



## January-February Calendar

- January 5 ..... School Resumes
- January 7 ..... Open House & Registration  
for 2010
- January 14 ..... Pre-K Conferences
- January 19 ..... MLK Jr. Day  
CLOSED**
- January 21 ..... Board Meeting 6:30pm
- February 9 ..... Lottery drawing for  
2009-2010
- February 10.. Last Day for Wine Donation
- February 12..... Wine Raffle Drawing
- February 13..... Valentine's Day Breakfast
- February 18..... Board Meeting 6:30pm
- February 21 ..... WINTER PARENT  
WORKDAY - Mulch**

## "Be Mine", Wine Raffle



Starting now, you can enter to win a bouquet of wine for you and your sweetie in time for Valentine's Day. Transform one bottle of wine or bubbly into five; more

than enough to put you in the mood for love. 1) Donate a bottle 2) Buy at least one **\$10 raffle ticket** 3) Mantra; "bouquet of wine-please be mine!"

Please donate by **Tue, Feb. 10** ... the more bottles received, the more ValenWine to spread about. Drawing will take place **Thu, Feb. 12**, so winners can grab their sweet treat before the weekend. All proceeds to benefit Phoenix School.

## From the Director

Dear Parents,

Hope your holidays were spectacular, and also hope you are looking forward to this New Year.

Before I let last year go, I would like to thank you for all your kindness to our staff in 2008 through gifts and food. We feel appreciated and blessed.

Phoenix has two big events this winter. Our first event was our Open House for June and September enrollments. This was the second year we did this, it is really a big success. We had about 100 parents who came inquiring about our school, and to meet our teachers. This interest in our school reflects our reputation and also the shortage of really excellent pre schools in our area. The second event is choosing new students by lottery for June and September enrollment which will occur February 9.

We are still waiting to be evaluated by Bright From the Start. They will be coming any day. We will keep you posted on the results.

Try to keep warm. Please remember to send hats, gloves and warm jackets for your children. We try to go outside even if it is for a few minutes. Many times it takes longer to get dressed than to go outside.

Another reminder, any toys that wind up in your children's pockets, please return. We have two classrooms that no longer have little cars. Also please return Phoenix clothes to school, we have a shortage again. If you would like to donate any clothes for changes we would really appreciate it. Thanks.

Don't forget to help in our fundraiser by buying a blue eco-grocery bag.

## News from the classrooms

**Baby Room:** Hooray we have four babies who are a year old Zachery & Zoey Bean, Lily Crick, and Walker Rogers. Zack and Zoey are walking and really can go wherever they want, Lily and Walker are ready to take off. Sawyer Logan, Addison Christopher and Benjamin Winget are able to get any place they want in the room. Grange Ball our youngest is very aware of all that is happening. It is so cute to see all our babies socializing. Seven of our babies are eating breakfast and lunch. The babies are zooming past their teachers getting ready for Les Enfants.

**Les Enfants Room:** We had a great start to this school year; it has flown by so quickly. In December we did lots of art work and stories about Kwanzaa, Christmas and Hanukkah. January brings lots of talk about the cold weather and the clothes we need to wear outside. The little ones are talking, learning the names of their friends, and identifying which parent goes to which child. They are also learning colors, shapes and they are counting to 5.

**Muchacho Room:** We are so glad Rex Bulgar has joined our classroom, his brothers and sister used to go here years ago. It is hard to believe it is winter time already. We are talking about winter animals and enjoying polar bears on ice in our sensory center. Muchachos are learning their colors and are counting to ten. Congratulations to Lucy Welsh, Lucy Hinton, Alice Reno and Rosalind Blakey our newest big girls wearing big girl undies

**Bambini Room :** The Bambinis miss Zerion a lot and they talk about him often. They made a "remember us" box so he would not forget his friends at Phoenix. The Bambini's are growing up so fast; they set the table with no assistance, they get their own mats and put them in the correct spot. They know where their friends' mat's go also, giving us so many helpers every day. They are able to dress themselves, serve themselves breakfast and some Bambinis are writing their names. Yea Bambinis, we are so proud of you. Winter is such a fun unit; we hope you have seen our art work on the table outside our door. We made a big snow scene, pretend ice cream and hibernating bear in a cave. Bambinis and Pre K had their lunch in the Fellowship Hall so they could see the Inauguration taking place. The children were really excited.

