

TPCDC Newsletter

December 2015



Director's Corner... Last month, we talked about the social-emotional learning that happens in early childhood, which is so important to preschool development. Equally important is the learning that each child gains through the building and use of gross motor skills. Not only do gross motor activities help children build strength and physical fitness/health, but learning to use large muscles is the necessary foundation for the budding fine motor skills needed for writing and manipulation activities.

It is essential for children to have at least 60 minutes of gross motor play every day, even in winter, which is why we ask you to make sure that your child has the appropriate clothes for outdoors. Don't forget that raincoats and boots will allow us to explore those splashy puddles, and that warm coats with mittens, hats, and boots can make a snowy day special. If your child won't wear these to school, just bring them, the teachers will make sure that they are put on. Check out these links for more information about gross motor activities and winter play.

<http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/gross-motor-skills.html>

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/children-winter-cold-health-safety/40982792>

Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 23 – Last Day of MCPS School in 2015

Dec. 24 – TPCDC Closes at 3pm

Dec. 24-31 – Winter Break Public School Closed

Dec. 25 & 28 – TPCDC Closed for Christmas

Dec. 31 – TPCDC Closes at 3pm

Jan. 1 – TPCDC Closed – New Year's Day



Electronic Learning!

To provide the school-age children with more hands-on experimentation with evolving technology, we are asking for donations of old, but still working electronics. We are looking for old laptop or desktop computers, tablets (i.e. iPads), cameras (digital, film, and Polaroid), typewriters, VHS tapes/players, cassette tapes/players, Walkman, CD players, etc. During the summer, we plan to learn about photo editing and website/presentation design.

Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policies

TPCDC follows the Federal Government's announcements for closing due to inclement weather. In the event the Federal Government has a 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. Decisions about late openings will be made by 6 a.m. In the event the federal government closes on any given day, the Center will also close. The Directors 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 & 8, 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.



Town Hall Meeting

With the cancellation Town Hall meeting, we'd like to provide summaries and responses to suggestions received so far in our virtual suggestion box. To add any questions, comments, or concerns, post them anonymously to our suggestion box (<https://www.suggestionox.com/r/GoenEt>) or bring your concern directly to the office or board member.

- *Food/Snacks:* We have heard and understand your concern about providing pizza and chicken nuggets as monthly snacks; therefore, we will no longer serve pizza for an afternoon snack, and as soon as we consume the nuggets we have in the freezer, that snack item will be discontinued. However, we would gladly accept any suggestions for healthier alternatives that are high in protein, but appealing for the children, can be easily prepared, and are affordable. Note: we may on occasion allow the school-age program to have a special pizza day, but we'll try to do it on an early dismissal or camp day, so it can be more of a lunch item.
- *Book Fair:* Though we were very happy about the children being excited about reading and wanting to get new books, we understand that there was some disappointment about the process and timing of choosing. Suggestions we will incorporate in the future will be to not let the children see the books until the actual book exchange, and not let anyone take a book home before the event begins.

- *Darker Playground:* It is getting darker earlier and the concern about the pathway to the entrance not being illuminated enough has already been relayed to the church property committee. They have replaced those lightbulbs and this should no longer be an issue.

(Please lessen traffic issues on Tulip Ave. Refrain from making U-turns and make your drop-off/pick-up quick if you are parking in front.)

Welcome Ms. Antonia Therrasant!

My name is Antonia Therrasant, but most people call me Toni. I am originally from New Jersey, and have lived in Maryland for over 2 years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Univ. of MD Eastern Shore and have been in the Child Care field for over 8 years. I have held various roles such as Teacher, Education Coordinator, and Assistant Principle. My favorite part about working with children is being able to help them grow and develop their interests in a fun and engaging way. I am very much looking forward to joining the TPCDC team on Dec 8th! Please feel free to stop by the office and introduce yourself!



TEDDY BEARS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Ana

Dear Parents, the Teddy Bears continue to have fun and learn about colors through real food and other items, such as building toys, and pretend food, as well as observing the leaves changing to different colors. For the month of December, we look forward to talking about Holidays, focusing on Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Our objective is for the children to get ideas about some of the different holidays celebrated in this season. We will also foster language skills through reading, singing, and encouraging the children to repeat some words when doing art. Fine motor skills will be also promoted by using manipulative items such as markers, crayons, and paint brushes as well as playing with different kinds of manipulative toys. We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.



