



January 2019 Newsletter

The Giving Nest Preschool in Martinsville

Director: Barbara Maxwell

January Happenings at the Nest...

The Staff at the Giving Nest would like to wish you a Healthy and Happy New Year!!!

Pre-Registration and In-House Registration Procedure...



Please read this important information. Pre-Registration information will be emailed to you and Progress reports for the Chick-a-dee Duckling, Bluebird and Cardinal classes will be going home on January 7th & 8th. Pre-registration is due on January 16th. There will be an In-House lottery if necessary. You will be called if this should pertain to you. In-House registration information and In- House applications will be sent home on January 22nd to be returned on January 28th. If you do not receive this information, please contact either Barbara. We will be calling Alumni and outside families starting on January 31st. (Dates are also listed on the bottom of this Newsletter).



Slipper Day...

*During the cozy month of January each class will have **SLIPPER DAY!** January 10th or 11th... Please check your class calendar for the correct dates. On slipper day, please send a pair of slippers to school, placed in your child's backpack. During the day the children will wear their slippers and talk about cozy times in the winter. We will serve "semi" hot chocolate with marshmallows.*

FLU SHOT REMINDER FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE...

WE MUST HAVE YOUR FLU SHOT DOCUMENTATION WHEN YOU RETURN IN JANUARY OR YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND CLASS! THIS IS MANDATED BY THE STATE AND THE BOARD OF HEALTH IS SCHEDULED TO COME AND CHECK FOR ALL DOCUMENTATION.

THANK YOU!



JANUARY PARENT WORKSHOP
“WILL MY CHILD BE READY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?”

Date & Location: Thursday, January 10th, 2019 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the North Plainfield Giving Nest

Presenter: Mary Sue Frank

You Must Register to Attend the Workshop: Please Call (908)754-2060 or Email givingnestnp@gmail.com

At the workshop Mary Sue will discuss...

- Significant Changes in Education Over the Years. [L] [SEP]
- Expectations of Kindergarten Programs in the Surrounding Area (Green Brook, Warren, [L] [SEP] Watchung, North Plainfield, Bridgewater, Middlesex, Dunellen, and Scotch Plains). [L] [SEP]
- Cut-Off Dates for Kindergarten in our Area and Nationally. [L] [SEP]
- Key Indicators of Kindergarten Readiness. [L] [SEP]
- What Kindergarten Teachers Think Are the Most Important Kindergarten Readiness Skills. [L] [SEP]
- The Core Curriculum. [L] [SEP]

This would be a great workshop to attend if...

- This is your first child going to kindergarten – you will leave with knowledge of what kindergarten is like in the 21st Century. [L] [SEP]
- You have a child who has a summer or fall birthday. Your child makes the kindergarten cut- off date but you and/or your child’s teacher feels an extra year of preschool would be beneficial. [L] [SEP]
- You have any doubts that your child may not be ready for kindergarten. [L] [SEP]
- You currently have a child in the Duckling Class who has a summer or early fall birthday & you [L] [SEP] are not sure if they should go in the Bluebird or Cardinal Class in Sept.





Well Bear Clinic...January 24th & 25th:

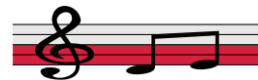
Please see your child's calendar so you know when to bring in your favorite Teddy Bear. The Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a doctor's office or clinic. The children will participate in the weighing, charting of height and bandaging their bear. They will learn how to keep their bear healthy through proper eating, exercise and dental care. This is an opportunity to volunteer in your child's class. Volunteers are needed. Please see Mrs. Max or your child's sign-up sheet outside the classroom.

A Special Thank You to...

*-The Wonderful Boys and Girls at the Giving Nest! From the bottom of our hearts we want to thank you for all the hard work you did at home and your generous \$2.00 donation. We are so proud of you! Between the four schools we collected over \$1,470.00. We were able to purchase many wonderful clothes, books and toys for 8 needy families. Please look for the photos that are posted at the end of our hallway. Children, you should feel so good about yourselves, you have made many children very happy!!! **Adopt a Family was a great success!** Thank you for the beautiful collection of gifts for the family we adopted through Watchung's Caring and Sharing Network. You were so very generous! Our gifts were very appreciated by the families. See a sampling of the gifts in the photo below or in our hallways.*



Community Sing Time



In January, the children will hear stories about New Year's, Chinese New Years and Martin Luther King Jr. Some of the stories we will hear are Young Martin Luther King Jr. When we talk about Martin Luther King, Jr. we will think of ways of handling various situations peacefully, what we can

do to get along with one another and how we can make the world a better place. We will learn about keeping our bodies healthy through proper eating and exercise. We will also be singing our January songs, which are available on our website.



Celebrating Half Birthdays...

Instead of celebrating a child's summer "un-birthday" we can celebrate a child's HALF Birthday. So if you have a child who has a summer birthday please figure out the half birthday and let your child's teacher know when you would like to celebrate it.



Important Dates in January...

- January 2nd, 2019 – Welcome Back!*
- January 10th - Parent workshop-at N.P. Giving Nest in the Large Meeting Room: "Will My Child Be Ready for Elementary School?"*
- January 7th & 8th- Progress Reports and Pre-Registration information go home*
- January 16th – Pre-Registration is over.*
- January 10th & 11th – Slipper Day!*
- January 21st – No School – Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- January 22nd – 28th - In House Registration*
- January 24th & 25th- Well Bear Clinic-Volunteers are needed.*
- January 31st- We will begin to call families outside the school for September registration.*



SOUNDS ABOUND PROGRAM...

Since September the kindergarten children have been using the "Sounds ABOUND Program" as part of their reading readiness curriculum. In January the Bluebird and Cardinal classes will incorporate the rhyming portion into their program. "Sounds ABOUND" teaches phonological awareness. Phonological awareness is a language skill that involves understanding the different ways in which spoken language can be broken down and manipulated into smaller units: words, syllables, and phonemes. It is the single, most important factor in learning to read and spell. Phonological awareness involves the following sub-skills: Rhyming, isolating words in a sentence, segmenting words into syllables and sounds, blending syllables and sounds together and manipulating sounds within words. The kindergarten children are introduced to all areas of the

program and, as stated, the Bluebird and Cardinal classes focus on the “rhyming” portion. Studies have shown that rhyming is a crucial early phonological awareness skill and children who have difficulty rhyming will have difficulty reading.

Sounds Abound presents three key levels of rhyming and they are:

1. Rhyme Recognition: The ability to recognize that two words rhyme. The class will play a game called “I Know a Name that Rhymes With...”
2. Rhyme Completion: The ability to complete or predict the rhyme from a particular sentence structure. The class will play a game called “A-Hunting We Will Go”.
3. Rhyme Production: The ability to make up a rhyme without any clues. The children will play a game called “Chicken Soup With Noodles”.



February is Painting Month at the Giving Nest!

In January all the children will be learning about artists and especially about painters! In February all the classes will be hanging their beautiful paintings in the hallway—wait until you see them! The Chick-a-dees will make wax resist painting with chunky crayons, paper and watercolors. The Duckling classes will make a damp paper painting with a batik effect using watercolors and a crumpled damp paper. The Bluebird classes will make Elmer’s glue resist using Elmer’s glue, paper and Prang watercolors. The Cardinal classes will make Masking Tape Resists using masking tape, paper and Prang watercolors. March will be Sculpting Month and May will be Weaving Month. The children’s creations will be displayed in the hallway.

Happy New Year!