

November/December Newsletter, 2018

November is already upon us! The rest of the year gets so busy that we combine November and December's newsletters so that you have all the necessary information and important dates in one place!

Progress Reports

In November, our 3 year olds will be evaluated. Progress reports will be sent home the week of Nov. 4^{th} . As with the older students, this report covers social and language development as well as some basic classroom skills. A more comprehensive progress report will come home mid-March.

The four year olds will receive their second progress reports the first week of December. This report includes but is not limited to the following skills: letter and number identification, name recognition/printing, following directions, shape knowledge, gross and fine motor.

If you feel like you'd like to conference with your child's teacher about their progress, we are happy to set up a time to speak with you.

In-House Nature Presentation for 3's

We are so excited to have Karen Ritter's Nature Tales come to our school again this year on November 12 & 13. Her 45 minute visits are so engaging and interesting for our 3 year olds. This year we will be learning about Animal Coverings. Children will sing songs, touch real animal coverings and explore her many bins of interesting animal items! Karen is an environmental educator who has spent many years visiting young children and teaching them about animals and nature.

<u>Halloween Happenings</u>: Trick or Treating throughout our building was an absolute success thanks to your generous candy donations! We thank you for providing our treats!

We hope you enjoyed watching our Halloween Parade! It is always such a delight to see our little ones dressed up in their costumes! We also hope you loved hearing your child sing their Halloween songs in their individual classrooms.

To those who attended Monster Madness, we hope you had a wonderful time!

<u>A Thanksgiving Celebration</u>: The 4 and 5 year olds will be coming together on the Monday before Thanksgiving Day for a Friendship Feast. They will sing songs, munch on fruit salad and make a Thanksgiving craft. Stay tuned for more information about our celebration closer to the day of the event! The 3 year olds will be celebrating too. They will be creating a Friendship Snack Mix in their classrooms.

As a reminder, there is no school Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Nov. 21, 22, and 23. Our teachers and staff would like to wish the families of Gentle Learning a happy, memorable and yummy Thanksgiving!

Holiday Events: In December, each class will be hosting a holiday program and party. Parties will take place on Thursday, December 20th and Friday, December 21^{st.} Families are invited to come hear some songs and have a treat with their child. More information will come to you as we get closer to the dates, but please mark your calendars. Our winter break runs from December 22nd through January 6^{th.} We will see you all on January 7th when school resumes!

<u>Parking Lot Etiquette</u>: As we welcome all families into our preschool for our Holiday celebrations, we ask that you exercise patience in our parking lot. To say it gets crowded out there is an understatement. As tempting as it may be, please do not use the parking lots of our neighboring businesses. You are always welcome to park in the Community Center parking lot directly east of our building.

<u>Cold and Flu Season</u>: Tis the season for coughs, runny noses and sickness...sometimes it's hard to tell if your child is too sick to come to school.

It's important to keep your little one home if they:

- have a fever of 99* or higher. A high fever coupled with a rash, earache, sore throat, lethargy or nausea may signal a highly contagious infection or the flu
- have a persistent cough and wheezing coupled with a thick or constant nasal discharge
- have persistent vomiting or diarrhea during the previous night
- have any undiagnosed rash, especially when there's a fever and behavioral change
- display any physical or emotional condition that would prevent him from participating comfortably in class
- have Pink Eye: a white or yellowish discharge, often with matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain or itch, and redness
- have Head Lice. Stay home until treated
- have Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever

We kindly ask that you let us know if your little one comes down with any of these ailments and won't be at school.

While at school, we encourage lots of hand washing and hand sanitizer. We encourage children to cough/sneeze into a Kleenex or their bent elbow. We use lots of Kleenex this time of year! We also ask children to wash hands after they cough or sneeze to get rid of any leftover sneeze/cough germs.

Pease practice and reinforce these habits at home so that we can hopefully curb the spread of cold and flu germs!