



# Dragonfly News

Ms. Diana & Ms. Shanshan

December 2017

## Potluck & Fundraiser

In lieu of the Holiday Bazaar, Brilliant Star will be hosting a small and informal potluck and fundraising event, which will be held on campus Friday, December 15 from 2:00pm-3:00pm. All are welcome as many of you have family/friends visiting.

The Dragonflies will be selling the jewelry they made. Our beautiful ocean sunset canvas painting will be on Silent Auction and can be bid on in the office during the week of December 11. Bidding will close at 2:00pm on Friday, December 15, and the winner will be announced during the potluck.

## Volunteers Needed

In preparation for the Potluck and Fundraiser, we need your help. At similar gatherings in the past, parents have generously made delicious dishes of food to share. We are again asking parents to make their specialty dish to bring to campus on Friday, December 15 to share with the Brilliant Star community as we begin Winter break and prepare to say goodbye to 2017.

Please let us know if you can bring a specialty dish to share on this day. It does not have to feed the entire school, just a regular sized dish is sufficient.

Also, are you interested in helping to sell the jewelry? Please let us know.

## A Special Thank You

We would like to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of the following parents who helped the children make the jewelry and the canvases: Ji Berkland, Hye Mi Woo, Ella Park, Erjiangli Guan, and Hong Shin. We enjoyed having you come into the classroom and are grateful for your time and talent.

## Important Dates

**December 8 from 6:00pm-7:00pm:** Show Me Night

**December 15:** Last day of school before Winter break

**December 16-Sunday, January 7:** Winter Break

**December 18-22:** Art/Craft and Cooking Winter Camp offered by Ms. Kamweli

**December 26-29:** Mandarin Winter Camp offered by Ms. Shanshan and Ms. Xinmei

**January 8:** Classes resume

“The child is both a hope and a promise to mankind.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

## What Are the Dragonflies Doing?

Though the children have been bitten by the holiday bug and are a little goofy, they are still hard at work

The younger children in the classroom are doing well with the Practical Life and Sensorial works. This is perfect, because, with these works, they are increasing their focus and concentration while establishing and reinforcing their pincer grasp, which they will need for writing later on. Some of our young friends have also been working on beginning Math work, such as Cards & Counters and the Short Bead Stair (naming and matching quantities for numbers 1-10).

The older children have been diligently working in the Math and Language areas. They seem to have an unquenchable thirst for more challenges, so they are keeping us busy!

The room is abuzz with the sound of Christmas music and the smells of pine trees, balsam, cinnamon, cloves and vanilla. The activities in Art and Practical Life have been changed out to reflect the themes of Christmas. The children are really enjoying them, especially the introduction of Oil Pastels and the effects of rubbing the material out to create different effects. Holiday Christmas balls and stocking Punch Outs also have them occupied.

In Practical Life, the children are challenged by making a product called god's eye. It uses two craft sticks and yarn to create a design using a textile. Some have been sewing buttons on Christmas trees, and others have been weaving multi-colored feathers into burlap pieces. All of these help to promote and strengthen the pincer grasp while creating joy in the children and beauty in our classroom.

On Friday, December 15, our Hibiscus friends will join us for some caroling. Therefore, we have been practicing some holiday songs so we can perform for each other and share in the joy of the season.

We are also hoping that Ms. Kamweli will present the tradition of Kwanzaa to us before the Winter break. This is a week long celebration of African heritage and culture that begins December 26 and concludes January 1.

The start of the 2017/18 School year has been amazing so far. Your children are treasures and we are so thankful that you are sharing them with us.

To all of you traveling this holiday season, we wish you safe journeys.

To everyone, may joy, good health and tons of love fill your days as we say goodbye to 2017 and hello to 2018.

