



# Children's House January 2018 Newsletter

## JANUARY THEMES

New Year Celebration!

Hibernation

Migration

Animals That Thrive in Winter or Cold  
Climates

Eskimos

Dressing for Winter

Winter Season in Warm Climates

Winter Fun

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
(K)

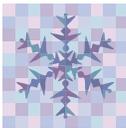
Alaska and Antarctica (K)

Snow and Ice

*Peter and the Wolf*

...and/or any other special topics of interest  
voiced by the children.

*If you have any materials or other information  
on these themes, please feel free to  
share them!*

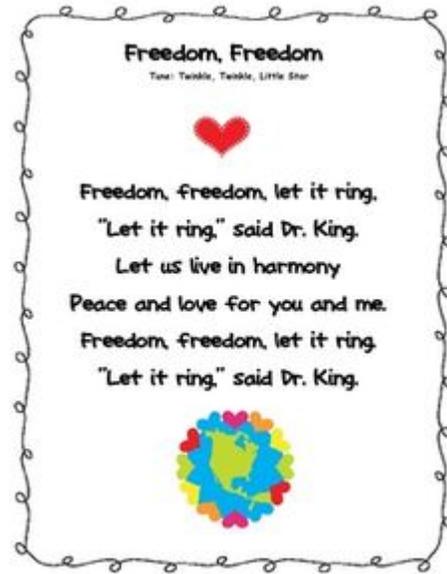


## UPCOMING EVENTS

**1/1/18 - Happy New Year!** Center  
Closed on Monday, 1/1/18



**1/15/18 Center Closed** in observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday



## 1/18/18 – FIA Meeting at MM

12:00-1:00 - Glacier Room - 1413(12) for  
Skype - hosted by Jocelyn Hurley, P2 Room  
Representative

Please send any agenda items to:  
[pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pflowers@childrenshouseinc.org)

Add additional FIA dates to your 2018  
calendar. *All parents/guardians are welcome!*

**2/21/18** at Children's House 4:15-5:00 pm

**3/22/18** at MM 12:00-1:00 Yellowstone Rm

**April** – not yet scheduled

**5/17/18** at MM 12:00-1:00 Yellowstone Rm

## REFERRAL BONUS FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED FAMILIES

Children's House offers a \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Card referral bonus or a \$50 tuition credit to currently enrolled families (and staff) who help us with new enrollment. *Note: "New enrollment" does not apply to state subsidized slots.*

Our current families can assist us in keeping tuition costs down by way of helping us to keep slots that become available enrolled. We are so appreciative when our families refer family members, friends and co-workers!

As is posted at the front door, for security reasons, we are not able to accept walk-in tours or applicants. All visitors need to have a scheduled appointment.

If you know anyone who might be interested in enrollment, please take a brochure from the clear box on the wall outside by the front door and encourage them to contact the center.



*Thank you!*

## TAX INFO

Pam Frogameni will be sending out notices by the end of this month to all families which will indicate the total tuition paid in 2017. Because our centers changed ownership on 2/1/17, we will be providing TWO Tax ID #s.

For 1/1/17-1/31/17, the Tax ID # was:  
**04-2669383**

For 2/1/17-12/31/17, our Tax ID # is:  
**81-4118965**

Pam will include a copy of the W-10 form needed for filing in the email. If you don't receive this information for some reason, feel free to contact Pam Frogameni at:  
[pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org](mailto:pfrogameni@childrenshouseinc.org)



## A NOTE ABOUT WINTER ILLNESS

Unfortunately, this year some children are getting hit hard with coughs, colds and flu.

If your child has a fever prior to receiving any medication, *please* keep him/her home from school. Department of Public Health regulations dictate that centers are only permitted to accept children back to school when they have been *fever free for at least 24 hours having taken **NO fever reducing medications.***

Children who aren't eating or drinking well, who would have a hard time flowing with the regular center routines or have very heavy colds or coughs must also be kept home *even if there is no fever.*

Pink eye is a typical illness seen during the winter season. Children with leaky eyes must be kept home until the eye(s) are no longer leaking clear fluid or pus. It is this fluid/pus that causes other children (and staff) to contract the illness. So, even if your child has been on the eye antibiotic for 24 hours, if the eye(s) are still leaking, he/she needs to be kept home.

