



February
2012

Upcoming Dates:

IMPORTANT DATES

GROUNDHOG DAY
FEBRUARY 2ND

PARENTS NIGHT OUT
FEBRUARY 3RD & 17TH

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES
FEBRUARY 14TH @ 3PM

PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEBRUARY 20TH

MARDI GRAS PARADE
FEBRUARY 21ST @ 10AM

LEAP DAY
FEBRUARY 29TH

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Thank You! Gracias! Danke! Mahalo!

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to write a review about The Chastain School on Kudzu, Google Places, Yahoo Local, Yelp and the Testimonial Page on the TCS website. We would also like to thank anyone who took the opportunity to share with us any suggestions about how we can improve our services through the



Amazing Talent at TCS!

Adam, the Juggler - This month we celebrate Valentine's Day and love. Love may be in the air now, but before Cupid had love in the air **Adam, the juggler**, had just about everything in the air! The children witnessed Adam juggling tennis balls, streaming lights, hoops and more while balancing on his wheel and ball!



Things to do Around Atlanta

What	Where	When	Cost
LAUGHING PIZZA'S VIP CONCERT FILM PREMIERE	Georgia Aquarium	Saturday, Feb 4th @ 11am	Premiere Only \$15 Premiere Plus – Adult \$34.95 Premiere Plus – Kid \$28.95
PICCADILLY PUPPETS SHOW to benefit AFLAC Cancer Center	Landmark Diner Side Lounge	Saturday, Feb 4th @ 11am	\$10 For reservations, email piccadillypuppets@earthlink.net
GREAT AMAZING RACE FOR YOUTH/ATLANTA	Mercer University Sports Field	Sunday, Feb 19th @ 1pm	\$40.00 for a Team of 2 (adult/kid or kid/kid)

Parents Night Out: February 3rd & 17th

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY FULLY CHARGED	Phillips Arena	February 15th - 20th Times vary	Tickets, \$14-\$130
CAMP SUNSHINE PRESENTS THE WIZARD OF OZ	Woodruff Arts Center: Alliance Theatre	Sunday, Feb 26th @ 1pm & 3:30pm	\$35 –Children \$50 –Adults
PARENTS PALOOZA	Cobb Galleria	Saturday, Feb 26th @ 10 am - 6 pm Sunday, Feb 27th @ 11 am - 5 pm	Adults - \$10; Kids 5-18, \$5; Under 5, free. At the door: Adults, \$12; Kids 5-18, \$6; Under 5, free

What to Expect this Month

Valentine's Day!

This is one very eventful month! So much to celebrate with tradition and history!



The Annual Groundhog Day will help us determine whether or not we can predict sunny days ahead or if we need to bundle up!

Hopefully we will have the good fortune of being able to get away from the cold.

In the festivities to come, TCS will have its annual Mardi Gras parade. All the children love being



able to participate in this because we play music and make banners representing their classroom spirit.



Fun Ideas for Valentine's Day Cards



- * Red alphabet stickers pop against a black and white tiled background.
- * Cut out tissue paper hearts, glue them on paper. Fun to layer and use different sizes.
- * Another easy item to use is foil! Just be sure to supervise to avoid a paper cut. Use the shiny side up and use creativity to decorate.



Celebrating Black History Month

Why Black History is Celebrated in February

Considering the timeline of African American history, it was around 1926, that Dr. Woodson initiated the celebration of Black History Month. Dr Woodson was an African American who completed his PhD from Harvard. He found the need to become the voice of African Americans who were wrongly represented and treated in early times. He founded the 'Association for the

Study of Negro Life and History' in 1915, which is now known as Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. He chose the month of February, marked by the birthdays of two great personalities of American history who had a very big influence on changing the social standing and condition of African Americans. These two personalities were former presi-

dent of the United States, Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Fredrick Douglass. Do you know when black history month is celebrated in other parts of the world? Well, apart from the United States, black history month is celebrated in Canada in the month of February and in the UK it's celebrated in the month of October.



Did You Know?

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on **Maya Angelou's** birthday on April 4th, 1968. Angelou stopped celebrating her birthday for many years afterward, and sent flowers to King's widow every year until Mrs. King's death in 2006.

On November 2, 1983, **President Ronald Reagan** signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor King. The holiday faced some states resistance and was observed for the first time on



January 20, 1986.

Pop icon, **Michael Jackson**, earned several Guinness World Records, including Most Successful Entertainer of All Time for his 13 Grammy Awards, 13 No.1 singles, and the sale of over 750 million albums worldwide.

Making History



According to Forbes magazine, **Oprah** was the richest African American of the 20th century and the world's only Black bil-

lionaire for three years running. She's been hailed as the most influential woman of her generation.



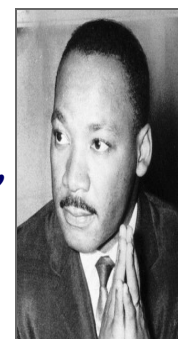
Our Nation's first President of color, our current President, Barack Obama.



Louis Armstrong bought his first cornet at the age of 7

with money he borrowed from his employers. He taught himself to play while in a home for juvenile delinquents.

On January 17, 2000, for the first time, **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** was officially observed in all fifty U.S. states.



What Babies Love!

Gina Bevinetto Feld, a writer based in Brooklyn, just had her second daughter. Originally published in the March 2009 issue of American Baby magazine

Your Face

When he's not sleeping, your newborn spends a lot of his time gazing at your face. And there's good reason. First of all, a newborn's eyes focus best at 8 to 12 inches, the distance from your face to his when you cradle him while feeding him. And babies simply prefer looking at faces. "That's probably hardwired in us," says Lise Eliot, PhD, author of *What's Going On in There? How the Brain and Mind Develop in the First Five Years of Life*. There's a very strong survival value in making eye contact; it evokes the most caregiving. In fact, a large part of our brain is dedicated to perceiving, processing, and discriminating among faces.



