



# Children's House NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events

**10/12...Picture Day for Downstairs** (Infants, Toddlers and P1) Please have children at the center by 9:00 a.m.

**10/13...Picture Day for Upstairs, P4 and Sibling Photos** Please have children at the center by 9:00 a.m.

**10/14...Firefighters Visit with their FIRETRUCKS!**

To be rescheduled if poor weather.

**10/18...FIA Meeting at MassMutual** 12-1 Elm N/S in Springfield. Please let Pam know if you would like to attend but are not an MM employee..

Please send agenda items/ideas to Pam at :

[pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org)

**10/20...Randalls Farm Field**

**Trip for P1, P2, P3, P4 and Pre-K/K**—Watch email and mailboxes/folders for field trip permission forms. Chaperones welcomed!

**Firefighter Joe will visit this month! Date to be announced.**

**10/31...Halloween Party**—Costumes encouraged for all ages! See individual classrooms for additional party details.



## PUMPKIN POWER



It's pumpkin season! Did you know that pumpkins are packed full of Vitamin A? This vitamin is thought to protect against cancer and heart disease. Dig into this delicious pumpkin bread!

### Pumpkin Bread

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup oil
- 2 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 cup pumpkin

Mix together sugars, eggs and oil. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

*Optional ingredients:*  
3/4 c. chocolate chips,  
and/or 3/4 c. walnuts



## Room Representatives

We would like to thank all those who volunteered to be a Room Representative this year. Staff have chosen one person to represent their room but hope that all who signed up will be willing to assist!

The following parents are our new **Room Reps for the 2011/2012 school year...**

I1 ~ Nicole Van Horn

I2 ~ Nicole Van Horn

T1~ Kristen Shejen

T2~ **Need a Volunteer!**

P1 ~ April Santos

P2~ Beth Bowler

P3~ **Need a Volunteer!**

P4 ~ Lynne O'Connor

Pre-K/K ~ Katie Shea

*Parents,*

*Please remember that center or classroom related issues or concerns should always be directed to the classroom teacher or Pam—not the Room Reps ...*

*Thank you!*



## October Themes

- Signs of Fall
- Squirrels and Acorns
- Columbus Day (Older Children)
- Fire Prevention
- Bats, Spiders, Pumpkins
- Halloween

Please feel free to share any information, materials, or books pertaining to any of these topics.

## FIA DATES

## 2012 MM Subsidy Applications Due

The Family Involvement Association will meet in the **Elm N/S room at MM from 12:00-1:00 on October 18th.** All parents are encouraged to attend! If you are not an MM parent, just contact Pam. We can meet and go through security at MM together.

Katie Shea, our Pre-K/K Room Rep will chair the 10/18 meeting. Lynne O'Connor, our P4 Room Rep has booked the November FIA for 11/16 12-1 in the Maple Room at MM.

Future meetings will be booked and chaired by Room Reps (P3 in Dec, P2 in Jan, P1 in Feb, etc.). If your Rep is unable to attend a FIA meeting, he/she may ask for someone else in the room to attend in their place. Please be supportive of them!



Children's House is now collecting 2012 Subsidy Applications from families currently enrolled who access more than 10% subsidy or whose subsidy will change in January 2012.

*All applications are due to the center by the end of this month.* Forms can be obtained online at MM. **10% families are automatically re-enrolled. No new subsidy form is necessary.**

If families are eligible for subsidy *greater than 10%*, a copy of the 2011 1040 tax form must be submitted to the center with the application (in tuition drawer).

Families who enrolled over the summer or early fall who are eligible for greater than 10% subsidy **still need to submit a new 2012 Subsidy Application, but do not**

**need to submit tax information** again.

All forms can be placed in the tuition drawer. If too bulky, feel free to place in an envelope on Pam's desk.

If parents are able to send info to the center electronically, that is fine too. Please email to [mlarrivee@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:mlarrivee@childrenshouseinc.org) or fax to Mary Larrivee at 782-8073.

Our accounts receivable clerk, Pam Frogemini, may also be able to assist you with any questions regarding subsidy or tuition.

Thank you!



