



## *The Giving Nest Preschool December Newsletter*

### ***Holiday Winter Walk Gallery***

December at the Giving Nest is the best! Excitement emanates from the classrooms; squeals of delight are heard each time a new decoration is added and joyful singing is heard throughout the day. We want to share this magical time and place with you. The children and teachers are creating beautiful projects that will turn our center hall into a Winter Wonderland.

The children make two projects each; one is a winter scene and the other depicts our yearly theme which this year is "Community Helper." **Your child's class is assigned a specific time for you to come and listen to the class sing holiday songs on the stage and to walk hand-in-hand with your child through the winter path.** The date and time can be found on your class calendar and the month to month calendar, both available on our web page.

#### **Procedure:**

- 1) Find a spot to stand behind the seats by the stage, seats are reserved for Grandparents and expecting Moms. The children will delight you with the songs they have learned this season.
- 2) Once finished the children will return to their classroom.
- 3) We will then ask you to meet your child at his/her classroom door.
- 4) Take his/her hand and enjoy a leisurely walk through our Winter Wonderland of projects, please take a few moments and point out and share with your child all the beautiful artwork that every child has created.

## ***Dressing for the Cold***

The children will continue to visit the playground and/or go for short walks on the property throughout the year. Please dress your children in appropriate clothing for the colder weather. We prefer mittens to gloves if possible. It takes a long time getting 180 little fingers into the finger slots. We will keep the children inside only if it is raining, sleeting or the temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Please help us and label all their coats, hats, mittens etc.



We also suggest that you dress your children in layered clothing. We do our best to keep the indoor temperature at a healthy 69 degrees. Our heat is blown hot air and sometimes when the thermostat is trying to adjust the heat it can get a bit warm in some of the classrooms for a short while. If the children have on layers we can help them to remain comfortable throughout the day. Please check that the extra clothes you have packed in your child's backpack for accidents or spills are also weather appropriate. Thanks

## ***Winter Weather and School Closings***

If we need to close due to snow or other inclement weather, you will be informed via e-mail. please check your email by approximately 7:00 AM. If you need to know before 7:00 you may call the school, if at all possible there will be a message on the machine by 6:30.

If the public schools call a delayed opening, we most likely will do the same. A delayed opening day generally starts at 10:30 and ends at the normal time, but these times may be changed depending on the conditions. THERE WILL BE NO AS NEEDED EARLY CARE ON DELAYED OPENING DAYS. Permanent early care for delayed opening generally starts at 8:30 but this could also be adjusted according to the severity of the conditions.

In the past we have had difficult situations when the snow started falling after school began. As you are aware the driveway is steep. On two occasions, due to cars getting stuck, we have had to walk ALL the children down the hill while the parents waited on Mountain Blvd. As you can imagine this was a dangerous situation, and one we hope never to repeat. If it is snowing hard after you have dropped off your child, please err on the side of caution and come back to get you child.

## **FLU SHOT – VERY IMPORTANT**

Influenza Vaccine: Children 6 months through 59 months attending any childcare or preschool facility must annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 & December 31 each year. It is very important you comply with this state mandate. The state sends a nurse to the preschools to check each child's medical paper work and ascertain all shots have been administered. If shots are not up to date the child may have to leave the school. **The nurse checks all immunizations.**



## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

The end of December, you will receive a sign up email for the Parent/Teacher Conferences in January. Specifics on dates and times will be included on the email. Conferences are 15 minutes long. It is very important to be on time for your conference as we do schedule them back to back. If you are late, the entire schedule is affected, and we may need to ask you to reschedule.



## *The Giving Tree*



December at The Giving Nest makes its debut with our "Giving Tree" located in the center hall. When the tree first appears, it is simply decorated with lights. Soon child- made decorations will adorn the tree.

During morning sing time, Mrs. Tara explains the purpose of our Giving Tree. First, she asks the children where milk comes from, where we buy it. Cows and the Supermarket are enthusiastically called out. We then discuss how important milk is for growing young children. She then shows them Africa on the map and some pictures of huts in Africa, explaining there are no supermarkets here. Usually one caring child suggests we send a cow to Africa. Mrs. Hannon asks if there is any other animal, a bit smaller that gives milk. They are surprised to hear a goat can give milk. They then watch a short video on how a goat can help a poverty-stricken family in Africa. Mrs. Tara will then ask, "Do you want to help these children?" Hopefully one student will suggest, "Let's buy a goat for them." Mrs. Tara will exclaim. "What a great idea! But we need money to buy a goat." Next question is "How does one get money?" Mrs. Tara is looking for the response, "People work to make money." After clarifying that they are too young to go out and get a job, she will explore some of the jobs they could do at home this week. Mrs. Tara suggests, "Perhaps on this special occasion you could ask your parents to pay you for doing a special chore at home and you can donate this to buy a goat. More information and videos to share with your child can be found on the [World Vision](#) website

## *Holiday Break*

We will have no school from December 20th through January 1st 2025. December 20<sup>th</sup> is a half day. 12:30 dismissal no aftercare. We will return on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025.