

# THE GIVING NEST PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN IN MARTINSVILLE



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### Holiday Celebrations...

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 and circle time the children will hear about Christmas and Hanukkah through stories and songs. Of course, we will be learning many holiday songs as we always do each December. This year the children will share the songs they learn with you during their holiday parties. Each class will sing their favorite holiday songs and we will be sure to send home pictures and videos of the festivities.

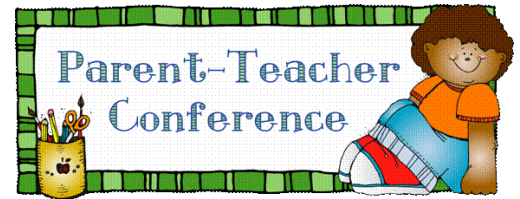


### The Giving Trees have arrived! December at The Giving Nest

makes its debut with our "Giving Trees" located in the front entrance hallway. When the trees first appear, they are awaiting decorations. Soon child- made decorations will adorn the trees. During morning sing time and circle time, Mrs. Amy and the teachers explain the purpose of our Giving Tree. First, we ask the children where do we get our food from, where do we buy it. The Supermarket and the store are enthusiastically called out. We then discuss how lucky we are that we can go to any store to get what we need. Our Mommy's and Daddy's are able to bring us home whatever we like. We then begin to wonder if everyone is able to go to any store they want to? We explain that not everyone is as fortunate as we may be. Mrs. Amy explains that there are places called Food Banks that people donate to. These Food Banks collect food so that family's that need food and other items can go to and get what they need. Usually one caring child wonders how we can help out others that cannot go to the store. Another may ask if there is anything, we could do to help other families that may need food or other items. Mrs. Amy will then ask, "Do you want to help these children and families?" Hopefully one student will suggest, "Let's buy food for them." Mrs. Amy will exclaim, "What a great idea! But we need money to buy food." 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. (making their bed, doing the dishes, cleaning up toys) 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 food for the Food Bank.

## Parent Teacher Conferences:

The week of December 21st, the Duckling, Bluebird and Cardinal parents will receive an email to sign up for a virtual Parent/Teacher Conference scheduled in January. This is an opportunity for you to sit virtually via Zoom with your child's teacher to discuss his/her progress and answer any questions you may have. Specifics on dates and times will be included in 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, your scheduled zoom will still end at the scheduled time.



## 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 6:30am. The delayed opening schedule is below, please note these times may be changed depending on the conditions. THERE WILL BE NO EARLY CARE ON DELAYED OPENING DAYS.

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:**

Classes J, K and L 10:15am - 2:45pm

All Other Classes:

Morning classes 10:30am - 12:00pm/1:00pm

Full Day Classes 10:30am to 3:00pm

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

## 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 or Mrs. Barbara. Please send in all Influenza records no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!



# Kids Holiday Shoppe!



The Holiday Shoppe is a fun event where the children are given the opportunity to "shop" for special gifts for their loved ones. The third week of December the entranceway will be transformed into a gift boutique. This is a special shop; it is not gifts for the children but gifts the children can buy for mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc., each item is only \$2.00. It is a magical time at the Giving Nest when the Holiday Shoppe opens its doors. The children become little adults shopping at six specialty stores; clutching the money in their hands as they examine the items. After much thought and deliberation each child excitedly chooses the perfect gift for a special loved one. The children count out two dollars for the shopkeeper (Mrs. Amy, Mrs. Barbara and Mrs. Tasha). She takes the money and gift wraps the special surprise. What will your child pick for you?

If you would like for your child to shop, please fill out the green form and return it to the Giving Nest with payment. We have volunteers who will then shop at the local dollar stores for gift items using the forms received so that we know how many gifts and what type of gifts to buy. We will request all forms and payment by December 4th. In the past this was a fun time for parents to volunteer and come in to help as shopkeepers or personal shoppers. This year the office staff will do our best to fill those shoes and look forward to next year when we can all be together again. Rest assured we will be sending plenty of pictures of this event

## Playground Fun!



**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 those little fingers into the finger slots. We will keep the children in only if it is raining, sleeting or the temperature

drops below 32 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!

## 2021/2022 In-House Registration

The dates for Pre-Registration and In - House Registration are as follows:

**January 11th:** In House Pre-Registration information will be emailed to you.

**January 15th:** In House Pre-Registration is over

**January 19th & 20th:** In-House Registration forms go home

**January 27th:** In-House Registration is over

**January 29th:** Calling families outside the school

## THANK YOU!

- ❖ Thank you to our families who participated in our fundraising efforts and for all the donations we have received! The outpouring of support is amazing, and we cannot thank you enough. **We are so grateful for each and every one of you!**
- ❖ To all the parents for helping to supply the special Kindergarten and Cardinal Thanksgiving Feast lunches for their children. What yummy food the children enjoyed. All the little Pilgrims and Native Americans had a wonderful feast!
- ❖ Thank you to all our parents for following all the guidelines every day you drop off and pick up your child. We know this year is different and we appreciate all that it takes to be here today.



*Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season!*