

January 2020 Newsletter



The Giving Nest Preschool in Pluckemin

January Happenings at the Nest...

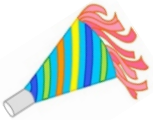
The Staff at the Giving Nest would like to wish you a Healthy and Happy New Year!!!



Pajama & Slipper Day...

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

***January 16th or 17th**... Please check your class calendar 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 2020 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 to 3 year olds) 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 to 4 year olds) 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 to 5 year olds) will begin zippering, buttoning and/or snapping their own coats and putting on their hats and gloves all by themselves.

The teachers have certificates to present to the children when they have successfully mastered the skill. Look for this in your child's backpack. Please note these are important skills to develop at your child's age. If he or she is having trouble, please practice his/her classes' selected skill at home. Several of the children in each age group may have already mastered these skills, which is great. They will receive a certificate once they demonstrate the skill for the teacher. Our New Year's resolution, as a school, will be to encourage each child to learn his/her address. We will also have certificates for those students that master this important skill



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 due on January 15th. 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 21st to be returned on January 27th. If you do not receive this information, please contact Barbara in the office. We will be calling Alumni and outside families starting on January 28th. (Dates are also listed on the bottom of this Newsletter).

JANUARY PARENT WORKSHOP

"WILL MY CHILD BE READY For TODAY'S KINDERGARTEN?"

Date & Location: Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the North Plainfield Giving Nest

Presenters: Jill Presley, (Assistant Director, Teacher) Laurie Rivera (Kindergarten Teacher) & Kiley Squier (Elementary School Teacher)

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

At the workshop these professionals will discuss...



- Is Kindergarten the new First Grade?
- Expectations of Kindergarten Programs in the Surrounding Area (Green Brook, Warren, Watchung, North Plainfield, Bridgewater, Middlesex, Dunellen, and Scotch Plains).
- Cut-Off Dates for Kindergarten in our Area and Nationally.
- Key Indicators of Kindergarten Readiness.

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 TODAY!
- 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.
- You have any doubts that your child may not be ready for kindergarten.



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 the five schools we collected over \$1,627.00. We were able to purchase many wonderful clothes, books and toys for several needy families. 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.

~Holiday Shop Volunteers- The Holiday Shop was a great success! The children were all smiles while they selected gifts for their parents, grandparents and siblings. We could not have done this without your time and energy.

~ Holiday Cookie & Baking Committees- Your cookies were delicious and so appreciated by the Giving Nest Staff & Friends of the Nest.



Community Sing Time

In January, the children will hear stories about New Year's, Chinese New Years and 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, 2020 – Welcome Back!

~January 8th - Parent workshop-at N.P. Giving Nest in the Large Meeting Room: “Will My Child Be Ready for TODAY’S Kindergarten?”

~January 3rd through 10th- Progress Reports

~January 6th- Pre-Registration information will go out through email.

~January 15th – Pre-Registration is over.

~January 16th & 17th – Pajamas & Slipper Day!

~January 20th – No School – Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.

~January 21st – 27th - In House Registration

~January 23rd & 24th- Visit our Pastel/Tissue Paper Art Gallery.

~January 29th- Well Bear Clinic-Volunteer email will go out through email.

~January 28th- We will begin to call families outside the school for September 2020 registration.

~January 30th & 31st- 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”.