**Pre K:** We enjoyed going to the fabulous Fox Theater to see the Atlanta Ballet version of the Nutcracker. We had a great Kwanzaa presentation from Nefetari Murph. The children were very attentive and really enjoyed it. In January we went to the Jim Henson Exhibit at the History Museum. We toured the exhibit and made yellow ducks in honor of rubber ducky's 40th birthday. We are going to the Puppet Theater at the end of January.

January starts Pre K's student of the week board. This is a time to showcase all of our Pre K children., check it out.

## President's Note

*Dear Phoenix Families,*

Happy New Year and welcome back from our winter holiday break!

We just held an open house for prospective families who are interested in childcare at Phoenix. The fellowship hall was packed with pregnant women, babies in car seats and even a few toddlers; it was amazing to see how many people were interested in our little school. Bev and I both emphasized that parents are a critical part of the success of our school and we encouraged folks to participate if they are lucky enough to get one of the few spaces. Everyone seemed genuinely interested in the school and anxious to find out if their child will have a spot in June or September. We've all been there . . . !

Thanks to all who helped with the teacher treats in December and to those who contributed to the holiday gifts for the teachers. We are lucky to have such a dedicated staff at Phoenix and I'm always glad that the parents so generously show their appreciation throughout the year. Our kids really benefit from teachers who are committed to teaching and committed to the Phoenix School. We always tout the creativity, intelligence and love of our teachers, but we should also recognize that our kids benefit from seeing the same teachers year after year—I believe that the supportive parents of Phoenix help contribute to a working environment that makes our teachers want to remain at Phoenix.

Please mark your calendar for our next parent workday—Saturday, February 21. We have a lot to do inside and in the playgrounds, so hopefully we'll have a good turn out. If you can't make it on the 21st, check the white board by the office or ask Bev what else you can do on another day.

Thanks for being a part of Phoenix!

*-Susan Brown, President Phoenix Board*

## January and February Birthdays

**Babies**..... 2/15 – Lily Crick  
 ..... 2/20 – Walker Rogers  
**LesEnfants**..... 1/3 – Elle Rose  
 ..... 1/4– Virginia Weisinger  
 ..... 1/4 – John Weisinger  
 ..... 1/14 – Thomas Nys-Bettle  
**Muchachos** ..... 2/5 – Alice Reno  
**Bambinis** ..... 1/4 – Rae Hetzel  
 ..... 1/8– Daphne Hall

..... 1/31 – Dellar Weldon  
 ..... 2/9 – Katy Ross Broadfoot  
 KZ's ..... 1/3 – Rohan Blackwell  
 ..... 1/18 – Anne Cooke  
 ..... 1/21 – Nathan Ruark  
 ..... 1/31 – Ellis Hamburger  
 Staff ..... 1/13 – Mary Wilder

## Online Shopping Benefits Phoenix School

We can now shop online for our favorite stuff at our favorite stores, and have 2-20% of our purchase come back to Phoenix School...at no additional cost to us.

Visit **OneCause.com** to sign up and start filling your carts with clothes, toys, books, furniture and more from 100's of well known stores. There are also bargains to be had from OneCause.com coupons. For Phoenix to receive proceeds, we must click through OnceCause.com. So, try to get in the habit of starting your online shopping sprees at OnceCause.com, and THEN jumping to the merchant's website. It's one extra step, but very worth it! You don't have to limit this to the holidays, it's accessible year-round; Phoenix will continue to benefit well into the New Year and beyond!

