



Cassidy Flynn <cassidy.flynn@citygardenschool.org>

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## Principal Crystal Isom's Family Newsletter

1 message

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**Principal Crystal Isom** <citygardenmontessorischool@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com>

Sun, Jan 29, 2023 at 3:03 PM

Reply-To: crystal.isom@citygardenschool.org

To: Cassidy Flynn <cassidy.flynn@citygardenschool.org>



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Dear Early Childhood Education Center Families & Staff,

Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher academic levels than students who do not have regular attendance.

This week I will be reaching out to families of Kindergarten students that have ten or more unexcused absences so that absences can be accounted for.

Educators are mandatory reporters required to notify Missouri officials when students have excessive absences. The State of Missouri considers students with excessive unexcused absences (ten or more absences and excessive tardies) as experiencing educational neglect.

We need your partnership and support with having your children consistently coming to school on time so they can complete rich Montessori works and iReady lessons in order for them to make academic progress.

## Upcoming Dates

### February

- Assessments: iReady (K-8) January 9th through February 3rd
- February 1: Tuition Due Date, February Board Meeting
- February 17: **NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day**
- February 20: **NO SCHOOL – President's Day**
- February 24: Charter School (K-8) Application Deadline, Dress Down Friday

### March

- March 1: March Board Meeting, Tuition Due Date
- March 3: **NO SCHOOL – Teacher Work Day**
- March 10: **NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day (Quarter 3 ends)**
- March 13: Fourth Quarter begins
- March 15: Kindergarten Lottery 5:30 pm 16: EARLY DISMISSAL – 1 pm dismissal for Parent Communication Conferences, March Community Newsletter
- March 17: Preschool Application Deadline, **NO SCHOOL – Parent Communication Conferences**
- March 20: **Spring Break – NO SCHOOL**
- March 21: **Spring Break – NO SCHOOL**
- March 22: **Spring Break – NO SCHOOL**
- March 23: **Spring Break – NO SCHOOL**
- March 24: **Spring Break – NO SCHOOL**
- March 31: Dress Down Friday

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## New Information

1. COVID-19 Dashboard – [Click here to access this week's dashboard.](#)
2. February Pick Up Words – The February Pick Up Words are Michelle Obama, Quinta Brunson, and Kizzmekia Corbett.
3. Summer School – We will once again offer two sessions for Summer School, as follows:

- Session 1: June 5th – 16th
- Session 2: June 20th – 30th

**[To register your student\(s\) for Summer School, please complete this form.](#)**

For questions, please contact your student's corresponding Summer School Director.

- **Shannon Adams**

Summer School Director | Early Childhood Education Center (Preschool and Kindergarten)

**[shannon.adams@citygardenschool.org](mailto:shannon.adams@citygardenschool.org)**

- **Dr. Tabitha Harrell**

Summer School Director | Elementary and Adolescent Education Center (1st - 8th Grade)

**[tabitha.harrell@citygardenschool.org](mailto:tabitha.harrell@citygardenschool.org)**

**4. Cultural Studies** – This month your children will be exploring ancient African civilizations, and American historical figures and themes in preparation for the City Garden Black History Month video montage that will be available at the end of the month.

**5. African Dance** – Ms. Shanina Carmichael, experienced African Dance Teacher will provide each Kindergarten class a week long residency over the course of the next few weeks. Students will perform during our Spring Fling on April 6!

