



CHILDREN'S HOUSE

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER THEMES

- ❖ Hibernation/Migration (Pre-K/K will cover in Jan.)
- ❖ Evergreens
- ❖ Reindeer & Other Winter Animals
- ❖ Hanukkah
- ❖ Christmas
- ❖ Christmas Around the World
- ❖ The Nutcracker
- ❖ Kwanzaa
- ❖ Keeping Warm – How Animals and People Keep Warm
- ❖ Cooking & Celebrations
- ❖ Giving and Sharing

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/9 Pre-K/K Caroling at MM – To be held in the East Café at approximately 11:20.

Children will share songs and poems for about 20 minutes and will then move on to lunch. Parents are welcome to join children while they have their lunch.

We do ask that the children not be offered or have purchased for them any food or treats other than what MM provides for all the children present - to avoid hurt feelings of others not offered the same.



Children who are remaining with their parent(s) after the performance are, of course, welcome to leave the cafeteria at any time after lunch is served. Children, who will be coming back to the center on the bus with the staff, however, **cannot** leave the cafeteria except to go with parent to use the restroom.

We will need parents to be responsible for letting a staff member know if they will be leaving the cafeteria for this reason. We need to keep track of every child and re-board the bus on time, and would really appreciate parent cooperation to help this special event run smoothly.



Big THANKS to Diane MacLeod at MM for arranging this special event AND for arranging for all the expenses to be covered!

Thanks goes out to Charlene Dodd too for helping us on the day of the event!

FIA – Due to everyone's busy schedule during this holiday month, FIA will be postponed until January. The P2 Room

Rep, Kelly Maguire, will host the meeting on site at Children's House. The date will be posted and sent via email to everyone once it is set.

12/16 Hanukkah Begins



12/18 Holiday Party at Children's House - Festivities will abound all morning! Children will play games, sing carols to each other and share special treats brought in from home. Please see signs on classroom doors from teachers regarding the details of the party.

12/18 Shh! Santa Visiting— Each year we ask parents to send in one new, wrapped book appropriate for a child the same age as their own. During his visit, "Santa" will give out the books. Santa will visit each classroom beginning at 10:00 in the Infant room.



Please (discreetly) deliver a new, wrapped book valued at approximately \$4-5.00 (no multiple books in one wrapped package, musical books, electronic books, or books with tapes/CD's, please) to your child's teacher by

Monday, December 15th. Staff will need a day or two to determine if all books have been brought in and to label the books for Santa. The books parents bring in will not go to their own child (unless by coincidence). In the past, this request has led to discrepancies in book values, which are recognized by other children.

If you do not wish your child to participate, please let his/her teachers know as soon as possible.

12/22-1/2 Days Out Coming Up? - We will be posting a sign-up sheet in each classroom to determine staffing needs around the holidays. Our numbers tend to be down a bit and we like to offer staff time off to be with their families whenever possible. We would really appreciate if parents could let us know their plans by Friday, 12/19 if possible so that we can arrange appropriate staffing.



Wednesday, 12/31
New Year's Eve
CENTER CLOSING
at
5:00 p.m.



1/1/15 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Center Closed

PARENT/TEACHER
CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled during the first few weeks of December for Toddlers through K. Please look for a posting/sign-up in your child's classroom. If you are unable to meet with your child's teacher during the posted times, please feel free to request a conference by telephone or arrange an alternative time that is convenient to both you and the teacher.

SAFETY AT THE
FRONT DOOR

It is very important that as you enter the building, you **not let anyone else enter with you** that has not also been given permission to enter. I know this goes against our need to be polite and hold the door for each other, but we must ask this of everyone to maintain some control over who is in the building. If you recognize the person as a parent who typically picks up the same time as you or the individual is someone you work with who

also has a child enrolled (so the face is *very* familiar), then certainly go ahead and let them in. In general though, we ask that parents/guardians, grandparents and/or ANYONE authorized to drop off or pick up at the center find some polite words to let the person behind you know that you have to shut the door behind you and then they can buzz in.

Thank you so much for your cooperation!



WINTER IS UPON
US...BRRR!!!

Please help the staff this winter...

Children will have outdoor play time every day unless temperatures or wind chills place daytime temp at lower than 32 degrees (also taking the "real feel" temp into consideration). Children need to dress in layers and need to be prepared to go outdoors at least one time every day.

Children cannot stay indoors due to illness or lack of appropriate outdoor clothing. We just don't have the staffing to accommodate this. We do have extra mittens and hats and will share those with children who come in unprepared for outdoor play.

Children should be sent to school with 2 pairs of *mittens*

Wednesday, 12/24
Christmas Eve
CENTER CLOSING
at
4:00 p.m.

