



CHILDREN'S HOUSE

DECEMBER 2011 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



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 bathroom.

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 Sarah Pashe and Maureen Albano at MM for arranging this special event and to Sarah Pashe for helping out with costs!!



12/15 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 afternoon visit, “Santa” will give out the books. Santa will visit each classroom this year in the afternoon on the



15th beginning at 2:30 in the Infant room.

Please (discreetly) deliver a **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 12th. 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.

12/15 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

12/13 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





12/21 The First Day of Hanukkah

12/19-12/30 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, 12/14 if possible so that we can arrange staffing.

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.



WINTER IS UPON US...BRRR!!!

Please help the staff this winter...

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!



12/26 Christmas Observed - Center Closed

1/2 New Year's Observed - Center Closed

1/18/12 FIA – 12-1 at MM (Room to be announced) hosted by the P3 Room Rep, April Santos. Please send agenda items to Pam at pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org. If you wish to attend a FIA meeting, but are not an MM employee, please feel free to contact Pam to arrange entrance into MM.

Children will have outdoor play time every day unless temperatures or wind chills place daytime temp at lower than 30 degrees. Children need to dress in layers and need to be prepared to go outdoors *every day*.

Children should be sent to school with 2 pairs of *mittens* instead of gloves unless he/she is able to put gloves on *completely* by him/herself. Mittens are just so much easier to manage.



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

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

Please try to be 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, hat, and scarf, 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.

CHILDREN'S HOUSE OPENINGS AVAILABLE

We expect to have two full time toddler openings (15 months to 2.9 yrs.) in mid January. In preschool, we have a M T Th F slot currently available.

10-40% subsidy is available to **MM** employees and **10% subsidy** is available to **WNEU** employees and students and **Baystate Medical Center** 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 WalMart referral bonus!



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled during the first few weeks of December



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 "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 China being unsafe/recalled, we would appreciate it if parents would not send items to the center that have come from China (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
- ❖ Fran Ducharme

Infant 2

- ❖ Nereida Castellano
- ❖ Noreen Fitzgerald
- ❖ Natasha Graham-Marshall
(Floater for Inf 1 and 2)

Toddler 1

- ❖ Margeaux Gilfoil
- ❖ Lynn Lewis

Toddler 2

- ❖ Patrice Zaryckyj
- ❖ Alexandria Trites
- ❖ Linda Hornig and Dianne Guthrie (float between T1, T2 and T3 for staff breaks; then cover 3:30-5:30 in T2)

Toddler 3

- ❖ Maria Perez

Preschool 2

- ❖ Natalya Yazhbin

Preschool 3

- ❖ Jennifer Close
- ❖ Sarah Schoolcraft
- ❖ Jasmine Gomez
(Floats between P3, P4 and PK)

Preschool 4

- ❖ Kristy Raymond
- ❖ Marta Gonzalez

Pre-K/K

- ❖ Sandy Bigelow
- ❖ Maura Shea

Support & Administrative Staff

- ❖ Sheila Belieu, Cook
- ❖ Pam Frogameni, A.R.
- ❖ Irene Provenzano, Administrative Ass't
- ❖ Sue Alexopoulos, Mentor Teacher
- ❖ Pam Flowers, Director
- ❖ Mary Larrivee & Debbie McLaughlin, Owners



Happy Holidays!

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