We have also seen several children with stomach viruses. If your child complains of stomach pain and refuses to eat breakfast, he/she should not be brought to the center. It is a huge challenge to get children who are vomiting or have diarrhea to the bathroom in time.



This puts the child in distress and the clean up is a difficult task while trying to take care of the other children in the group – not to mention the level of contagion in the room after such an incident. Diapered children create the same issue when he/she vomits in the classroom or the diaper leaks on the floor.

Please ask your child's teacher where to store any medications brought from home. Instructions are posted on the fridge in the kitchen for Toddlers through K and on the fridge in P4 for parents who are dropping off medication. Parents that have Infants who need medication administered at the center can hand deliver it to the staff on duty.

*Parents will need to supply a dosing cup or spoon for each medication brought to the center. All medications must be placed in a separate baggie to keep from coming in contact with other medications stored in the same bin. Baggies are located on top of the refrigerators. (Infant staff will provide baggies as needed for Infant medications.)*

Parents, please understand, if your child is brought to school mildly ill, we cannot keep him/her indoors if the rest of the group is going out. Children should have snow gear/cold weather gear at the center every day.

If the weather is very poor or below 30 degrees (including the wind chill temp), the children will stay indoors and the staff will 'get their wiggles out' by offering a variety of fun, indoor gross motor activities.



## **MEDICAL INFO NEEDS CONSISTENT UPDATING**

Please ask your child's physician to complete (or print from their own system)

an updated health form EVERY time he/she is seen for a well-child visit. Forms are available on the credenza in the main hallway. Please be sure information submitted to the center includes the date of the well child exam, a current immunization list and current lead test. Lead tests must be completed yearly from 1 year through age 3. An additional test must be done at age 4 if the child resides in Springfield or Holyoke because both cities are on the MA list as "high risk" locations for lead poisoning.

Please bring a copy of the updated information to the center as soon as possible after the visit. Medical info can be handed directly to your child's teacher, placed in the tuition drawer (folded lengthwise so it'll go through the mail slot), or placed under Pam's door or on her desk if the door is open.

We have over one hundred files to stay on top of, so if parents could help us out by sending the info in before the staff have to request it, we would really appreciate it!

*Thank you!*

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Those who have been with us a few years know that Children's House is rarely closed.



**In the event we must close full day, have an opening delay or early closure, announcements will be shared with parents as described in the flyer entitled "In Case of Emergency/Disaster/Storm".**

Extra copies of this flyer are available to parents on the table in the main hallway

across from the adult restrooms. It is also accessible on our website: [www.childrenshouseinc.org](http://www.childrenshouseinc.org).

If we plan to close early, parents who are connected to us via email will be notified via email. Only parents who have not given us an email address or who specifically ask to be called instead (notify teacher in writing with phone # at which you wish to be contacted) will receive phone calls. Please check emails often on poor weather days.

If we are open and you plan to keep your child home, it would be so helpful if you would let us know.

If staff are not available to answer the phone, the automated answer system will pick up. Please leave all messages in the **general mailbox**. These messages will be distributed to the teachers as soon as possible.

**Any day your child will be significantly late (10:00 or later) we also appreciate a phone call.** Lunch counts go in at 10:00 and we would like to have enough lunch prepared for late arrivers.

## **ALUMNI/OLDER SIBLING CARE**

For those families who have older siblings and experience public school closings, we do offer childcare for alumni children or siblings through the age of 7.

The per diem cost is \$60.00 and should be paid *in the morning upon drop off* on the day that care is provided.

**Please call the center in the morning (use the “8” – emergency line before 9:00 a.m.) if you’d like to see if there is an opening.** Alumni care must be *pre-arranged* with the early morning staff.



## **PRE-K CAROLING At MassMutual**

Thank you so much to Gail Garvey at MassMutual who helped pull together all the details so that the Pre-K and all the 4's from P2 and P4 could go caroling at MM this December!

Everyone had a great time and the children were adorable – of course!



*To all our families who have been so supportive of us this past year, **THANK YOU** so much!*

*We appreciate your referrals, donations, volunteering your time to chaperone or help plan an event. We thank you for assisting and supporting teachers and the center overall.*

*We appreciate the help all our Room Reps have offered so far this school year too!*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**