**6. Black History Month Resources** – Please explore the resources listed below to facilitate discussions of Black History Month in your home. I encourage your family to view the documentary film February 1: The Greensboro Four. The documentary highlights how four college students changed history. Ezell Blair, David Richmond, Franklin McCain, and Joseph McNeil began a sit-in at a white only lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. Their act of bravery led to a national movement of courageous non-violent protests throughout the country. The documentary is available on the link below or on Amazon Prime. Check out some of these Black History Month Learning Resources below:

- **[February One: The Story of the Greensboro Four](#)**
- **[Black History Month - The History Channel](#)**
- **[Black History Month: Teaching the Complete History](#)**
- **[Black Lives Matter At School](#)**
- **[BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCE GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES](#)**

- [CHILDREN'S MOVIES AND TV SHOWS THAT ARE FREE TO STREAM](#)
  - [Bookmarks - Celebrating Black Voices on Netflix](#)
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## *Reminders*

**1. Additional No School Day** – Friday, March 3, 2023 was originally listed as a typical school day on the calendars you all received at the beginning of the school year. **However, we have decided to cancel school for students on March 3 for a Teacher Work Day, giving teachers more time to prepare for 3rd quarter conferences.** Teachers have a great deal of data to analyze and reports to complete ahead of conferences. We thank you for your flexibility!

**2. Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri** – I am pleased to announce that City Garden will have an amazing speaker for City Garden parents and Montessorians on February 16, 2023 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Early Childhood Education Center. Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri is an experienced Montessorian that will challenge us to amplify diverse voices and cultures in our homes and classrooms. Tatenda will highlight the importance of authentic and diverse Anti-Bias, Antiracist Montessori lessons. Read below for mre information about Tatenda Muchiriri:

- [Tatenda Muchiriri, Montessori on Wheels - Moonshot edVentures](#)
- [Teacher spotlight: Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri](#)

**3. Social Emotion Learning Parent Sessions** – Katherine Ingersoll, our Family Support Coordinator, will be offering parent sessions to address social and emotional learning. The sessions will be held at 9:00 am in the ECEC conference room. Please reach out to Ms. Ingersoll for further information at [katherine.ingersoll@citygardenschool.org](mailto:katherine.ingersoll@citygardenschool.org).

- February 13 – Managing Big Feelings in Small Humans
- March 6 – Recreating Montessori during Spring Break
- April 3 – Building a Network of Support
- May 8 – Creating Mindfulness and Routine

**4. School Meals** – Please make sure you order school meals for Quarter 3 as soon as possible. [Click here to do so.](#)

**5. Admissions Romp & Stomp** – Help Ms. Tyeshia Smith, Director of Admissions & School Social Worker, pass out flyers and door-hangers

throughout neighborhoods in St. Louis! [Sign up here.](#)

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## ***ECEC Spotlight***



***Ms. Young Kim***

**About Me:** I was born and raised in Seoul, Korea. My very first visit to the United States was when I was 8 years old. We had a month-long fun-filled vacation with Disney Land, amusement parks, toys'R'us, McDonald's, and all the rest. I came back at the age of 16 as an exchange student and have stayed since then. I have always had a heart for children and wanted to become a toy designer while I was studying Industrial Design at Syracuse University. Toward the end of my college, I took a gap year and taught art at an international school in Kazakhstan. That memory was so good that I decided to change my career to education after two years of working as a product designer.

**My Family Traditions:** In South Korea, age is counted from the first day of the lunar year. By eating tteokguk during the celebration, Koreans literally mark themselves a year older and wiser. As a child, I used to eat several bowls of soup "tteokguk" on the lunar new year hoping that I could be older than my sister. I no longer wish to age quickly, but I still make a bowl of tteokguk every Lunar new year thinking of my family back in Korea and making a new tradition with my husband.

**Why I Love City Garden:** It is the people who make our community wonderful. I love families who are sharing their lovely children with us and let us be a part of their journey of learning. I love students who come to school everyday with curiosity, joy, open mind, and creativity. I love staff who are full of dedication, kindness, and passion to provide the best education possible.

Words of Inspiration: *"It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime*

*to paint like a child.” – Pablo Picasso*

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It is such a joy to be in community with you all. Please let me know if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, and I am wishing you well!

In partnership,

**Crystal Isom**

*Principal*

*Early Childhood Education Center*

*Serving Preschool & Kindergarten Students*



**Our Contact Information**

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