

TPCDC Newsletter

November 2015



Dear Parents,

We've got the first month of the school year under our belt, and in all the rooms we've seen the children adjust to the many activities and programs we do each day. One of the most important parts of TPCDC's efforts to help the children be ready at five for 'big' school is to support the development of a variety of social-emotional skills and abilities. We provide an atmosphere of loving and respectful care, with lots of practice using words to express their wants and feelings, and many opportunities to work and play together. Studies have shown that children cannot learn unless they feel safe and accepted, so we make a place where they feel accepted and cared for. The links below give additional ideas of activities you might wish to do at home with your child to build social emotional skills.

<http://www.readyatfive.org/download-document/for-parents/parents-tips/216-03-feb/file.html>
<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/activities-childrens-emotional-social-development-3375.html>

(Please be conscious of the effort to lessen traffic issues experienced on Tulip Ave. Refrain from making U-turns.)

Important Dates to Remember

Nov. 2 – Public Schools Closed – TPCDC Open; School-age Full Day Care Available

Nov. 11&12 – Public School Early Release; School-age Half-Day Care Available

Nov. 13 – Town Hall Meeting 6-7 pm

Nov. 20 – TPCDC Thanksgiving Luncheon 12 -1pm

Nov. 25 – Public School Early Release – School-age Half-Day Care Available until 3pm closing

Nov. 26&27 – TPCDC Closed for Thanksgiving



Book Exchange

Let's get kids excited about reading! We will have a Book Exchange from **November 4th – 6th**. Please have your child drop their books off at the office or by their classroom in the week of October 26th-30th so that we can sort them out. Plus, on Wednesday, **November 4th**, Ms. Kati, the Takoma Park children's librarian, will host a *Pajama Story Hour* for children in the Little Gym from 7-8pm while parents browse the book exchange; cookies and milk will be provided. Please sign up for a volunteer shift online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aadaa22a5fb6-volunteer>.

Town Hall Meeting

Our Town Hall meeting will be on Friday, November 13th, from 6-7 pm. Childcare and dinner will be provided. If you have suggestions, other topics, or discussions to bring up, please submit using the TPCDC suggestion box found at: <https://www.suggestionox.com/r/5lZsX2>.

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.

Staff Changes

At the end of October, we will say goodbye to Ms. Najwa from the School Agers classroom and bring on board Mr. Nick in the Bright Stars, and Mr. Stephen will shift to the School Agers team. We wish Ms. Najwa the best of the luck with her studies and are excited to welcome Mr. Nick to the TPCDC family.

TEDDY BEARS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Ana

In the month October, we had wonderful teachable moments talking about fall colors as we focused our study on Leaves. In November, we look forward to talking about "Colorful Food." Our goal is to continue teaching colors through different food items. We will talk about purple, orange, red, and green fruits and vegetables. We will do art activities related to the topic as well as utilize colorful foods for the children to practice their senses of taste, smell, and touch. We have planned a field trip to the Takoma Park Co-Op on Tuesday, November 10. During this trip we will be able to see a variety of fruits and vegetables of different colors, as well as promote social skills by exposing them to a new and different environment. We look forward to a great month!

MUNCHKINS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Razia

With the leaves changing colors, it is safe to say that fall has indeed arrived. During the month of November, we will introduce the Munchkins to the concept of healthy foods and how to live a healthier lifestyle. We will divide the month into four categories –one healthy food each week. The first week will be focused on vegetables and the Munchkins will sort vegetables by color, as well as make collages, vegetable prints, and salads. The second week, we will learn about the different types of healthy fruits. The Munchkins will play a guessing game of tasting different fruits and trying to identify them. We will also make smoothies, sort fruits by color, and discuss the differences of fruits. The third week, we'll learn about dairy and where it comes from. We will also have a field trip to the co-op, the local organic grocery store. There the Munchkins will be able to use their language and social skills to identify the different types of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products at the store. Finally, during Thanksgiving week, we will discuss protein. We will also review what we've learned about healthy foods and which are our favorites.

