

The Children's House News

January 2021

Dear Parents and Grandparents, The Words of the Week for the month of January focus on the lessons learned by the character of Baptist minister and Civil Rights activist leader Martin Luther King, Jr. - *Wonder, Justice, Integrity, Fairness.*

In school, children learn the famous speech, "I Have a Dream." In spite of years of oppression and segregation, Martin Luther King, Jr., wondered... Will justice and fairness ever prevail? Can our country recover from fracture, from pain and disharmony? Is there hope for reconciliation, that former adversaries could someday sit at a table together, united?

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'"

Fifty-seven years later, we are still working on accomplishing that dream. This last year, 2020, made us aware that there is still much work to be done to achieve justice and equality for all. As parents and educators, it is our responsibility to guide and teach our children to work towards this goal, for the benefit of all. It is not a new goal, and has been God's mission for generations. The prophet Isaiah heard God's word and shared it:

*"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."
Isaiah 1:17*

Martin Luther King Jr. was a man whose character reflected the character of Christ, a man of faith. We can use the lessons Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us, and help our children learn that they can impact their communities by thinking of justice and fairness for all. The events of the past year - social, economic, political, and medical - have caused us to make many sacrifices, but have also taught us many lessons, lessons that have strengthened our character.

We at TCH have seen that character in our students, parents, families, and staff. Thanks to the entire TCH community, our school has shown that through working together, we can make this a successful school year. We have all been blessed with a good school year thus far, in spite of the significant changes and losses due to COVID-19. We have been able to remain open, continue with our curriculum and learning, and had fun in the process! The students learned that the sacrifices they made, giving up big recesses and assemblies, wearing a mask all day, sitting at individual separated desks have all helped us have a healthy school year. Making personal sacrifices has helped us reach that goal.

In 2020, we began to understand a little more about justice, learning to look beyond our personal rights and to make decisions based on the needs of the community around us. We became aware that situations and circumstances vary for each of us, and that we have the power to help and support others with our actions. Our eyes were opened to the world around us, and how this pandemic affected people throughout the world. While many of us suffered our own pains and losses, we were willing to make personal sacrifices in order to achieve fairness and justice for all.

While the year 2020 may be over, we should not be so quick to send it off, "Goodbye and good riddance!" As parents, you can reflect on the year with your children and help them see all that they have learned and gained. Furthermore, you can help them realize that they have developed these gifts, these traits that will help them be successful in the coming year.

Your kids have been so positive, and have been open to accept all the changes going on around them. But, they will get tired and they will whine and complain sometimes. They will ask why they have to keep wearing a mask even though they aren't sick. They will wonder if they will ever get to play at their grandparents' house again, or have a sleepover with their soccer friends. Remind them that the sacrifices they make now will help to strengthen their character, their families, their friends, and their communities. Encourage them to hang tough, and to seek God for the strength to persevere. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, let us all work with integrity towards justice and fairness for all.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

Important Upcoming Dates

January 5, 2021 Students Return to School
January 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School
February 1 - 5 Conference Sign-Ups Open, Preschool and Kindergarten **only**
February 11 & 12 Preschool and Kindergarten Conferences on Zoom, No school for Preschool and Kindergarten
February 12 No School for Grades 1-4, Conferences upon request
February 15 Presidents' Day, No School

Preschool and Kindergarten: Second Trimester Conferences

The Preschool and Kindergarten will have Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday and Friday, February 11th and 12th. These will operate the same way the first conferences ran in September. Sign-ups will be online from February 1-5; the link will be emailed to parents on January 29th. Sign-ups are on a first come, first served basis. **There will be no school on conference days for preschool and kindergarten students.**

Grades 1-4 Conferences

Conferences for Grades 1-4 are optional. Conference sign-ups will be open to all. Please sign-up directly through your child's teacher by emailing them. Conferences will be conducted on Zoom. **School will be in session for students in Grades 1-4 on Thursday, February 11th. There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, February 12th.**

Advent Celebration in School

On the last Wednesday of school, our students enjoyed a very special "Advent Assembly" in their own classrooms. At 9:00 that morning, students gathered in their classrooms and lit the candles of their classroom Advent Wreaths. It was beautiful to see how each class did it in their own unique way. Following the schoolwide candle-lighting, each class was invited to come to the pavilion and place their donations in baskets. Thank you for all you have given to help others in need in our community.

Re-Registration: 2021-22 School Year

Re-registration forms will be emailed to you this week. **The deadline to register is Monday, February 1st.** If you need a printed copy of the registration form or have any questions, you may contact the office. The registration fee is refundable through May 10, 2021.

Advent Program Presentation

We hope you were all able to enjoy the Advent Program Presentation that was emailed to you at the start of Christmas Break. Once again, one of our honored traditions had to be adjusted due to the COVID protocols.

As you may recall, we had originally planned on taking video of the children singing and performing. However, the most recent protocols in November strongly advised against gathering in choral groups to sing. Students stayed in their socially distanced seats in their classrooms and were recorded singing there. Then, teachers and students performed the motions and were recorded. Mr. Erber did a wonderful job editing and putting all the various segments together! It was our hope that you were able to gather as a family and participate in your own way. We were so happy to receive some videos of children singing and performing the songs in their homes!

Thank you, Mr. Erber, Mrs. de los Santos, and all the teachers and students for their joyful participation in the Advent Program!

Reminders

Please contact business@childrenshousehawaii.org with any tuition or financial aid questions.

Continue to notify the office of any current or upcoming travel plans. You may email news@childrenshousehawaii.org or call (808) 455-4131.

The Children's House Tax ID numbers are:
Federal 99-0340922
State GE-012-745-7280-01

Happy New Year!

The Children's House Administration