

Dear TPCDC Parents,

The first snowflakes of the winter have made the presence known, and the children are excitedly telling us all about their holiday and time off...visiting grandparents, joining friends and family in other locations and having company over "their house." So amid all of this anticipation and energy, we want to say thank you for the many gifts and cards with words of appreciation.

Center Closing Policy

Since we are now seeing the beginning of winter weather, we're working to update the parent email lists so you can receive alerts about weather-related changes in operation as well as other emergency (and non-emergency) updates. There is nothing you have to do if you are currently receiving center updates via email. However, if you are not, please stop by the front desk to add your email address to the distribution list. You can also determine our schedule based upon Federal Employees emergency weather decisions. 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 or 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.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

It is essential to the health of the children that they play outside every day, except in inclement weather. So, please make sure that your child has all the appropriate layers of outdoor clothing so that we can bundle them up warmly. Don't forget those boots for snowy days, we can always help your child put them on if you don't want them to wear them all day. There is a lost-and-found box under the bench outside the office if anything gets misplaced.

Illness Notifications and Sick Policy

We are also quickly approaching cold and flu season. We know that work can put much stress on you not to be absent, but if your child is sick, please do not send them to school, even if they beg you to let them come. Being sick makes them more prone to catching a secondary (and worse) infection, besides passing along those nasty germs to other children. Remember that children must be symptom-free (without medication) for 24 hours before they return to school. Click [here](#) for the TPCDC Sick Form that includes common communicable childhood illnesses, their symptoms and exclusions.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The first round of parent-teacher conferences will be happening this month. Please check with your child's teacher to schedule a conference.

Task Forces/Ad Hoc Committees

We have been working to improve and regulate various areas of operation here at TPCDC. In doing so we thought it would be nice to formulate committees involving teachers and parents. Our first hybrid committee, the field trip committee, has completed their first few tasks. To review the newly comprised Field Trip Chaperone Tips [click here](#).

We hope your family had a wonderful holiday, and that 2015 will be a prosperous year.

January

1 – 2 TPCDC Closed

19 - TPCDC Closed
MLK Jr. Holiday

20 - MCPS Closed
TPCDC Open

Don't forget to sign up for SPRING Break Camp SOON! SPRING Break Camp is for Bright Stars, Shining Stars and School Agers, and runs THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH AND THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF APRIL (Public School SPRING Break).

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 have enjoyed the month of December, learning about holidays and singing the holiday songs. For the month of January, we will talk about "Winter Clothing, and Warm Drinks". Our objective is to help the children continue to develop their vocabulary and to become familiarized with appropriate winter clothing as well as special warm beverages that people drink on cold days.

We will do art activities highlighting winter clothing that help us to stay warm (jackets, mittens, scarves etc.). We will spend the last two weeks making different kinds of warm drinks such as: cocoa, rice pudding and warm milk. We are looking forward to a great month. Enjoy the nice cold weather.

MUNCHKINS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the month of January and Happy New Year. This month our theme is "Winter Fun". Our goal is for the children to learn different sports and games we can play during the winter season. We will also make snowmen, snowflakes, hot chocolate and the word snow (nieve) in Spanish. We ask that for Show N Share each child brings in a winter related item. Be sure to check the Show N Share calendar to find out what day your child will need to bring the winter item in. Once again, Happy New Year and see you all in 2015.

RAINBOWS' NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! This month's study will be Clothing. Children are interested in clothes from a very young age. Babies tug at their clothing; toddlers study buttons, snaps and sipping and by the time they are in preschool they develop distinct preferences for colors. As we study clothes, we will learn concepts

EXPLORERS' NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year Everyone, we hope your holidays were safe and filled with joy. As we venture into the year 2015, we will continue to provide your children with fun filled educational activities. We will continue with our Building study by observing a variety of structures, learning about tools, how each building functions, how those building provide a service to us and much more. We will reach our 100th day of school on Wednesday, January 21. This is a wonderful milestone for the Explorers, because it represents the half way point of successful learning. We celebrate this milestone with a special treat, a piñata fun games and dancing. Our show-n-tell theme is "100 days". Each child should make a small poster with 100 small non-food items (stickers, finger prints, ribbons, toothpicks etc. Please remember to check the show-n-tell calendar for your child's sharing day. The bags on the cubby hooks are for coats, hats, gloves/mittens and extra clothes only. Sheets, blankets, stuffed animals and backpacks should be in the blue cubby box. Parents, please remember to bring hats and gloves every day, we go out twice a day in all weather. The snow will arrive soon and we need to be prepared because we definitely be in it. Children are allowed to participate in outdoor snow activities if they have the following items (snow boots, gloves/mittens, snow pants). We want to make sure the children stay warm and day while having fun.

SCHOOL AGERS' NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! As we embark on a new year, we are delighted to start things off with new and fun activities! For the month of January we will be creating bio-boards. We will use these to share the aspirations of the children in the before and after school program. They will be posted outside of each classroom for parents, teachers and peers to see. We will be making healthy infused water as well! Bright Stars, Shining Stars and School Agers will be using a wide variety of beads to create beaded curtains.

As a reminder, please make sure your child has what he/she needs for outdoor play. This includes but is not limited to: gloves or mittens, hat or hood, snow or waterproof boots, winter coat and snow pants (that will keep clothes dry).

When public schools are closed and TPCDC is open we will provide care all day for our school-age children. If you are enrolled in before and after care, the supplemental cost is \$32, if not enrolled it is \$71, but you must call to see if we have capacity for additional children. Reminder: When going on field trips all teachers and children must wear a yellow TPCDC t-shirt. If you forget your child's t-shirt or do not have one please see the office staff for one. The costs for t-shirts is \$10.

Director: Terry dela Santa
Deputy Director: Leta Jones
Office Administrator: Joan Byrd

Teddy Bears:

Ana Rodriquez, Martha Talento, Reina Vasquez.,
Rosy Hill & Rosa Perez

Munchkins:

Corina Powell, Yanira Salgado, Beatriz Perez,
Pam Colvin, Amanda Dullin-Jones & Candy
Escobar

Rainbows:

Teresa Abanto, Indhira Hill, Beatriz Ramirez,
Razia Begum & Brenda Roberts

Explorers:

Sherri Smith, Arly Reyes, Selvi Vijayakumar, Leo
Lopez, Christine Bui & Steven Lopez

Shining Stars

Rosa Lopez, Pam Colvin

Bright Stars:

Brenda Roberts, Christine Bui & Steven Lopez

School Agers

(2nd and Up):

Dorothy Battle, Jonathan Berrios,
Najwa Plunkett

Teacher Achievements

Several of our teachers have had a progressive year in 2014. Take a moment to congratulate them.

Ana- Special Ed class completion

Rosy-2014 Board/Staff Liaison, Nutrition Committee Member

Brenda-Teaching Credential Promotion

Beatriz P.-Got married

Selvi-Completed Classes toward AA degree

Reina- Teaching Credential Promotion

Leo-Joined the TPCDC family and completed college courses

Terry-Completed 30 hrs. of Early Childhood Ed courses

Beatriz R.- Completed Early Childhood Growth and Development

Martha- Teaching Credential Promotion