MUNCHKINS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Yanira

The Winter Holiday theme is fun because it will be a special time for learning and growing. The Munchkins teachers have the following activities planned. First, we will introduce our theme and then throughout the month learn about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. We will learn about art used for holidays, practice small motor skills, and learn holiday songs. We invite parents to visit us and talk about their celebrations. Every Friday, Munchkins will practice their cutting skills. On December 18th, we are going to Discovery Theater to watch "Rocknoceros Holiday". For the New Year, Munchkins will have a pajama party. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

RAINBOWS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Teresa

It's the time of the year when most of the trees have lost its leaves and when people start celebrating different holidays around the world. Our study for December is about trees and holidays. The children will learn that trees not only give us shade, but also trees produce food, oxygen for people, and a place for animals to live in. The children will also have the opportunity to share with us one special holiday activity that they celebrate with their families. To increase our knowledge about different holidays, we are inviting parents to come in the classroom to share that special celebration with the children. We have planned a lot of fun activities, finger plays, cooking projects, songs, and crafts. Parents Reminder: As you know, we are in the winter season, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and have extra clothes in his/her cubby. Thank you. Have a warm and happy new year!



EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Arly

The end of 2015 is very near and we look forward to welcoming 2016 with continued learning and growth. For the month of December, we will talk about the "Sights & Sounds of Winter." Our objective is for the children to get an idea of how people celebrate the holiday season with music and beauty. We will march and beat drums, listen to horns and the piano, and dance with joy. The sound will continue outdoors as we follow animal tracks; hopefully, we will get snow so that we can tip toe on the crackling ice and pretend to be horses and wear sleigh bells. We will listen to indoor noises such as the tea pot whistling, watch a cozy fire using the computer, and have a tasty treat that smells so sweet. Our Show - N - Tell theme is: "Instruments;" children should bring books, pictures, or real instruments related to

the theme. We have two field trips in December. On Tuesday, December 8, we are going to "A Year with Frog and Toad" at the Imagination Stage; this program discusses the holiday classic. And Friday, December 18, to "Season of Lights" at the Smithsonian; this program discusses winter holidays. 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, GLOVES, HATS, AND SOCKS). * Parent / Teacher conference sign-up sheet will be posted for January 2016 conferences. Have a Wonderful Holiday Season and we look forward to beginning the New Year with you!

BRIGHT STARS AND SCHOOL AGERS NEWSLETTER – Ms. Brenda and Ms. Dorothy

We can't believe that December has arrived and the year is coming to an end. For the month of December, we will reflect on things we enjoyed most about 2015. We will make lots of special treats and creative works of art. We will continue to collect cereal and canned goods, which we will donate to Miriam's Kitchen. We will try out new science projects that may get just a little messy. Parents this month, we invite you to please come in and talk about your holiday celebrations that you share with your family. Please note if you have not signed up for winter break, please do so as soon as possible. We will have plenty of fun activities planned during winter break. Reminder: Please make sure your child is dressed warm on the cold days, we do still go outside to play and we also take public transportation for some of the field trips. Thank you in advance for an awesome year, the Bright Stars and School Agers are looking forward to a delightful new year!



SHINING STARS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Rosa

December is just around the corner! It's hard to believe the year is almost over. December is an exciting month for the children and we have lots of wonderful activities, games, and science projects planned for this month. The Shining Stars classroom will be learning about major holidays from different communities focusing on Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We will be making Christmas ornaments, playing dreidel games, and much more. We will also be continuing our coffee mug drive that will be donated to the Miriam's Kitchen until December 21st. Please help us reach our goal of collecting at least 50 coffee mugs. We would like to give a special thank you to all the families that have already donated some. If your child will be out for the holidays, please send an email or call the office to let the teachers know. Please do not forget to sign your child up for the winter camp if you plan on having them attend. **Reminder:** Please do not forget to sign your child out every day.

