

# Upcoming Events



## Children's House NEWSLETTER

**10/12 Picture Day for Infants & Toddlers** — Please have children at the center by 9:00 a.m.

**10/13...Picture Day for P2, P3, P4, PK and Sibling Photos** Please have children at the center by 9:00 a.m.

**Picture Note:** *If your child does not normally attend on the day his/her Picture Day is scheduled, please let teacher know if you would like individual photo taken on the other day the photographer is here. If you would like your child in the class photo, feel free to arrange to be here on the day it will be taken at/around 9:00. There may be a wait as we take all class photos before beginning individuals.*

**10/14...10:00 Firefighters will Visit with their FIRETRUCKS!**

**10/18...Field Trip to Randalls Farm for P2, P3, P4 and PK**—Chaperones are welcomed! Children will pick a pumpkin, have a cider donut and apple cider, play fun fall games, and

enjoy a hayride

**10/20...FIA Meeting for Room Reps at Children's House 4:30-5:15** Regular meetings will begin in November.

*Please send agenda items/ideas to Pam at:*

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

**10/31...Halloween Party—**  
**Costumes encouraged for all ages!**



See individual classroom postings for additional party details.

**10/31...Ages and Stages Questionnaire forms due** - Teachers will use information gathered on these forms along with additional info gathered so far this school year to begin writing Progress Reports.



## 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 2016/2017 school year...

I1~ **Need a volunteer!**

I2 ~ **Need a volunteer!**

T1 ~ **Need a volunteer!**

T2 ~ **Need a volunteer!**

T3 ~ **Need a volunteer!**

P2 ~ Melanie Gagne

P3 ~ Lynzi Gayle

P4 ~ Dawn Spenard

Pre-K/K ~ Kelly Maguire

**Parents,**

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

**Thank you!**



## 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

**Yummy!**



## 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



The **Room Representatives** will get together for the first **Family Involvement Association** meeting at Children's House from **4:30-5:15 on 10/20/16**.

Our first *group* FIA meeting will be held in November and will be hosted by the PK Room Rep. **All** parents are encouraged to attend FIA meetings.

To accommodate our non-MM families, we will be alternating meeting locations between Children's House and MassMutual. Non-MM parents ARE welcome to attend meetings at MM though. Just contact Pam Flowers to arrange. As soon as we have a date for the November meeting, it will be posted.

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 will soon begin

## 2017 MM Subsidy Applications

collecting 2017 Subsidy Applications from families currently enrolled who access **more than 10% subsidy** or whose subsidy will change in January 2017.

*MassMutual will inform employees of the due date.* Forms will soon be available 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 2016 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 2017 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 or slide under the

door if closed.

If parents are able to send info to the center electronically, that is fine too. Please email to [pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org) or fax to Pam Frogameni at (413) 782-8073.

Our administrative assistant, Irene Provenzano, is also available to assist you with any questions regarding subsidy or tuition. She can be reached at : [iprovenzano@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:iprovenzano@childrenshouseinc.org)

Thank you!



## It's Fire Safety Month!

*If your child has some spare time at home, it would be nice if he/she could make a Thank You card or picture of some type to thank the firefighters who will be visiting on the 14th for all the hard work they do.*

*Any items collected can be given to the classroom teachers. The teachers will deliver the notes/pictures on the day of the visit.*



## 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.*

*Please feel free to bring ideas to the FIA meeting! Some suggestions so far: Climb For Air, Walk for Down Syndrome, Coats for Kids.*

*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
- Paper plates of various sizes
- 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 (**REALLY** needed), scrap envelopes, notebooks, folders, plain stickers, etc.
- *Anything* for dramatic play (unusual

clothing, costumes or accessories)

Some of the themes used throughout the year:

- Housekeeping
- Fire Station
- Post Office
- Office



*(Continued on page 3)*

# Halloween Party, October 31st !

All children are encouraged to come to school in costume and bring a change of clothes for the afternoon. (Yes .. We even encourage the babies and toddlers to 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 scary costumes, masks and make-up, please be sure your child's costume, mask and/or make-up are 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". We also don't allow children to be served anything with artificial sweeteners.

## Teachers Love to Collect (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

- 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.



## Alumni Care

Children's House can offer care for alumni students (ages 2.9 and older) for \$56.00/day during school vacations, other closed days/holidays where the schools are closed, but Children's House is open. We have to have a slot open to accommodate alumni, so advanced notice is helpful. If something comes up unexpectedly, just give us a call and we'll try to help out!





### **Thank You!**

**Thank you to all those families who donated scrap paper , binders, toys and wonderful educational materials to the center over the summer and this September.**

**Although Debbie and Mary keep 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!**



### **Upcoming "Center Closed" Reminder:**

**Children's House will be closed on Thanksgiving Day (11/24/16) and the following day (11/25/16) to allow staff time to be with their families.**

**~Enjoy the long weekend!**

### **NAEYC—The National Association for the Education of Young Children**

*Children's House maintains state licensing AND national accreditation. Every 2 years the center is state relicensed and every 5 years we are re-accredited. Both involve extensive documentation. This is our NAEYC re-accreditation year so staff will be actively updating portfolios and may ask parents to assist them in providing anecdotes, photos or testimony to meet specific criteria. We will talk more about the re-accreditation and share portfolios at our first FIA meeting on 10/20/16.*

### **AUTOMATED ANSWERING SYSTEM**

*If parents call the center before 8:00 a.m. or after 2:30 p.m., our automated telephone system may pick up.*

*If you are calling in the morning to let us know your child will not be in or will be in later than normal, feel free to leave a message in the "general mailbox".*

*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!*

### **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!**