



Children's House

January 2012 Newsletter

JANUARY THEMES

New Year Celebration!

Hibernation

Migration



Animals Who Thrive in Winter or Cold
Climates

Eskimos

Dressing for Winter

Winter Season in Warm Climates

Winter Fun



Martin Luther King, Jr.
(K)

Alaska and Antarctica (K)

Snow and Ice

Peter and the Wolf

...and/or any other special topics of interest
voiced by the children.

*If you have any materials or other
information on these themes, please feel
free to share them!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/2/12 Happy New Year! Center
Closed

1/18 FIA at MM 12-1 Birch N/S.
Please send any agenda items to Pam at
pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org.

1/16 Center Closed in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO PARENTS

The Comprehensive Health Team is a resource that in the past has been very supportive to our staff. This past year, their grant was re-written to focus more on parents. We are hoping that team members might be able to meet with parents at FIA a couple times each year. Marilyn Barnett, the nurse on the team, has been in touch with our center in hopes of meeting with parents and offering information on different topics that parents might be interested in such as: Allergies & Asthma, Developmental Milestones through the Early Years and How to Identify Delays, Vision/Hearing - How to Determine if your child is seeing/hearing his/her best. She is happy to put together information on other topics too! Please let Pam know if there's a health/development-related topic that you would like to learn more about.

CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET DONATIONS

Children's House staff and families generously donated 5+ large bags of clothing to Gray House this December!! Thank you so much for taking the time to *Clean Out Your Closet!*



HATS WITH STRINGS & SCARVES

Our licensing regulations include a section about playground safety. In that section, it states that children should not be allowed to be on the playground with any clothing that could pose a strangulation hazard. This unfortunately includes all the adorable hats that are the big craze right now with the braided strings or strings with pom poms, all winter coats with strings in the hoods and all scarves.

In order to meet this safety requirement, we need to ask that these types of clothing items stay at home.

A NOTE ABOUT WINTER ILLNESS

Unfortunately this year, everyone is getting hit hard with coughs, colds and flu. If your child has a fever prior to receiving any medication, *please* keep him/her home from school. Children who have very heavy colds or coughs should also be kept home even if there is no fever. Pink eye is a typical illness seen during the winter season. Children with leaky eyes must be kept home until the eye(s) are no longer leaking clear fluid or pus. It is this fluid/pus that causes other children (and staff) to contract the illness. So, even if your child has been on the eye antibiotic for 24 hours, if the eye(s) are still leaking, he/she needs to be kept home.



We have also seen several children (and staff) with stomach viruses. If your child complains of stomach pain and refuses to eat breakfast, he/she

should not be brought to the center. It is a huge challenge to get children who are vomiting or have diarrhea to the bathroom in time. This puts the child in distress and the clean up is a difficult task while trying to take care of the other children in the group – not to mention the level of contagion in the room after such an incident. Diapered children create the same issue when the diaper leaks on the floor.

Please ask your child's teacher where to store any medications brought from home. Instructions are posted on the fridge in the kitchen and on the fridge in P4 for parents who are dropping off medication. **Parents will need to supply a dosing cup or spoon for each medication brought to the center.** All medications must be placed in a separate baggie to keep from coming in contact with other medications stored in the same bin. Baggies are located on top of the fridge.

Parents, please understand, if your child is brought to school mildly ill, we cannot keep him/her indoors if the rest of the group is going out. Children should have snow gear/cold weather gear at the center every day.

If the weather is very poor or below 30 degrees, the children will stay indoors and the staff will 'get their wiggles out' by offering a variety of fun, indoor gross motor activities.

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Those who have been with us a few years know that Children's House is rarely closed. The 2011 Halloween storm closing was certainly an anomaly. **In the event we must close full day or have an**

opening delay, announcements will be shared with parents as described in the recently sent home flyer entitled “In Case of Emergency/Disaster/Storm”. Extra copies of this flyer are available to parents on the credenza in the main hallway. If we plan to close early, parents who are connected to us via email will be notified via email. Only parents who have not given us an email address or who specifically ask to be called instead (notify teacher in writing with phone # you wish to be contacted at) will receive phone calls. Please check emails often on poor weather days.

If we are open and you plan to keep your child home, it would be so helpful if you could let us know. If no staff are available to answer the phone, the automated answer system will pick up. Please leave all messages in the **general mailbox**. These messages will be distributed to the teachers as soon as possible.

If your child will be significantly late (10:00 or later) we also appreciate a phone call. Lunch counts go in at 10:00 and we would like to have enough lunch prepared for late arrivers.



Alumni/Sibling care...

For those families who have older siblings and experience public school closings, we do offer childcare for alumni children or siblings.

The day cost is \$49.00 and should be paid in the morning upon drop off on the day that care is provided.

Please call the center in the morning (use the “8” – emergency line before 9:00 a.m.) to see if there is an opening.

E-Mail ADDRESSES

Mary Larrivee (Business Manager/Owner) can be reached at:
mlarrivee@childrenshouseinc.org

Debbie McLaughlin (Executive Director/Owner) can be reached at:
dmclaughlin@childrenshouseinc.org

Pam Flowers, the Center Director can be reached at:
pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org

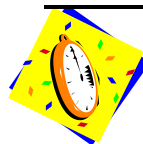
Irene Provenzano can be reached at:
iprovenzano@childrenshouseinc.org

Pam Frogameni in Accounts Receivable can be reached at:
pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org

CAROLING AT MM



Thank you so much to Sarah Pashe and Maureen Albano who helped pull together all the details so that the Pre-K class could go caroling at MM this December! Everyone had a great time and the children were adorable – of course! Thank you also to Sarah Pashe, our MM Liaison, for offering her “cost center” to fund the event.



*To all our families who have been so supportive of us this past year, **THANK YOU** so much!*

We appreciate your donations, volunteering your time to chaperone or help plan an event, assisting and supporting teachers and the center as a whole.

We appreciate the help Room Reps have offered this school year too!

HAPPY NEW YEAR