-Stephanie Wansley, Fundraising Phoenix Board

## A History of Phoenix By Bill Ruark

As Co-chairman of the Buildings and Grounds committee I serve on with Jeff Lahr, I have been asked to enter a few words in this month's Kid Bits about our facility here at Phoenix. Well...it's old, very old. Churches are notoriously designed and constructed by committee. Our space in particular is maintained by generations of Phoenix parents and volunteers. You can imagine the complexity of challenges we face with resources, existing conditions and the varied requests we get from classes ranging from new born to Pre-K. The building, like Ogres and Onions, has layers...lots and lots of layers. And by the time we get good at Buildings and Grounds our Tour will be up and another set of parents and opinions will be put into place on what the school's needs are. So think of our building as a 69 Beatle being handed down to 16 year old after 16 year old. You're gonna love it, but you probably will have to change your own oil and you're gonna have a hard time finding parts.

**If you haven't determined by now, Phoenix School's upkeep is done by parent volunteers and not costly professional contractors.** You can see it in the details of the lofts, the playgrounds, the shelving. All constructed with love and care by Phoenix Alumni. Not to mention the countless coats of paint and minor repairs done on a daily basis. The playgrounds take a lot of work to maintain and beat back the jungle of poison ivy. Sorry, no legacy here, only the satisfaction of creating a space your child is going to thoroughly enjoy for the next couple of weeks. What better way to be a part of your child's daily life while you are away. And the kids love it when they see you work on something for them and their friends.

We have a few upcoming projects this spring. We have kids getting splinters from the wood on the lower playground. We are going to apply polyurethane and sand every piece of it as soon as weather permits. All the rust needs sanding and painting. We get new sand and mulch every spring. We have to clean for water play this summer. The state tells us we are not to have so much as a gumball on the playground, much less sticks and debris. We are going to add swing mats under the swings. Some of this is state-mandated and a lot just needs to be done. We have asked room reps to take a more active role in the needs of their rooms by communicating with the teachers and finding volunteers who want a more direct application of their skills to their child's environment. If you feel this is not happening, ask your teachers what you can fix or do for the room. We have a whiteboard in the hallway that has had limited success. Word of mouth works just fine. If you need supplies, logistics, or semi-professional advice, you can contact me (Bill Ruark 404-370-1059), Jeff or Beverly.

**Remember; be on the lookout for Parent work days in the Phoenix Calendar. And like the new administration, we are looking for "Change"; but we could use a little more 'Grit and Determination' and a little less 'Hope'. I'm sure the economy will affect Phoenix too. We will not be able to splurge money on maintenance that could have been done by volunteers. Paying someone to weed the playground will no longer be an option. So put on yo dungarees, and come on down to Phoenix someday and help out the school. It's good for yo bank account, cause when yer werk'n ya ain't spend'n. And I know Nate and Jake would be personally grateful. Just so you let Nate move some mulch too.**

-Bill Ruark

Buildings and Grounds Committee

## Oakhurst Presbyterian Clothes Closet:

Do you have gently used clothes you'd like to get rid of?

Well, Oakhurst Presbyterian has a clothes closet that would love to have your family's old clothing and shoes (both kids and adult sizes are needed). Bring your items to school and drop them off at the end of the hall that leads up to the fellowship hall—the doors to the "closet" are on the left just before you get to the stairs. Please only bring clothes that are currently in season since there isn't enough room to store off-season clothing. If you have any questions or would like a receipt from the church for tax purposes, ask Phoenix's own Deborah Hunter (Bambini's teacher), who coordinates the clothes closet.

## CALLING ALL WRITERS and HUMORISTS!

Please let Elizabeth Broadfoot or Shannon O'Daniel know what you would like to share in the next KidBits issue. We welcome articles, ideas, and funnies from parents and staff!

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[odaniel@emory.edu](mailto:odaniel@emory.edu)

**NEXT KIDBITS DEADLINE is February 20.**