

THE GIVING NEST PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Holiday Celebrations and Sing time...

What a fun and exciting time at the Giving Nest! It is delightful to be with the children to share the spirit of the season during the holidays. Children love celebrating the holidays, during sing time the children will hear about Christmas and Hanukkah through stories and songs. If your family celebrates anything other than the holidays listed, please tell your child's teacher. Also, if you would like to come to "Community Sing" time and share your holiday traditions with the children, please see our office staff. The children would love it! Of course, we will be learning many holiday songs in preparation for our **Family Holiday Sing!**



The Giving Tree has arrived!

December at The Giving Nest makes its debut with our "Giving Tree" located in the center hall. When the tree first appears, it is simply decorated with lights. Soon child-made decorations will adorn the tree. During morning sing time, Mrs. Amy explains the purpose of our Giving Tree. First, she asks the children where milk comes from, where we buy it. Cows and the Supermarket are enthusiastically called out. We then discuss how important milk is for growing young children. She then shows them Africa on the map and some pictures of huts in Africa, explaining there are no supermarkets here. Usually one caring child suggests we send a cow to Africa. Mrs. Amy asks if there is any other animal, a bit smaller that gives milk. They are surprised to hear a goat can give milk. They then watch a short video on how a goat can help a poverty-stricken family in Africa. Mrs. Amy will then ask, "Do you want to help these children?" Hopefully one student will suggest, "Let's buy a goat for them." Mrs. Amy will exclaim, "What a great idea! But we need money to buy a goat." Next question is "How does one get money?" Mrs. Amy is looking for the response, "People work to make money." After clarifying that they are too young to go out and get a job, she will explore some of the jobs they could do at home this week. Mrs. Amy suggests, "Perhaps on this special occasion you could ask your parents to pay you for doing a special chore at home and you can donate this to buy a goat. More information and videos to share with your child can be found on the [World Vision](#) website



Family Holiday Sing...

December is a month for families. With this in mind we would like to invite you to come to our FAMILY HOLIDAY SING. On your child's scheduled day, please arrive at school at the time scheduled on your child's calendar, pick up your child and bring them to the Martinsville Community Center, you will be greeted by Mrs. Amy and Mrs. Kathleen. Please drop off your child and you can then go upstairs to the large auditorium and find a seat. Please check your child's individual class calendar or our website for the dates and times. Chickadee parents please note, your child's performance will be at the Giving Nest and not at the Martinsville Community Center.

Winter weather and School Closings...

If we need to close due to snow or other inclement weather, you will be informed via e-mail. Please check your email by approximately 7:00 AM. If you need to know before 7:00 you may call the school, there may be a message on the machine by 6:30. If the public schools call a delayed opening, we most likely will do the same. A delayed opening day generally starts at 10:30 and ends at the normal time, but these times may be changed depending on the conditions. THERE WILL BE NO AS NEEDED EARLY CARE ON DELAYED OPENING DAYS. Permanent early care for delayed opening generally starts at 9:30 but this could also be adjusted according to the severity of the conditions.

In the past we have had difficult situations when the snow started falling after school began. If it is snowing hard after you have dropped off your child, please err on the side of caution and come back to get your child.

Delayed opening schedule:

Full day classes: 10:30 - 3:00

Morning classes 10:30 - 12:00

*There will be no as needed Early Care on delayed opening days.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The week of December 16th, you will receive a sign-up email for the Parent/Teacher Conferences in January. This is an opportunity for you to sit with your child's teacher to discuss you're her/her progress and answer any questions you may have. Specifics on dates and times will be included on the email. Conferences are 15 minutes long. It is very important to be on time for your conference as we do schedule them back to back. If you are late, the entire schedule is affected, and we may need to ask you to reschedule.

Reminder! Influenza vaccine:

Children 6 months through 59 months attending any childcare or preschool facility must annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 & December 31 each year. It is very important you comply with this state mandate. The state sends a nurse to the preschools to check each child's medical paperwork and ascertain all shots have been administered. If shots are not up to date the child may have to leave the school. The nurse checks all immunizations. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school to discuss with Mrs. Amy.



The children will continue to visit the playground throughout the winter season weather and temperature permitting. Please dress your children in appropriate clothing for the colder weather. We prefer mittens to gloves if possible. It takes a long time getting 180 little fingers into the finger slots. We will keep the children in only if it is raining, sleeting or the temperature drops below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Please help us and label all their coats, hats, mittens etc.

This is also a good time to please check that the extra clothes you have packed in your child's backpack are also weather appropriate. Thanks!

THANK YOU!

- ❖ Thank you to our families who participated in the Little Lambs cookie dough fundraiser!
- ❖ To all the parents for helping to supply the trimmings for the Cardinal and Bluebird Thanksgiving Feast. What yummy food and festive tableware. All the little Pilgrims and Native Americans had a wonderful feast!
- ❖ To all who have donated and continue to donate during Morning Sing Time to the local food bank for needy families. We had so much to contribute and it is greatly appreciated!



Wishing you and your families a very happy holiday season!