## It's Fire Safety Month!

*If your child has some spare time at home, and knows "Firefighter Joe" from his visits last (school) year, it would be nice if he/she could make a Thank You card or picture of some type to thank him for all the work he puts into teaching fire safety to the children at Children's House.*



*Firefighter Joe will visit our center*

*sometime later this month and is always appreciate of pictures and cards from the children.*

## Community Service Projects

*Thank you to all those who supported community service projects last school year! We'd like to ask for your support again this year...*

*In November, we would like to collect non-perishable food items for the Open Pantry.*

*In December, we were thinking about*

*collecting for the Toys for Tots program, but are open to any ideas parents might have.*

*The next FIA meeting is scheduled for 10/18. Please feel free to bring ideas to the meeting! Some suggestions so far: Hygiene kits for women and children in women's shelters in this area, mitten tree, Coats for Kids, Hop-n-ing for Easter Seals.*

*It would be great if we had parent volunteers willing to help Sue Alexopoulos, our Community Service Project Coordinator with any of the community projects.*

*Please let us know if you can help!*



## Teachers Love to Collect "Stuff"

If you have access to any of the following items, please feel free to ask your **child's teacher** if she would like you to donate them to the classroom:

- Small golf pencils
- Spray bottles (washed out, label removed)
- Scraps of materials and ribbon – esp. with different textures

- Ziploc Bags or Lunch Bags for Projects and to send projects home in
- Large cardboard boxes (i.e. refrigerator or stove; please ask teacher before bringing in)
- Scrap paper with at least one side clear, scrap envelopes, notebooks, folders, plain stickers, etc. from MM

- Anything for dramatic play (unusual clothing or accessories)

Some of the themes used throughout the year:



- Housekeeping
- Fire Station
- Post Office

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# Halloween Party, October 31st !

All children are encouraged to come to school in costume and bring a change of clothes for the afternoon. (Yes .. even the babies and toddlers can come in costume!!) Many staff members will come to work in costume too!

We ask that accessories to costumes be *very* limited and clearly labeled. Also, please do not allow children to bring “weapons” in with their costumes.

Because some children are wary of masks and make-up, please be sure your child’s costume, mask and/or make-up is not too scary.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

Refreshments will be welcomed! Please sign up in your child’s classroom if you’d like to bring something in. Although we all love cookies and brownies, *we encourage parents to also consider more nutritious treats*. The following is a list of items parents have brought in the past that the children seemed to enjoy:

- Banana Bread
- Pumpkin Muffins
- Frozen Fruit Bars
- Veggies with Dip (for older children)
- Frozen Yogurt
- Popcorn (for older children)
- Cheese
- Chex (or any type of cereal) Mix

Ingredient lists **must** accompany all items. We cannot have anything in the classrooms containing nut products or anything with a label that says “manufactured in a factory which also processes nuts”.

## Teachers Love to Collect (cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*


- Office
- Pet Shop
- Restaurant
- Laboratory
- Dentist’s Office
- Grocery Store
- Under The Sea
- Taking Care of Babies
- Hairstylist
- Toy Shop
- Safari
- Doctor’s Office
- Florist Shop
- Jungle
- Summer Picnic/Hawaiian Party...and



any other topic our creative staff can dream up!!


Again, please be sure your child’s teacher is able to accept donated items.

We have limited storage space, so we have to be careful about the amount of items coming in.



### Extra Clothing

Please check your child’s back pack to be sure he/she has a complete set of season appropriate extra clothing (including socks, pants, shirt and underpants/panties ) to change into in the event of a spill, art mishap or accident.



### Medical Forms, Vacation Notices, Withdrawal Notices, and Book Orders ...

*The above information should always be left on Pam’s desk. If the door to the office is closed early in the morning, please slip information under the door.*





### ARE YOU HAPPY AT CHILDREN'S HOUSE?

We are looking for parent testimonials to share with prospective new families .

We would appreciate ANY comments in writing.

We'd like to be able to put the testimonials collected into a binder or on a poster of some type for prospective parent viewing.

If you are willing to provide us with your written comments, please place them on Pam's desk. We will, of course, accept your comments anytime throughout the year, but for now, we are hoping that our current families (or even alumni families!) can share their positive experiences with parents who might be in need of future care.



### AUTOMATED ANSWERING SYSTEM

If parents call the center before 8:00 a.m. or after 4:30 p.m., our automated telephone system may pick up. Feel free to leave a message in the "general mailbox" if you are calling to let us know your child will not be in or will be in later than normal. If you need to speak to a staff person, press "8" and the phone will ring in the P3 room. An opening staff person will transfer you to an on-shift staff person as needed. Please call back and hit "8" again if no one picks up. Sometimes we miss the call if staff are really busy. Thanks!

### Thank You!

Thank you to all those families who donated scrap paper and toys to the center over the summer and this September.

Although Debbie McLaughlin keeps our classrooms very well supplied, we still appreciate the generosity of parents who are willing to donate "gently used" items to the center.

We're sure the children appreciate it too!

### Reminder:

Children's House will be closed on Thanksgiving Day (11/24/11) and the following day (11/25/11) to allow staff time to be with their families.

~Enjoy the long weekend!

### Food Allergies

Please check with your child's teacher before sending in food items for parties, birthdays or any other type of celebration. All our classrooms are "Nut Free". We also have children who are allergic to certain fruits, milk, eggs and food additives.

Thanks!



Welcome Fall!