

# Children's House Newsletter

## May 2017

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### May Themes

Cinco de Mayo

The Farm

Machinery and Jobs on the Farm

Different Types of Farms

Animals on the

Farm

Mother's Day

Memorial Day



### Upcoming Events

#### 5/1-5/5/17 Staff Appreciation Week!

This is a special week of recognition for the dedication and hard work our ENTIRE staff (classroom, cook, cleaning, and administrative) put into their jobs here each and every day.

The center has planned some treats for staff to enjoy throughout the week and we invite parents to share a little note of thanks or support with their child's teacher (and other staff members!) to make the week "warm and fuzzy" all around.

*Thank you to all those parents who sent in cards, treats, or small gifts to make this week special for the staff!*

#### 5/5/17 **Center Closed** for Staff Professional Development Day

The Children's House staff, from all three sites, will meet at our Wilbraham Rd. location to discuss relevant topics in the field and listen to guest speakers on the topics of: *Flex Your Face: Finding Joy in Small Moments, Encouraging Social/Emotional Development in Children through use of Cooperative Games and The Important Role of Educators in Early Intervention and Beyond.*

5/14/17

**Happy Mother's Day!**



#### 5/24/17 - Field Trip for P2, P3, P4 and Pre-K/K to McCray's Farm

The children will tour the farm, feed the animals and have an ice cream snack with their chaperones. Permission slips will be sent home soon. Chaperones are needed. Please see your child's teacher if you'd like to help.

#### 5/26/17 Progress Reports Going Home

T1 through K Progress Reports will be sent home on 5/26/17. Parent/Teacher conferences will begin the following week. Please see your child's teacher to sign up for a conference! End of year conferences are *strongly encouraged* so that parents and teachers can discuss the year's progress and prepare for summer transitions.

Parents should know, at the time of conferencing, teachers will not know future classroom assignments. In general, the staff will be given 2-3 weeks' notice whenever possible for transitions (3 weeks for part time children when possible). This information will be passed on to parents as soon as dates and classrooms are confirmed.

#### 5/29/17 Memorial Day

Children's House will be closed in observance of the holiday. Enjoy the long weekend and the beginning of picnic season!



#### 5/30/17 Parent/Teacher Conferences Begin

Please see your child's teacher to sign your son/daughter's Progress Report and to make an appointment for your conference.

## FIA for May...

**Date TBA... FIA Meeting 12:00-1:00 at MassMutual & 4:30-5:15 at Children's House** **Topic: Transitions**

This meeting will mainly focus on children transitioning from our center to another school but will also touch on how to facilitate transitions that will be happening between classrooms at the center.

Sandy Bigelow, Jenn Close-Conlon and Pam Flowers along with alumni parents will share tips with parents that might help ease these transitions. We encourage **all Pre-K** parents to attend and anyone else who plans to transfer their child to another school this summer/fall or who anticipates a move within the center over the coming months. The info is always worthwhile!



**6/23/17 Pre-K/K Graduation Ceremony** The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the Preschool playground.

“**Graduates**” include children who make the cut-off date in their city/town for either Kindergarten or first grade in September.

*Please see your child's teacher if there is a question about if your child is considered a “Graduate” from Pre-K or K.*

## In August...

**8/1/17– Field Trip for P2, P3, P4, PK to the Majestic Children's Theater** – Show at 10:00 a.m.: *Aladdin*

Chaperones will be needed. Mark your calendar if you'll be able to come with us!

This trip is one of the more expensive ones – which is why we only do a few outside field trips each year. The cost per person will be \$14.50 to cover the cost of the tickets, snacks and transportation. Parents are welcome to ride the bus with us to alleviate some of the challenge around parking. If the number of chaperones exceeds the seating allowance on the two buses, we'll need to ask those who sign up after the max # to provide their own transportation.



## Nice Weather Has Arrived...

But we still need sweatshirts or light jackets for those chilly mornings. Please be sure your child has one at the center every day. Please note that teachers will use their judgment as the day goes on and the temperature increases. If parents prefer otherwise, please let your child's teacher know.

## Cell Phone Policy Reminder



We appreciate many parents cooperation with this policy. We are, however, seeing more and more people picking up or dropping off their children while actively engaged in a phone call. That is why the “no cell phone” signs have been posted as reminders.

Your child deserves your (or auntie, grandma, grandpa, ...) full attention when saying good-bye in the morning and when re-joining them at pick up.

This is also an important time for staff and parents to connect - which ultimately benefits everyone. Please complete your call in your vehicle at drop off time. In the afternoon, feel free to hang out on the front patio or even in the lounge if a phone call needs to be completed so that your child and the staff can have the benefit of your full attention when you pick up.

*Thank you!!*



## Special Requests

- If your child's last name is different than the name on the check you submit for tuition payment, please write your child's name in the memo section of the check so the amount is credited to the correct account.
- Please remember to sign in and out with time *and initials* **every** day ~ remember that tuition covers a **9-hr** time slot.
- If you would like sunscreen to be applied to your child in the afternoon, we must

have a current (within one year), signed permission in your child's file to do so. Staff can only apply AFTERNOON sunscreen. Parents are expected to take care of the morning application. It just takes too much time for staff to do this twice per day. Labeled (first and last name) sunscreen bottles can be given to your child's teacher.

- If parents would like Chapstick/Vaseline applied, please be sure item is labeled with child first and last name and handed directly to the staff. *These items cannot be left out/accessible to children.* Staff will need to verify that the proper form is also completed to allow application at the center.
- **Please remember to check your sunscreen to be sure it is not flammable.** We cannot have sunscreen on site that says this on the container. It's usually only the foamy or aerosol ones that might say this - not the creams.
- If you would like your child to have bug spray or any type of bug repellent, it must be applied at home or outside before the child arrives for care. Staff cannot apply here at the center without a doctor's note indicating necessity and exact brand to be used. Staff can apply once daily *only* with this specific info on file.
- Please check extra clothes in backpacks, and those stored on site, to be sure they are weather appropriate and still fit well.
- Necklaces cannot be worn at the center due to being possible choking hazards if they were to become "hung up" on something.
- Please label jackets, caps and sun hats.
- If you would like your child to wear sunglasses while outdoors, they must be labeled. Staff will have a hard time keeping track of these, so please talk to your child about taking good care of his/her own sunglasses.



## Shoes & Safety on the Playground

Just a reminder that children must wear **CLOSED** shoes with rubber soles on the playground. We cannot let children play on the equipment or trikes with open sandals, crocs, jelly shoes, flip-flops, etc.

Children who come to the center without proper shoes for outdoor play will still go outdoors but will be restricted from playing on equipment, walking in mulch/pea stone areas and using trikes.

As of June 26<sup>th</sup>, when our summer program begins, we also encourage children to have water shoes (again, closed shoes - not flip flops or crocs) for water play outdoors.



## Vacation Notices

We are trying to plan for new enrollment, transitioning and staff vacations. Your early information about summer vacation plans will really help us in this endeavor!

Vacation forms will be located on the credenza in the main hallway and forms will be sent out via email.

**We would also appreciate knowing withdrawal dates from families who will be leaving us over the summer or in early September. Please send your intention notice in as soon as possible.**

*~Thank you!*

## **CHILDREN'S HOUSE OPENINGS**

*Openings are becoming available in our Toddler, Preschool and Pre-K/Kindergarten classes. Please let your friends, co-workers and extended family members know!*

*Remember that there is a \$50 referral bonus for currently enrolled families who encourage others to enroll!*

*Thank you for supporting us and offering others positive feedback about the care your child receives daily!*

