

TPCDC Newsletter

December Newsletter 2014

310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

W: www.tpcdc.org

T: 301.270.6824

Dear TPCDC Parents,

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and families. Many of our parents participated in our Thanksgiving luncheon. We want to thank you for attending and hope you all enjoyed the luncheon. A special thank you goes out to all the teachers and members of the office staff that assisted in preparing all the delicious food. Everything was wonderful and everybody had a great time together.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

We want to thank the parents and staff members who came out last Saturday for the Fall Clean-Up Day. We got the vegetation back under control and the playgrounds spruced up, cleaned windows, painted, cleaned out closets, and, most importantly, removed and power washed the rubber tiles in front of the playground area to help improve drainage when there is a heavy rain. Thank you all for your hard work...we can definitely see the difference.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This year we had a fabulous Book Fair with great selections, professional displays, high tech bookkeeping and excellent management. It was all organized by Jessica Steinberg, mother of Simona in the Munchkins and Sellah in the Explorers classroom. Many thanks to her! Initial reports are that we earned about \$850 to use for Scholastic books. THANK YOU! This fair increased the children's appreciation of books and other media, plus it will help support classroom literacy through book donations given by families.

WINTER CAMP DAYS

Winter break for School Ageds at TPCDC will only be operative on the December 24th, 29th, 30th and 31st. Please sign up or call us if you are bringing your child(ren) on any of the camp days. **Remember TPCDC will close at 3pm on December 24th and 31st. Additionally, we will be closed on the 25th and 26th of December (for Christmas) and the 1st and 2nd of January for the New Year.** Have a safe, happy and wonderful holiday season.

BOARD ELECTION

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Annual General Board Meeting in October, and shared their requests and feedback. We welcome the new board members who stepped up to the plate this election, and appreciate their efforts to help with the many projects and improvements that are being made to our facility and program. If you are interested in joining the board in a big or a small way, please let one of the office staff or the board officers know. We encourage all families to participate in at least 2 special events during the year 2014.

TOWN HALL MEETING

TPCDC Town Hall Meeting will be held on December 10th, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Assembly Room. Come hear about program updates from Terry and the Board, share your questions, suggestions and comments. If you need childcare, please sign up by December 5th, outside your child's classroom.

CENTER CLOSING POLICY

TPCDC follows the Federal Government's announcements for closing due to inclement weather. In the event the Federal Government has a one hour delayed arrival, the Center will open one hour late at 8:00 a.m. If the Federal Government announces a two hour delayed opening, the Center will open two hours late at 9:00 a.m. In the event the federal government closes on any given day, the Center will also close. The Director may make an independent decision to close the Center, when the situation necessitates (i.e. loss of power at TPCDC). Closings for severe weather or emergencies will be announced on News Channel 7, and be sent electronically (by email) to parents whenever possible. In the event the Center must close early due to federal government shut down or Center emergency, parents will be given 2 hours notification to pick up the children.



December Dates to Remember

10 - Town Hall Meeting @ 6pm

24 & 31 - TPCDC Closes @ 3pm

25 & 26 - TPCDC Closed

29 & 30 - Winter Break – TPCDC Open

January 2 - TPCDC Closed

Board of Directors

Emily Art

Patrick Byrne/Lauren Williams

Sarah Davidson/Jason Levitis

Jen Engledow

Steve Coleman

Matt Hobbs

Jared Hughes

Adam Hutton

Coco Jervis

Jenny Johnson

Aaron Kofner

Cara Long

Jason Witteman

CLASSROOM UPDATES

TEDDY BEARS' NEWSLETTER

Dear parents, the teddy bears continue to have fun learning about colors through real/faux foods, colorful building toys, and the different color leaves that we see when we go for walks.

For the month of December, we look forward to talking about "Holidays Around the World", focusing on Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Our objective is for the children to get an idea about some of the different holidays that people celebrate around this season. We will also foster language skills through reading, singing and encouraging the children to repeat words when doing art. Additionally, we will continue to promote fine motor skills through art and building with small manipulative toys. Gross motor skills will be fostered by participating in physical activities in which the children will be able to use their large muscles, such as dance class, yoga, and neighborhood walks. We hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season!