12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE!!
(CENTER CLOSED)





instead of gloves unless he/she is able to put gloves on *completely* by him/herself.

It is important to label belongings with your child's name, not just initials. Fabric paint does a great job!

Please *expect* snow pants, mittens, hats, coats, etc., to be wet at pick-up time.

We appreciate your understanding if your child is missing a mitten or any other items. We do our best, but with 110+ children, we're bound to misplace an item or two.

It would also help staff if you would teach your child to put his/her *dry* mittens and hat, into the sleeve of his/her coat. This seems to be the best way to keep track of everything and helps staff tremendously. Of course, if items are wet, children will be instructed to place belongings elsewhere in the classroom to dry out.

Please ask your child's teacher where the designated space for wet items will be so that you can reinforce this with your child.

NOTE: DUE TO RISK OF STRANGULATION, OUR REGULATIONS DO NOT PERMIT CHILDREN TO WEAR SCARVES OR HATS WITH STRINGS LONGER THAN 6 INCHES.

CHILDREN CANNOT WEAR HOODS WITH TIES EITHER.



**CHILDREN'S HOUSE
OPENINGS
AVAILABLE**

We currently have full time slots available in our Preschool (2.9 - 4.6 years) and one slot in our Infant room.

10-40% subsidy is available to MM employees and **10% subsidy** is available to WNEU employees and students, **Baystate Medical Center** employees and **Big Y** employees.

Call Pam Flowers for details at 782-4448 or email at pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

Please tell your co-workers, relatives and friends about Children's House!

Please Remember: Currently enrolled families are still eligible for the \$50 referral bonus! (See Pam or Mary for details)

END OF YEAR TUITION STATEMENTS

Pam Frogameni will be sending out end of year statements via email at the end of this month.

Please watch for this information. We have heard from parents in previous years that sometimes the statements

end up in SPAM or Junk Files for some reason.

If you do not receive emails from the center, you will receive a hard copy in your child's classroom "mail".

If you receive emails, but would *prefer* a hard copy of your end-of-year statement, please send an email to **Pam Frogameni** to make the request.

Pam's email is: pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org



HOLIDAY NOTES

Due to the concern about some children's items from foreign countries being unsafe or recalled, we would appreciate it if parents would not send items to the center that have been manufactured outside of the US (i.e. in holiday goody bags or to hand out at the children's holiday party, etc.).

Also, because we include information in our curriculum about healthy habits and good nutrition, we would like to encourage parents to send in "healthy" special treats for upcoming parties. Of course a couple of sweets for the children to choose from are fine too. Please remember to include FULL ingredient lists so that items can be served to the children. Without the lists, we will place items in the lounge for staff.

Thank you!





CURRENT STAFF ASSIGNMENTS



Around this time of year, parents often ask us to confirm staffing assignments and staff names...



Infant 1

- ❖ Kim Allaire
- ❖ Natasha Graham-Marshall
- ❖ Tami Ducharme
(Floater for Inf 1 and 2)

Infant 2

- ❖ Nereida Castellano
- ❖ Maria Perez
- ❖ Tami Ducharme
(Floater for Inf 1 and 2)

Toddler 1

- ❖ Margeaux Gilfoil
- ❖ Jessica Houle
- ❖ Dominika Bzdula
(Floats between T1, T2, T3)

Toddler 2

- ❖ Michelle Kelly
- ❖ Alice O'Connell



Toddler 3

- ❖ Emily Mandirola
- ❖ Noreen Fitzgerald

Preschool 2

- ❖ Natalya Yazhbin
- ❖ Marion Weston (Foster Grandmother)

(Note: Marion doesn't celebrate a December holiday, but is happy to accept a gift of appreciation)

Preschool 3

- ❖ Jennifer Close
- ❖ Donna Borchers (taking over for Jenn's maternity leave as of 12/8/14)

Preschool 4

- ❖ Marta Gonzalez
(Note: Marta doesn't celebrate a December holiday, but is happy to accept a gift of appreciation)

Pre-K/K

- ❖ Sandy Bigelow
- ❖ Julianne Downie

Support/Administrative Staff

- ❖ Regular Substitutes – Diane Guthrie, Meghan Flowers, Julie Carestia, Shannon Farmer
- ❖ Melissa Neylon, Cook
- ❖ Pam Frogameni, A.R.
- ❖ Irene Provenzano, Administrative Ass't
- ❖ Sue Alexopoulos, Mentor Teacher (*works in all classrooms as needed*)
- ❖ Pam Flowers, Director
- ❖ Mary Larrivee & Debbie McLaughlin, Owners



*From All of Us at
Children's House...*

**Happy
Holidays!**

