

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



The Giving Nest Preschool in Pluckemin

Director: Barbara Maxwell

October Events at the Giving Nest...

Many wonderful things happen in October. Beginning with a little chill in the air, October starts its magic – the leaves begin to change colors and the children start planning their Halloween costumes. This is a wonderful month for the children and the teachers make a special effort to keep the excitement alive with their innovative lessons and creative art projects.

Drop off & Pick-Up During Inclement Weather



Drop Off & Pick-Up Times have been running so smoothly and we thank you for following all the procedures! Your children are doing fabulously. We are so proud of them! We have been blessed with lovely weather, but the day will come soon when it will be cold, windy, and rainy.

On those days and throughout the winter we will continue to follow our staggered time schedule. We will greet you at our front door where you will say "Good-bye" to your child and hand off your child's Daily Health Screening form. Inside of the lobby doors we will take your child's health screening temperature and have them wash their hands. They will be directed to their teachers who will be waiting outside of their classrooms. We will follow our usual routine for dismissals.

What's Up in the Sing Room...

Our school theme this year is "The Community Helper". At this time Sing Time is being done in the classrooms. On our web site you will find the songs the children will be learning this month. We will also learn about fire prevention, Halloween and Fall. We will talk about staying away from hot things, using smoke detectors and practicing fire drills.



Smile! Picture Day is this Month!

If you have been a member of our Giving Nest Family and have had your child's picture taken by Bill from Positive Image in New Providence, you know what a beautiful job he does. Somehow, each year, we have a 100% of our faces smiling. Bill will follow all the CDC and state COVID guidelines. He will wear a mask and be 6 feet away from the child who is being photographed. The children will not be mixing outside of their "bubble" for their class pictures. Bill will be here on October 22nd and 23rd for individual and class pictures. We will be sending you a link in order for you to order the picture package of your choice.



School Fundraiser

Look for our Constant Contact email link to Little Lambs Cookie Dough. This company provides delicious home-made cookie dough that is frozen, in portions and will arrive at your doorstep, right before the holidays. Many parents are already asking us when this fundraiser will begin. We will use any fundraising money to help us off-set our cleaning supply costs.

Important Dates

Please mark your calendar!

Please check your email for our Constant Contact messages which will update you on all the exciting and fun things your children are learning and doing on a daily basis. Please check your child's folder daily so that you may admire their classroom fun.

-**October 1-** Little Lambs Cookie Dough Fundraiser begins today and then ends on October 16th. Look for your Constant Contact email link.

- **October 12th**- No school for Columbus Day & Teacher's In-Service Day.

- **Thursday, October 22nd** - Picture Day with Positive Image Studios.

Classes A, E (F), H (I) & J.

-**Friday, October 23rd**- Picture Day with Positive Image Studios.

Classes B, C, D, G & K.

- **Week of October 26th** - **Virtual Back to School Nights. More info. to come.**

- **Thursday, October 29th** - Halloween Parties. Classes A/A+, (D/E), E/E+, (F/G), G/G+ & H/H-3.

- **Friday, October 30th**- Halloween Parties. Classes C, D/D+, (D/E), F/F+, (F/G), I & K.

Virtual Back to School Nights



During the week of October 26, The Giving Nest Staff will be hosting Back to School Nights. Most of our presentations will be done through a Zoom invite. Part of the presentation will be through a video link. We will try to capture the special moments in your child's day so you can see them on a typical day at the Nest.

More scheduling information will come soon. We will also ask you for any questions you may have before Back to School Nights so that we are sure to address them.



Halloween Parties ...

Halloween is such an exciting and fun time at the Giving Nest! On the day of your child's party, please bring your children in their costumes and drop them off at the Health Screening Entrance as usual.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we will not be hosting our usual parades. We will have the children participate in a small, classroom only, parade that we will capture in a video and share it with you.

Please check your child's classroom calendar or the Important Dates above to see when your child's Halloween Party is scheduled. A week prior to this date you will receive a link to our Sign-Up Genius if you'd like to help us provide treats etc. If you don't get an opportunity to sign up for this party, please don't worry, there will be many other opportunities during the year! If your child is in 2 classes, he/she should come in costume both days.

Tuition Envelopes...



At the end of each month, you will receive a tuition payment envelope with your child's name, class letter and the tuition amount due on the front. Tuition is due the 1st of each month (any payment received after the 15th will be charged a \$10 late fee). Please check the information very carefully and contact the office (908-658-9665) if any of the information is incorrect. Please place your payment envelope in your child's folder or mail your payment to: The Giving Nest Preschool, PO Box 94, Pluckemin, N.J. 07978.



Attention: All Parents - Coughs, Sniffles & Runny Noses...

Cough and cold season are already upon us! Please re-read the Giving Nest Policy and Procedure Book- Covid-19 Edition regarding the

policy for sick children as the policy has changed from past years. A doctor's note is now necessary, in some circumstances and for some illnesses, for your child to be readmitted to school following an illness. Please call the school office if your child is sick or will be away and will be absent from school. Remember, Flu shots are required by December 31st! Please provide a receipt to the office. We will continue to send you updated CDC and state mandates as we receive them. Thank you.



The Giving Nest Garden is full of surprises...

As many of you know or remember we have a beautiful garden in our Giving Nest playground thanks to Emma Menz and her girl scout friends and family. The children run to it most days when heading out to the playground to see how big our watermelons are growing. We currently have 3 watermelons in varying sizes. As of today, we have a tiny pumpkin.



***Parents- Please take note of this toy safety information...
The State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families has a website with a list of unsafe children's toys and products. This list is available on
www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/recall/recalls.htm.***

"It's Time to Clean Up!!"

Playing is so much fun but the words "Clean Up" are not always met with cooperation. Try some of these ideas that we use in the classroom...

1. Always give a "5" minutes warning when it is time to clean up.
2. "Can You Beat the Clock or Song": Set a timer or play a favorite song and ask your child "Can you beat the clock/song and clean up before the bell rings or the song is over?"

3. "Grocery Bag Clean Up" Give your child grocery bags from the store and tell him/her they are going shopping just like a big person. Tell your child to put all the items on the floor in their bags and once everything has been cleaned up, they have to put their "Grocery's" away.
4. Label-Label-Label: This is great for reading readiness, sorting, and organizing. Put toys in specific bins (For instance: Put blocks in one bin, put Lego's in another bin, etc.). Label each bin with a photo or hand drawn picture of the toy and write the name of the toy on a white index card. Adhere both the photo and the word on the outside of the bin. When it is time to clean up your child will know which toys go into which bin.
5. Hula-Hoops: If your child has a difficult time cleaning up take small steps. Put a hula-hoop over a group of toys and tell your child this is what they need to clean up. When they can do that with success, put more and more toys in the hoop until you can finally stop using the hoop.

