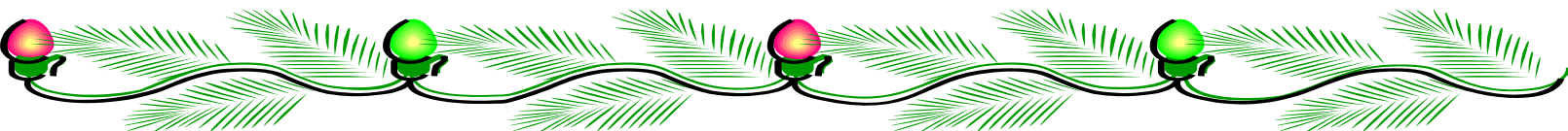




# CHILDREN'S HOUSE

## DECEMBER 2016 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



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 12/13/16 Family Involvement Association (FIA) Meeting / Luncheon - 12-1 at Children's House

We anticipate this will be the last meeting our current owners, Mary Larrivee and Debbie McLaughlin will be attending, so we have planned a little luncheon to thank parents for their involvement and support over the years. The transition to new ownership will be discussed. **Please RSVP** to Pam via phone, in person, by note or email:

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

by 12/9/16 so that we can adequately plan food. Thank you!!



#### 12/20 Pre-K/K Caroling at MM

To be held in the East Café at approximately 11:20.

Due to challenging logistics, high numbers and some very young ages in PS, we just cannot bring *all* the PS and PK children to do caroling at MM. With parental permission, all children who are 4.0 by 12/31/16 will participate in sharing songs and poems for about 20 minutes and will then move on to have lunch in the MM employee cafeteria. Parents are welcome to join children while they have their lunch and can purchase their own lunch. *Note: MM does not accept credit/debit – only cash.*

*IMPORTANT: 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. (It's supposed to be a fun morning and we've seen it ruined for some little ones in this way.)*

Children who are remaining with their parent(s) after the 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 restroom.

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.

For security reasons, MassMutual requires the full name of each parent or other individual (grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.), who is not a MM employee, **PRIOR** to our event. Please give your child's teacher this information as soon as possible, but *no later than 12/16/16*.



**Big THANKS to Diane MacLeod and Gail Gamache at MM for helping us arrange this special event AND for arranging for all the expenses to be covered!**

**12/16 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 morning party.

**12/16 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 visit, “Santa” will give out the books. Santa will visit each classroom beginning at 10:00 in the Infant room.



Please (discreetly) deliver a new, wrapped book valued at approximately \$4-\$5 (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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**12/19-1/1 Days Out Coming Up?** - 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, 12/16 if possible so that we can arrange appropriate staffing.

### 12/25 Hanukkah Begins



### 12/26 MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!! CHRISTMAS OBSERVED



**CENTER CLOSED**

*There are so many special days celebrated during the month of December all over the world.*

*The Pre-K/K class will learn about many of these this month and 20 of them are represented in the main hallway in the form of art. The Pre-K/K children and staff would like for everyone to please take a moment to read through the card associated with the project done by a Pre-K/K child to learn about a special custom or holiday!*

### 1/2/17 HAPPY NEW YEAR! New Year's Day Observed Center Closed



### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

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

Children will enjoy outdoor play time every day unless temperatures or wind chills place daytime temp at lower than 30 degrees (also taking the “real feel” temp into consideration). Children need to dress in layers and need to be prepared to go outdoors at least one time every day.

Children cannot stay indoors due to illness or lack of appropriate outdoor clothing. We just don't have the staffing to accommodate this. We do have extra mittens and hats and will share those with children who come in unprepared for outdoor play.

Children should be sent to school with 2 pairs of *mitten*s instead of gloves unless he/she is able to put gloves on *completely* by him/herself. (Imagine being in a classroom of 10-20 children who are trying to get ready to go outside...whatever parents can do to help us is so appreciated!)

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

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

We appreciate your 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 and hat, 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.

**NOTE: DUE TO RISK OF STRANGULATION, OUR REGULATIONS DO NOT PERMIT CHILDREN TO WEAR SCARVES OR HATS WITH STRINGS LONGER THAN 6 INCHES.**

**CHILDREN CANNOT WEAR HOODS WITH TIES EITHER.**



## 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 classroom "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](mailto:pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org)

## HOLIDAY NOTES

*Due to the concern about some children's items from foreign countries being unsafe or recalled, we would appreciate it if parents would not send items to the center that have been manufactured outside of the US (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!*

## STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Around this time of year, parents often ask us to confirm staffing assignments and staff names...

### Infant 1

- ❖ Kim Allaire
- ❖ Marta Gonzalez  
(Note: Marta doesn't celebrate a December holiday, but is happy to accept a gift of appreciation)

### Infant 2

- ❖ Nereida Castellano
- ❖ Jio Colon
- ❖ Amanda Calhoun

### Toddler 1

- ❖ Tonya Kalesnik
- ❖ Katia Mejia
- ❖ Noreen Fitzgerald  
(Opener)

### Toddler 2

- ❖ Sue Alexopoulos
- ❖ Jacquelin Borrero
- ❖ Michelle Kelly  
(late afternoon)
- ❖ Dianne Guthrie  
(Mentor Teacher)

### Toddler 3

- ❖ Meghan Flowers
- ❖ Jessica Houle
- ❖ Jennifer Fontoura



## Preschool 2

- ❖ Natalya Yazhbin
- ❖ Sharane Austin  
(Student Teacher)

## Preschool 3

- ❖ Emily Sausville
- ❖ Brittany Gordner

## Pre-K/K

- ❖ Sandy Bigelow
- ❖ Jennifer Close-Conlon
- ❖ Emma Garcia (Floats in P2,  
P3, P4, Pre-K/K)

## Support/Administrative Staff

- ❖ Regular Substitutes –  
Judy Borrero  
Peggy Daoust
- ❖ Sheila Belieu, Cook  
(Assists in classrooms in p.m. too  
as needed)
- ❖ Pam Frogameni, A.R.
- ❖ Irene Provenzano,  
Administrative Ass't
- ❖ Sue Alexopoulos,  
Mentor Teacher (*works in  
all classrooms as needed*)
- ❖ Pam Flowers, Director
- ❖ Mary Larrivee & Debbie  
McLaughlin, Owners

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

***Happy  
Holidays!***