At around 2 months of age, your baby is able to recognize your face and will begin to respond with a smile. What's interesting is that babies first learn to recognize a face by the outer features, such as your hair, chin, or head shape; as they get older, they learn to look for inner features, such as eyes, nose, and mouth. So make funny expressions, raise your eyebrows, open your mouth wide, and see how your baby responds.

The Color Red

Red is among the colors babies see best once their color vision first kicks in, at about 3 months. A newborn doesn't see in color at all, thus their early fascination with black-and-white patterns and playthings. Their color vision is fully in place by 4 months. "Young children only really detect bold, primary colors; they probably discern reds and greens best, followed by blues and yellows," says Eliot. That's one good reason to deck out the nursery and choose infant toys in primary colors rather than pale pastels. Eliot adds that even older kids, given the choice, usually opt for bright bold colors over pale ones.



Tiny Spots

Minute specks of dust on the floor, a smudge on the carpet, the little screw in an electronic toy -- why do all these little things fascinate babies? "Because a newborn can only see in black and white, he notices contrast or the edges of objects. He also enjoys staring at things such as a tiny speck or a ray of light," explains Dr. Altmann.



Tickles

Whether you wiggle your fingers up and down your infant's belly or chase your toddler and play "I'm gonna get you!", tickling provides a thrill. Kids start to respond to it by smiling and laughing at around 4 to 6 months, Dr. Altmann says. "Children like touch and getting your attention," she adds.



Four-legged Friends

Animals seem to have a magical effect on babies. Many of us have pets at home, and because we love them, kids get a sense that they're safe and good. Living beings are also more exciting than toys. They move in unpredictable ways, they're interactive, and they stimulate all of the senses.



February Birthdays

Holland Davis	1	Oak	David Fluke	17	Maple
Charlie Walker	1	Oak	Zachary Chewning	21	Bonsai
Henry Colvin	3	Coconut	Jay Hazzard	23	Persimmon
Sophie Blue Babul	5	Maple	Ian Fry	24	Coconut
Connor Bailie	14	Coconut	Rozelina Kostova	28	Mimosa
Caroline Russo	16	Bonsai	Yuri Waddell	28	Bonsai

5 Ways to Help Kids Love Books

How to Share the Love of Reading with Your Children by Amy Maclin

Getting kids jazzed about reading can be challenging. This article advises how you may be able to peak the interest of your preschooler to read more often. Mary Brigid Barrett, children's author and illustrator, teacher, and founder of the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, shares her favorite ways to cultivate bookworms.

1. Make it an experience for all the senses.

"It's wonderful to have a book come alive in a sensory way. I love to read Robert McCloskey's book *Lentil* to preschoolers, and I always pass out lemon slices first. The story is about a boy in a small town in Ohio who saves the day with his harmonica. There's a part where the town's band is all set to play in a celebration — until they see the villain, Old Sneep, sucking on a lemon, and they all pucker up and can't play their instruments. At that point I tell the kids, 'Suck on the lemon!' They get a huge kick out of it."

2. Engage in a spirited debate.

"You want kids to start thinking critically, because that's what education is all about, and it's never too early. Take the story of the itchy bitsy spider: When I ask a group of 4-year-olds who the hero of that story is, they'll always chime right in with 'The spider!' And then you follow that with: 'The spider has a problem. What's the problem?' For a 5-year-old you can even introduce the word *conflict* into the conversation. Ask them, 'What would happen if there wasn't any rain, and the spider could climb right out of the drain?' Well, it would be really boring if there was no problem to solve. Protagonist, conflict, resolution — there you have all the elements of literature! Very little is beyond kids if you can relate it to their experience level. Now the first three or four times, a book should be read for pure enjoyment, of course. But when the kids ask for the same books again and again — and you're getting bored out of your mind — these kinds of conversations can keep things lively for you, too."



3. Write a book of your own.

"For a child who's just starting to read, get a spiral notebook or sketch book with blank pages and make his own personalized word book. You can start with the family: Have photographs of Dad and Mom, or even ask an older sibling to draw them. Print the letters, big and bold. Have a picture of their grandfather that says not only "grandfather" but "Poppo." Then you can expand it from there with whatever interests your child. If you have a kid who's a fire-truck maniac, fill it with pictures from the fire station."

4. Find out what else the library offers.



"Libraries can have so much that parents might not know about — DVDs, audio books, even games and puzzles that can be checked out. Some have preschool PJ nights. Many have museum passes, which are usually for one or two adults and at least two children. Robert McCloskey — who wrote not only *Lentil* but *Make Way for Ducklings*, of course — actually had a group of ducklings that he brought into his apartment, where he put them into the bathtub and drew them. That's a great story for kids."

5. Get everybody involved.

"A lot of parents feel guilty because the standard advice is to read to your child for at least 15 minutes a day, and if you have three kids it's not always practical to have three individual reading sessions for three different levels. But there are things that are appropriate for kids at a wide range of ages."

For instance, you might think your child won't be interested in a board book. But she may feel a sense of ownership about it and want to engage a younger sibling by helping her 'read aloud,' even if she's just reciting the story from memory.

"Also, be patient with the ones who just have high energy levels. One of mine would sit for hours and listen to books, one was a little whirling dervish, and the third was somewhere in the middle. Just say, I'm going to read aloud, and then keep going. Even the dervish is going to absorb something. And take heart — the heroes of children's books usually tend to be little dervishes themselves. Try to think of a children's-book character who's perfectly complacent and obedient. I dare you!"