



# TPCDC Newsletter

December 2016

## Director's Notes

We're entering a really busy time of year, with lots of activities, projects and field trips happening in our classrooms. But, the holidays can be extra stressful for children (and adults, too!). Days are full of new experiences, visitors and parties, with too many things demanding our time and attention. I know it is hard during this season, but try really hard to make simple, special, memorable experiences with your child, even when it means saying no to some of the other demands – they will thank you with less temper tantrums and melt-downs. Best of all, you can introduce your child to some of the activities that were memorable from your own childhood. Below are some great links to stress-busters, and kid-friendly ideas and activities:

<http://www.aahealth.org/programs/behav-hlth/adolescent/child-holiday-stress>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-power-imagination/200911/7-holiday-stress-busters-kids>

<http://www.visitmaryland.org/events-calendar#1|6|24||20161201|20161231>

<http://www.washingtonfamily.com/>

## Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 26-30<sup>th</sup> – Winter Break Public School Closed

Dec. 26 & 27 – TPCDC Closed for Christmas

Jan. 2 – TPCDC Closed for New Years

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>- TPCDC Closed for MLK Jr. Day

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – Public Schools Closed, Professional Camp Day (sign up)

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – Public Schools Closed, Professional Camp Day (sign up)

**Board Meeting:** The monthly TPCDC parent board meeting will be on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. All parents are invited to attend the public portion of the meeting!



**Save the Date: Winter Concert – Saturday, February 25, 2017!!**

## 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 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. 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.

## Winter Break Camp

Winter break camp for TPCDC will be December 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up or you are interested in any of the camp days. Remember TPCDC will be closed December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for Christmas. Additionally, we will be closed January 2<sup>nd</sup> for New Year's Day. Have a safe, happy and wonderful holiday season.

## TEDDY BEARS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Ana

The Teddy Bears had a great time learning about fruits and vegetables during the month of November and we look forward to having a wonderful learning experiences this month. For the month of December, we will discuss winter holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Through many activities, we will help the children understand some holidays celebrated around the world. We will read books such as *ABC Hanukkah*, *My First Hanukkah*, *My First Kwanzaa*, and *Corduroys' Christmas*. We will do art and outdoor activities related to each holiday. The purpose of these activities are to continue promoting children's cognitive, language, physical and social emotional development, through learning new vocabulary, interaction, and using their fine motor skills when handling art tools or playing with manipulative toys. We hope you all have a great and safe holiday season.

## MUNCHKINS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Beatriz P.

During the month of December, we will discuss winter holidays around the world. For the first week we will celebrate Kwanzaa. Each day the Munchkins will learn more about the Kwanzaa traditions. They will make necklaces, paint with the Kwanzaa colors (red, black and green) and glue candles on the Kinara each day. The second week, Elliot and Mira's mothers will come to our class to talk about Hanukkah and play the Dreidel game with the Munchkins. During the week, we will make latkes as a cooking project

and sing Hanukkah songs. During the third week, we will be talking about Christmas. Leo's mom will read Christmas stories and talk about how Leo's family celebrates Christmas. We will celebrate a Spanish Christmas on December 23<sup>rd</sup> by singing *Feliz Navidad* and making piñatas. Also, during that week we will celebrate St. Nicholas' Day by leaving our shoes out to receive a treat during naptime. The Munchkin class has two field trips scheduled for this month! On December 7<sup>th</sup> we will be going to "Seasons of Lights" and on December 21<sup>st</sup> we will be visiting the National Christmas Tree and the National Menorah in Washington DC. Happy Holidays!

### **RAINBOWS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Beatriz R.**

During the month of December, our class will begin a study on Trees. We will observe and compare trees to learn more about what lives in them, what they are made from, and who cares for them. We will read and act out some of the following stories: ***Tree Count*, *Who lives in Trees*, *Henny Penny*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *The Grouchy Lady Bug*.**

Research shows that children who act out stories tend to have better vocabulary and story comprehension. We will also have outdoor experiences using binoculars and magnify glasses to look for animals in trees. In the classroom, the children will pretend to be different animals and practice positional words such as next to, in front of and behind. To make this study more enjoyable, parents are invited to participate during circle time reading books about trees, creating tree art or talking to the class about trees. Together we can support and encourage the children's learning and development.

### **EXPLORERS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Arly**

The end of 2016 is very near and we look forward to welcome 2017 with learning and growth in Explorers. For the month of December, we will begin the study on **Bread**. Our objective is for children to learn more about how bread is made, the variety of breads we eat, how and when we eat bread, the people who make bread, and how we can create our own recipe for bread. Our Show-N-Tell theme is: "Your Favorite Recipe." Children should bring and share their favorite recipe with a picture of the food. You can also share a sample of the food if you choose to. The purpose of sharing the recipes is to create an Explorers recipe book! On Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be going to Seasons of Lights at the Smithsonian; this program discusses winter holidays. On Tuesday December 13, we will go to the Spring Mill Bread Co. Bakery, the local bakery in Takoma Park. Yellow TPCDC field trip shirts are mandatory for all field trips. We will also have two special visitors - Mr. Carlos from Papa John and Ms. Candy from a bakery, who will discuss what they do at their jobs.

**Reminder:** 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 and check your child's cubby for extra clothes (SHIRT, PANTS, UNDERPANTS, GLOVES, HATS, SOCKS AND SWEATER.)

Parent/Teacher conference sign-up sheets will be posted soon for January 2017 conferences.

### **BRIGHT STARS' and SCHOOL AGERS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Brenda**

Happy Holidays!!! We are almost at the end of the year already. For the month of December, we will create a memorable holiday book. We will be collecting traditional and non-traditional stories and information about celebrations around the world. We will have activities that reflect some of the holidays children in our classrooms celebrate. Parents, if you have any special traditions about holidays in your family that you would like to share, please let the classroom teachers know. We would love to have you come into our classroom and share. We are keeping our fingers crossed for SNOW!!! We are ready to have snowball fights and make yummy snow cones. We will hopefully be able to experiment with the snow when it comes. The Bright Stars and Schoolagers will be collecting underclothes such as: T-Shirts, underwear, socks for children ages 18 months - 12 years old to donate to a local shelter. We will also be collecting new toys to donate to Toys for Tots. We will drop off all donations on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Thank you in advance for all of your support.

### **SHINING STARS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Rosa**

Welcome December! The holidays have arrived and the year will be over soon! We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. For this month, the Shining Stars classroom will be talking about holidays and celebrations of different cultures. The kids will have the opportunity to share how they celebrate their own holidays with their families. We also have planned arts and crafts activities related to each celebration, as well as cooking and fun science projects. Our canned food donation will be extended until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much to the parents that have already donated. **Reminders:** Please do not forget to sign your child out every day when you pick them up and call and to email the office if they are going to be out from TPCDC. This is for your child's safety and security. Our winter camp will be from December 28 through December 30<sup>th</sup>. Please sign your child up if you haven't done so. Also, be aware of the days TPCDC will be closed. Lastly, please dress your child appropriately according to the weather. Thank you for a great year! We wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year in advance!