



CHILDREN'S HOUSE



DECEMBER 2024 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

12/17 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. If the weather cooperates, Santa will greet each classroom outside on the front patio. The children will sing a song or two with him, receive their presents (the books) and then return inside.



If you would like your child to participate, 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 **Wednesday, December 11th**.

Staff will need a bit of time 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).

If you do not wish your child to participate, please let his/her teachers know as soon as possible.

12/20 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 entry doors (*or there may be a note from your child's teacher*) regarding the details of the morning party.



12/23/24-1/2/25 In/Out? We have posted a sign-up sheet for 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, 12/13 if possible so that we can arrange appropriate staffing.

12/25 Hanukkah Begins
Happy Hanukkah



12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
Center is closed



12/26 Kwanzaa Begins
Happy Kwanzaa



12/25-12/27 Center Closed –
Winter Break

1/1/25 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
New Year's Day
Center Closed 1/1/25



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent / Teacher conferences will continue into the first few weeks of December for Toddlers through K.

Please speak with your child's teacher to schedule a time that works for both of you.

Meetings can be held by phone during naptime or on site later in the day near closing time.





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 a few extra sets of mittens and hats and will share those with children who come in unprepared for outdoor play. Any donations of snowpants, hats, mittens or winter coats would be appreciated!

Children should be sent to school with 2 pairs of *mittens* instead of gloves unless he/she is able to put gloves on *completely* by him/herself. (Imagine being in a classroom of 9-20 children who are trying to get ready to go outside...whatever parents can do to help us is so appreciated!)



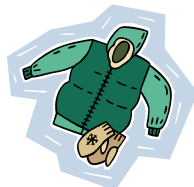
It is important to label belongings with your child’s name, not just initials. Fabric paint does a great job!

Please expect snow pants, mittens, hats, coats, etc., to be wet at pick-up time. Feel free to leave them here to dry. There is no need to take them home daily unless your child is part time and shares a cubby. In that case, belongings are sent home daily.

We appreciate your understanding if your child is missing a mitten or any other items. We do our best,

but with so many 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.

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 beginning of January.

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 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: pfrogameni720@gmail.com

Withdrawn families must call the center to request an end of year statement.



HOLIDAY NOTES

Due to the concern about some children’s items from countries outside the US 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.) unless they include ASTM rating for safety directly on the packaging.

We are unable to accept any home-made food items. All food items brought in for celebrations must include FULL ingredient lists so they can be served to the children.

Without the ingredient lists, we will place items in the lounge for staff. Be sure to check for nuts/peanuts or notations that say something to the effect of, “processed on equipment that also processes tree nuts/peanuts”. We also cannot serve items containing artificial sweeteners. Thank you!



ILLNESS REMINDER...

Please notify the center immediately (pjflowers720@gmail.com) if your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness. Children must be out 24 hours AFTER a fever breaks – with no fever reducing medication. Children must also be out for 24 hours after starting a medication. Parents should not bring a child to the center after being diagnosed with an ear infection, sinus infection, strep throat, or pneumonia or other similar illnesses without having started the medication and waited the 24 hour period.

Being mindful of these policies may be inconvenient, but they are in place to protect your child as well as the others enrolled and our staff.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

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

Infant 1

- ❖ Kim Allaire
- ❖ Olivia Allaire

Infant 2

- ❖ Marta Gonzalez
(Note: Marta doesn't celebrate a December holiday. She CAN accept a gift or note of appreciation though.)
- ❖ Vivi Aguilar

Toddler 1

- ❖ Sharlene Diaz
- ❖ Andrea Szczur

Toddler 2

- ❖ Enya Cotto
- ❖ Chelsea Cavanaugh

Toddler 3

- ❖ Ciara Gamache
- ❖ Gabby Flebotte

Toddler 4

- ❖ Ceryn O'Rourke
- ❖ Izzy Flebotte

Preschool 1

- ❖ Natalya Yazhbin

Preschool 2

- ❖ Leinadyz Rosa

Preschool 3

- ❖ Elianna Aquino
- ❖ Emma Chevalier

Pre-K/K

- ❖ Sandy Bigelow
- ❖ Jennifer Close-Conlon

Support Staff

- ❖ Chef Aida, Cook

Support Staff

- ❖ Paul, Evening Cleaning Staff

Floating Staff

- ❖ Angela Flynn (P3/PK)
- ❖ Amarilys Baez Santiago

Per Diem Staff

- ❖ Laurie Lavoie
- ❖ Christy Lau
- ❖ Kathryn Delgado-Tapia
- ❖ Jessenia Martinez

Administrative Staff

- ❖ Pam Frogameni, Office Manager
- ❖ Sue Alexopoulos, Assistant Director/Mentor Teacher
- ❖ Pam Flowers, Executive Director
- ❖ Sandip Patel, President/Owner

Happy Anniversary to our Long Term Staff!

In 2024 the following staff have been caring for children and families (and each other!) at Children's House for more than a DECADE!

Pam Flowers 40 years
Sandy Bigelow 36 years
Sue Alexopoulos 33years
Kim Allaire 32years
Marta Gonzalez 27 years
Natalya Yazhbin 26 years
Jennifer Close-Conlon 17 years
Pam Frogameni 14 years

We are so appreciative of their longevity of service in this profession as a whole and of course, of their commitment to Children's House over all these years.



**Happy
Holidays to All
our Families!**

HOLIDAY COLORING PAGE

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