MUNCHKINS' NEWSLETTER

The world we live in is full of traditions, customs and rituals. For this reason, we have chosen to cover "Holidays" as our theme for the month of December. We are aware that cultural traditions may vary and we would like to incorporate in our lessons your family's traditions. IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please volunteer to come to the Munchkins class, to share with the children how you celebrate winter holidays. Speak to either Ms. Pam or Ms. Beatriz about the date and time you are interested in coming in to share. Ms. Pam will be teaching about Hanukkah and some of the traditional symbols, games and songs related to the holiday. She will also be teaching about Kwanza, the African-American tradition of the seven candles, Ujima a social cooperative act, cooking and an art activity. Christmas tree decorating, ornament making and the traditional handmade present will all be activities that the Munchkins will get to experience this month. Lastly, we will be hosting a holiday party (date TBD), decorating holiday cards and learning a New Year song or two.

RAINBOWS' NEWSLETTER

Preschoolers love all kinds of balls: beach balls, footballs, basketballs and more. In the month of December we will start a study on balls to build the Rainbows' natural interest in balls. We will introduce vocabulary such as, solid, flat, circular, sphere, and hollow. To help with language skills we will discuss different kinds of balls, what makes balls move, what are balls made of, who uses balls and how high or low balls can bounce. We will be using thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions and test our ideas. We will play games and activities that challenge and develop their small and large motor skills as well as their social emotional by playing and interacting cooperatively. We will make Christmas decorations, Menorahs and New Year's hats as we talk about different kinds of holidays. Reading every day helps the children have a longer attention span and better listening skills. These are some of the books the children will listen to during story time, A Big Guy Took My Ball, My First Hanukkah and My First Kwanzaa. Happy Holidays to all!

EXPLORERS' NEWSLETTER

The end of 2014 is very near and we look forward to welcoming 2015 with continued learning and growth. We will complete our study of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" during the week of December 1-5, 2014. We will end this study with a small celebration, a special snack, displaying photos and a game of "trashketball" (pitching plastic water bottles into recycling bins). Parents are welcome to join the celebration, Friday, December 5, 2014 from 3-4pm.

Our new study, "Building", will start Monday, December, 8. We will investigate how buildings are constructed, what people do inside them, construction equipment, size, color and materials. We will also explore concepts in social studies related to shelter, jobs and the purpose of different structures.

Our Show-N-Tell theme is "Creating a Unique House". Children should create a small house out of any material they choose (cardboard, sticks, drawing, painting, etc.) If you have any questions please see an Explorer teacher.

We have two field trips in December, Thursday, December 4, "Season of Lights" at the Smithsonian, this program discusses winter holidays. Tuesday, December 16, The Building Museum, for hands on experience with large blocks and creative building. Chaperones are welcome. Yellow TPCDC field trip shirts are mandatory for all field trips.

It's getting cold and we will continue to have outdoor play twice a day. Please make sure your child is dressed accordingly. LABEL ALL CLOTHING ITEMS! ATTACH GLOVES TO YOUR CHILD'S COAT! CHECK YOUR CHILD'S CUBBY FOR EXTRA CLOTHES (shirts, pants, underpants and socks). Have a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to beginning the New Year with you.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle with the Explorers!



SCHOOL AGERS' NEWSLETTER

For the month of December the Bright Stars, Shining Stars and School Agers will focus on using recycled materials to create a range of various activities, games and more. We are asking for donations of materials such as tin coffee cans, fabric (lots), planters and seeds, any type of plastic bottles with tops and any old household items. Anything you can bring in can definitely be used by the children.

Please be advised that Winter Camp will be held this month. We will be going on field trips and having special activities during the camp week. Please make sure you sign up for Winter Camp in the office.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in Pennies for Peace the Canned Food Drive! All that we collected will benefit many children around the world as well as locally. For the month of December the Bright Stars and School Agers will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots program. The toys should be new and also need to be wrapped and labeled. A donation box can be found outside each classroom. The Shining Stars will continue to collect donations of men's undergarments until December 19, 2014. Please be sure to turn in all donations by this date.

REMINDERS: On the bulletin board outside of the classrooms is a sign-up sheet to let the teachers know what days your child will be out during the holiday season. Please make sure you inform the office or the classroom teacher if you will be out on a specific day. All information in regards to the Winter Break will also be posted outside on the bulletin boards. Parents please make sure to sign the permission slips prior to the field trip day. It is very important that all emergency forms are updated with the correct phone numbers and pick up authorization info. Have a happy holiday season.

