



# Children's House January 2015 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

**1/1/15 Happy New Year!** Center  
Closed

**1/19 Center Closed** in observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

**1/21 FIA Meeting** at Children's House  
4:30-5:15 p.m.

## REFERRAL BONUS FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED FAMILIES

Children's House offers a \$50 Wal-Mart  
Gift Card referral bonus or a \$50 tuition  
credit to currently enrolled families who  
help us with new enrollment. *Note:*  
"New enrollment" does not apply to state  
subsidized slots.

As many of you know from the sign on  
the front door, for safety reasons, we  
do not accept walk-in tours or  
applicants. All visitors need to have a  
scheduled appointment.

This does place us in a more challenging  
enrollment position because our  
previous experience has been that  
families who "walk in" for information  
do sometimes enroll.

Our current families can assist us in  
keeping tuition costs down by means of  
keeping slots that become available  
enrolled. We are so appreciative when  
our families refer family members,  
friends and co-workers!

If you know anyone who might be  
interested, please take a brochure from  
the clear box on the wall outside by the  
front door and encourage them to  
contact the center.

*Thank you!*



## CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET DONATIONS

With your help, we were able to donate 3 full bags of clothing items to area churches and shelters. Thank you so much to those who took the time to *Clean Out Your Closet!*

### TAX INFO

Pam Frogameni and Irene Provenzano will be sending out notices by the end of this month to all families which will indicate the total tuition paid in 2014.

They will include a copy of the W-10 form and our Tax I.D. #. If you just need the Tax ID # for taxes it is:

**04-2669383**



### A NOTE ABOUT WINTER ILLNESS

Unfortunately this year, some children are 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. Department of Public Health regulations require centers to require parents to only send children who have had a fever back to school when they have been *fever free for at least 24 hours having taken **NO fever reducing medications.***

Children who aren't eating or drinking well, who would have a hard time flowing with the regular center routines or 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 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 (including the wind chill temp),



the children will stay indoors and the staff will 'get their wiggles out' by offering a variety of fun, indoor gross motor activities.

## MEDICAL INFO NEEDS CONSISTENT UPDATING

Please ask your child's physician to print from their own system or complete an updated health form (available on the credenza on the left side in the main hallway) EVERY time he/she is seen for a well-child visit. This would include a physical date, a current immunization list and current lead test. Lead tests must be completed yearly from 1 year through age 3. A last test must be done at age 4 if the child resides in Springfield because Springfield is still considered a high risk location for lead poisoning.

Please bring a copy of the updated information to the center as soon as possible after the visit. Medical info can be handed directly to your child's teacher, placed in the tuition drawer (folded lengthwise so it'll go through the mail slot) or placed under Pam's door or on Pam's desk if the door is open.

We have over one hundred files to stay on top of, so if parents could help us out by sending the info in before the staff have to request it, that would be really helpful.

*Thank you!*



## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Those who have been with us a few years know that Children's House is rarely closed.

**In the event we must close full day, have an opening delay or early closure, announcements will be shared with parents as described in the flyer entitled "In Case of Emergency/Disaster/Storm".** Extra copies of this flyer are available to parents on the table in the main hallway across from the adult restrooms.

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 staff are not 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/OLDER SIBLING CARE**

For those families who have older siblings and experience public school closings, we do offer childcare for alumni children or siblings through the age of 7.

The per diem cost is \$51.50 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.) if you’d like to see if there is an opening.** Alumni care must be *pre-arranged* with the early morning staff.



## **PRE-K CAROLING AT MassMutual**

Thank you so much to Diane MacLeod, Charlene Dodd and Pam Laushway at MassMutual who all helped pull together the many 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 Diane, our MM Liaison, for offering her “cost center” to fund the special caroling/luncheon event.

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

*We appreciate your referrals, 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 all our Room Reps have offered this school year too!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**