



# January 2021 Newsletter

## *January Happenings at the Nest...*

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



## **Calendar Changes...**

*With the holidays quickly approaching we are mindful that December brings many more opportunities for family gathering, travel and fun traditions. You are all so important to us and we want you all to remain healthy during the holidays and always.*

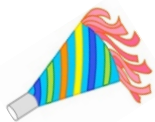
*The new CDC guidelines has reduced quarantine from 14 days to 10 days and after careful consideration the Giving Nest has decided to extend our winter break. We will now return on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. This allows us to return a full 14 days after the Christmas holiday and 10 days after the New Year Celebrations. By keeping the school closed an additional 5 five days, we will reduce the risk of a potential class quarantine upon return.*

*To make up for this extended break, we will add 5 days to the end of the school year. Our new last day of school is June 22<sup>nd</sup>.*



*During the cozy month of January each class will have **PAJAMAS & SLIPPER DAY!***

***January 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>**... Please check your class calendars for the correct dates. On PJ's/Slipper day, please have your child wear their PJ's and send a pair of slippers to school, placed in your child's backpack. During the day we will talk about cozy times in the winter. We will serve "semi" hot chocolate with marshmallows and whipped cream.*



## **GIVING NEST NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**



*We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. The arrival for 2021 will be celebrated at the Giving Nest with noisemakers and confetti. Each class will be challenged with a new skill to accomplish in 2020.*

***The Chickadees** (2 1/2 – 3 years old) will now place their backpacks on the hooks by their symbols, then remove the folders and place them in the folder box and remove the lunch boxes and place them in the lunch box bin. A big independent three step task for our little ones.*

***The Ducklings** (3 - 4 years old) will begin getting their own coats at the end of the day and putting them on without any help. They will use the preschool method of laying the coats on the ground and putting their arms in the sleeves and flipping the coats over their heads.*

*The Bluebirds and Cardinals (4 - 5 years old) will begin zippering, buttoning and/or snapping their own coats and putting on their hats and gloves all by themselves.*



### **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!**

### ***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 in early January. Pre-registration is January 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be an In-House lottery if necessary. You will be called if this should pertain to you. In-House registration information will be emailed to you on January 28<sup>th</sup> and is due by February 4<sup>th</sup>. If you do not receive this information, please contact the office ASAP. We will be calling Alumni and outside families starting on February 8th. (Dates are also listed on the bottom of this Newsletter).*

## **JANUARY VIRTUAL PARENT WORKSHOP** **"WILL MY CHILD BE READY For TODAY'S KINDERGARTEN?"**

**Date:** Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:00

**Presenter:** Mary Sue Frank- co-founder and director of the North Plainfield Giving Nest.

**Topic:** She will talk about the, 'Kindergarten of Today'. A questionnaire was sent to the Public schools that our students from our 5 locations will attend. Mary Sue will discuss the feedback that she received.

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

**Please provide:** your first and last name, your child's first and last name, the school your child attends and your email address so Mary Sue can send you a Zoom link invitation.



### ***A Special Thank You to...***

*~Chore Donations -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 our participating schools we collected over \$1,200.00. We were able to make a special donation to Good Counsel. Please see [goodcounselhomes.org](http://goodcounselhomes.org) for more information.

### ***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 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 ~ Welcome Back!
- ~January 14<sup>th</sup> ~Virtual Parent workshop-“Will My Child Be Ready for TODAY’S Kindergarten?”
- ~January 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> ~Progress Reports
- ~January 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Pre-Registration. Please look for our email.
- ~January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Pajamas & Slipper Day!
- ~January 18<sup>th</sup> – No School ~ Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ~January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup> ~In House Registration
- ~January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Pastel/Tissue Paper Art Gallery.
- ~January 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Team Jersey Day! Wear your favorite team clothing item.



### **SOUNDS ABOUND PROGRAM...**

In January the Bluebird and Cardinal classes will incorporate the Sounds Abound program into their school routine. “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".

