



CHILDREN'S HOUSE

DECEMBER 2018 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



12/3 Hanukkah Begins

12/4 Attorney Hyman Darling visits Pre-K/K – Attny Darling will share his Hanukkah traditions

12/5 Family Involvement Association (FIA) Meeting 4:30-5:15 at Children's House - Please send any agenda items to: pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org



12/13 Pre-K/K Caroling at MM
To be held in the East Café at approximately 11:20.

Due to challenging logistics 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 of the children currently enrolled in the Pre-K/K class 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 must keep track of every child at all times and re-board the bus on time. We 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 12/10/18*. Please arrive at MM early enough to be photographed and signed in by security. Anyone arriving after 11:15 will not be allowed in (per MM).

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

12/14 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.

12/14 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 10th. 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).

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

12/17/18-1/4/19 In/Out?

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, 12/14 if possible so that we can arrange appropriate staffing.



**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

12/24 Early Closing – 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve

12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS



CENTER CLOSED

12/31 Early Closing – 4:00 pm – New Year’s Eve

1/1/19 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**New Year’s Day
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.

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 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 *mittens* 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 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.

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

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.) unless they include ASTM rating for safety.

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. She CAN accept a gift of appreciation.)
- ❖ Judy Borrero

Infant 2

- ❖ Nereida Castellano
- ❖ Genneria Purrier
(Note: Genneria doesn't celebrate a December holiday. She CAN accept a gift of appreciation.)

Infant 3

- ❖ Amanda Calhoun
- ❖ Tatiana Belfiore
- ❖ Michaela Neylon

Toddler 1

- ❖ Lisa Fueston
- ❖ Marisa Rivera



Toddler 2

- ❖ Tanya Green
- ❖ Chynna Davis
- ❖ Dianne Guthrie
(Mentor Teacher)

Toddler 3

- ❖ Meghan Flowers
- ❖ Jennifer Fontoura
- ❖ Emma Corey (a.m.'s MF)
- ❖ Brianna Perry (a.m.'s TWTh)

Toddler 4 (Soon to open!)

- ❖ Jackie Gormley
- ❖ Megan Clifford

Preschool 2

- ❖ Natalya Yazhbin

Floater P2/P3/PK

- ❖ Selena Castillo

Preschool 3

- ❖ Tonya Kalesnik
- ❖ Tatiana Marrero

Pre-K/K

- ❖ Sandy Bigelow
- ❖ Jennifer Close-Conlon

Support & Administrative Staff

- ❖ Giovanni Colon, *Cook & Long-Term Sub*
- ❖ Pam Frogameni, *A.R.*
- ❖ Irene Provenzano, *Administrative Ass't*
- ❖ Sue Alexopoulos, *Mentor Teacher*
- ❖ Pam Flowers, *Executive Director*
- ❖ Sandip Patel, *President*



HOLIDAY COLORING PAGE

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____



*Happy
Holidays!*