for all your healthy snacks each day and for all your enthusiasm and support in the classroom. We hope it is fun for you to watch your child in the school setting. We also want to thank you for being watchful of runny noses, coughs and fevers, so far it has been a healthy year. We look forward to sharing new and exciting adventures in 2017. Happy New Year to all !

Mrs.Lombardi, Mrs. Petrone, Mrs. Bonacker, Miss Pam, Mrs. Hellige, Mrs. Finnerty

## ***KinderPrep***

December was a busy a month in KinderPrep class! The children learned about families, traditions and different celebrations. They created paintings and crafts inspired by literature from around the world. In January, the class studied the themes of Winter and Arctic Regions. Next, the children will begin the tradition of KinderPrep Trip Around the World and stop at their first destination: China! They will learn how to use beginner chopsticks to eat snack, use blocks to construct the Great Wall of China and create banners for their Chinese New Year parade. The students continue to strengthen their Kindergarten readiness skills. They especially enjoy journal writing and illustrating. Their teachers love watching the children become more confident as they share their journal entries with the class!

Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Ferro



# Music Report

**Fran Rissland**

*Our school music CD, COME ALONG AND SING A SONG, is a big hit with the children of St. Marks. I thank all the Moms who have told me how much their children love it and sing along in the car. All the songs on the cd will be sung in school and it was recorded in the order in which the music in introduced to the children. This reinforces what they sing in school and supports a feeling of competency. Now you too can sing along with songs you might not have known until now.*

*One of my favorite stories to tell is the Three Bears and the children help tell it by using instruments for each character's voice. Some children are very dramatic and vocal, using the deep Daddy voice, or the medium Mommy voice, or the wee little baby voice. Some children, especially the three year olds, are a little shy and let the instrument do the talking for them. Everyone enjoys participating at the level where they are comfortable.*

*February is Valentine month and of course, we will sing the generational favorite "I Love You a Bushel and a Peck". We also sing the beautiful song "Love Grows" and "Love is Something If You Give It Away"(you end up having more). When we sing the old Woodie Guthrie Song "I'm Gonna Wrap Myself In Paper" it tickles the children's funny bone when we get to the third verse and end with a fermata, a musical term for a long hold or pause. When we all run out of breath there is lots of laughter in the room. All of these songs are on the school music CD and if you haven't gotten it yet there is still a supply in the office.*

*In March we will sing the Windy Weather song that you can have fun with at home. Hold hands with your child (or children) and swing your arms back and forth. To the tune of "Where is Thumkin" sing,*

**WINDY WEATHER, WINDY WEATHER  
HANDS UP!**

**WHEN THE WIND BLOWS, IT BLOWS US ALL TOGETHER. (tip toe to center of circle.)**





**Slider Joes 2/7, Look out for the flyer!**

**Tuesday 2/21 we have a fundraiser at Glow Golf from 10:30-12:30**

**Buddy & Me Breakfast March 11**



*Mark you calendars! Ladies Night Out is the flagship fundraising event for our school, it will be on Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at the Rockville Links Country Club from 7pm to 11pm.*



# Expert Opinions

## What do you Love Most About School?

"I like playing at the tire swing, playing with Olivia at Mrs. Lombardi's class and playing with my friend Evan."  
Olive Dalto Mrs. Bonacker's class

Charlie Henry Loves playing football with his friends on the outside playground. Mrs. Hellige's class

Ryan Henry Loves playing soccer with his friends on the outside playground. Mrs. Hellige's class

"Frankie, and Wyatt.....and Charlie, and Michelle, and Grace,Mollie and Declan!"  
The second time I asked him he said "my teachers"  
Declan Morrow Mrs Batkin's class

"Playing in the kitchen or beauty salon with my friends."  
Kitt O'Neill Mrs. Lombardi's class

"I love to read books and to play outside on the swings." Charlie Preston  
Mrs. Batkin's class

"I love Frankie and Molly and Declan and Charlie , and Declan and Grace and Michelle!"  
Wyatt English Mrs Batkin's class



"Seeing my friends, The monkeybars! Chase Bergen, Mrs Spessot's class

"Mrs Rissland and making art projects " Emma Ferrari Mrs. Lombardi's class

"Playing on the playground with my friends "- Marty Cooney Mrs Bonacker's class

"Working on the Polar Bear project." Carter Dee Bonacker's Class

I like to play, my friends and my teacher" Priscilla Botvinik Mrs. Hellige's class

"I Love going to the playground and riding the scooter" Jason Shankar Mrs. Hellige's class

Ava said she loves the projects and the playground, both outside and indoor.

Ava Waldron Mrs. Spessot's class

Cameron Todaro from Mrs. Cameron's KinderPrep class loves being the leader for the day.

Henry Herrick from Kinderprep answered "the Legos" when asked about his favorite thing about school. Mrs. Cameron's class

" I Like everything" Lorenzo Baker Mrs. Lombardi 's class

Henry Wittman:  
I Love when I am the leader the most Mrs. Cameron's class

Audrey Wittman:  
I Love that my brother is in my class Mrs. Cameron's class