RAINBOWS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Corina

Welcome November! The theme for the month is "Native American Cultures and Traditions." The United States of America is truly a melting pot, a rainbow nation. We will take advantage of that fact to celebrate not only Native American culture, but also Japan's culture and the culture of the United States today. The Rainbows will be sing, dance, and learn different numbers, colors and shapes in English, Japanese, and a Native American language. In our unit, we will explore the arts of each culture. On November 13th and 23rd, we will have field trips (we will need 6 parent chaperones). Lastly, we want to give a big thank you to Maura, Flor, William, and Dalia for chaperoning our Cox farm trip. The children enjoyed themselves so much.

EXPLORERS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Selvi

Our theme for the month of November is "Fruits and Vegetables." The focus will be the importance of eating different fruits and vegetables. During this time we will also learn how to stay healthy, grow strong and feel good. We will identify where different fruits and vegetables grow. For science, we will experiment with our senses of smell, taste, and touch. We will use these senses to identify and describe a variety of different fruits and vegetables. We will also work on fine motor and language development through drawing of pictures, and then verbally describing those pictures. For math, we will continue to improve our counting, comparing (more than, less than), and measuring (lengths and patterns) skills. For social studies, we have planned field trips to see two plays at the Discovery Theater; one on November 13th, "Pete For Winds and the Hawk Feather Dancers", and on November 24th, "Sister Rain and Brother Sun". For Show and Tell this month, have your child bring items related to the month's theme of "Fruits and Vegetables."

BRIGHT STARS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Brenda

In November, the Bright Stars will focus on helping others and promoting world peace. We will have a cereal and canned food drive. We will decorate the donation boxes. Also this month, the Bright Stars will make a mural from a collection of pictures, photos, and other special drawings that reflect on our families, friends, and what peace means to us. Correspondingly, we will have a Peace Gathering on November 25th in the School Agers classroom. Parents are welcome to join us and listen to stories, poems, and play a few games. Light refreshments will be served. Please review the calendar posted in the classroom, it will have details on what will happen each day during the month of November. Furthermore, we will need donations of 1 quart jars with lids for a special cooking project. Please keep in mind that November has three ½ days of school; on November 11th and 12th we will go on field trips. Information will be posted on the board in the Bright Stars classroom. We look forward to a peaceful but busy November.

SHINING STARS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Rosa

Welcome November!, a month to be thankful and to give back to the community. Our class will be conducting a cereal food drive along with the School Agers class. The Shining Stars will also be collecting NEW coffee mugs to be donated to a local charity called Miriam's Kitchen. The Shining Stars class will also be doing cool and creative art projects this month, like rocks of gratitude and fall centerpieces. As the weather changes and gets colder, please encourage your child to dress appropriately and warmly so they are able to enjoy our outdoor play. Please remember, there is no MSDE school on Monday, November 2nd and to sign the permission slip for our fieldtrip! Our Thanksgiving Luncheon will be at aftercare on November 20th.

SCHOOL AGERS' NEWSLETTER – Ms. Dorothy

Hello Everyone! We are enjoying the school year greatly so far. We have a lot planned for the month of November. We will be focusing on peace, togetherness, and being friendly. We will also focus on the things your children are thankful for. We will stress the importance of all the topics discussed and allow the children to share their own personal thoughts. We have a lot of exciting activities planned, such as the chance to make Kool Aid play dough. We will also make friendship bracelets and necklaces. In addition, there will be food activities such as making pumpkin bread and a soup tasting activity. We need our parents' help to donate 1 quart jars with lids for our pumpkin bread mix. The School Agers & Bright Stars are having a canned food and cereal drive to give to those in need. Parents are welcome to join our peace gathering on November 25th, too. A calendar of daily events for the month of November is now available in the classroom.