



## *The Giving Nest Preschool October Newsletter*

### *Halloween Celebrations and Parades*

As you check your child's calendar this month you will notice that our Halloween Celebrations are not on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween Day. In the past our parents experienced conflicts with attending our Halloween festivities and viewing events of siblings in the grammar schools. We've scheduled it this way for several years and it is very successful. Please pay close attention to your child's calendar for times and dates.

Parents are invited to come to enjoy the children dressed in costumes. The **Chickadees** and **Ducklings** will have a parade outside, weather permitting or in the center hall if it is raining. The **Bluebirds** and **Cardinals** will have a fashion show on the stage. Children should come to school dressed in costume on the day of the fashion show or parade. If the costume is uncomfortable, please have comfortable clothes underneath, or send clothes we can change them in.



### *Fire Fighter Visit!*

In the month of October the Watchung Volunteer Fire Fighters visit the Giving Nest to teach the children about Fire Safety. During Sing Time, prior to the fire department visting Mrs. Hannon will show the children, through lessons and stories, the steps to take if they smell smoke or see a fire. We have fun stories and skits we perform on fire safety, calling 911, and planning a meeting place.



Each year the Watchung Fire Department arranges for a few volunteers to come with the fire truck. The volunteers describe the equipment a firefighter wears and then dresses in front of the children; explaining each piece of apparatus as he puts it on. It's important for the children to see because a firefighter fully equipped with a facemask and oxygen tank can be very frightening. The firefighter is explains, "If someone looking like this comes up to you during a fire do not hide, he is there to help you." The children then have the opportunity to go outside and climb the fire truck.

We are very grateful to the Watchung Fire Department for coming to demonstrate these lifesaving skills to our precious students.

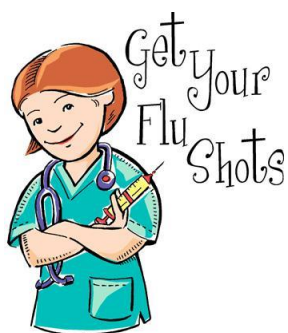
## *Back to School Nights for Parents*

This month all parents are invited and encouraged to come and learn what your child does all day at The Giving Nest. This special evening will begin promptly at 7:00 PM and lasts about an hour. It is for adults only so perhaps you can get a friend, relative or babysitter to watch the children at home. The director will give a short talk, present a slide show starring your children and their first days at schools. Next you will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom. **You will see your child's work, write a short note to your child, try to pick out which art project is your child's.** In the classroom you will also listen to the varied activities and special skills planned for your child throughout the year.



We request that you do not use this evening to ask questions regarding your individual child with the teacher or assistant. **Conferences are scheduled in January** for this purpose. We do however send out our "fall updates" in November with individualized information on how your child is doing. If you have any concerns that need to be addressed before, please write a note to the teacher and she will call you within the week. If you have any questions about Back to School Night, please call the office or stop by. Check your individual class calendars or our online monthly calendar for the day of your back to school night.

## *Please get your Flu Shot – It's a State Mandate*



***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 and/or documentation not provided, the child may have to leave the school. **The state nurse checks all immunizations.** If you have any questions, please call the school and ask for Mrs. Kathleen

## *Chicks hatching at Giving Nest*

On October 15th a farmer from Quiver Farm will bring 12 incubated eggs, an incubator and a brooder box. For two weeks we have the excitement and fun of watching the chicks hatch out of their eggs! Once the chicks hatch we move them to their brooder box with their brothers and sisters! Make sure you stop by during this time because the children love showing off their fluffy friends!

## *Fall Enrichment Starts October 21<sup>st</sup>!*

A few years ago the Giving Nest began offering Enrichment Classes afterschool for our students\* at the parents' request. The parents especially enjoy this program because their children can enroll in special classes such as Dance, Children's Yoga, Science, Cooking, Fine Arts and many more without having to drive to a new location and wait in the studio or in the car for the duration of the class. All classes will begin after school and ends at 3:30. Enrichment classes will start Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. An email blast will be sent out the second week of October with the list of enrichment classes offered this session and instructions on how and when to register using our online portal Sign up Genius. Admission is based on a first come first serve basis.



\*October enrichment classes are available to Ducklings, Bluebirds and Cardinals only.

## *Reminder – Substitute Training November 6<sup>th</sup>*

We will be offering a training class for anyone interested in substituting at the Giving Nest this year. Class will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. If you are interested please stop by the office. Only requirement is patience and a love of children. Pay is \$11.00 an hour, which if you choose, can be used as a voucher towards tuition. Register with Mrs. Kathleen or Mrs. Tara if you are interested in attending. If you already are a substitute here (filled out all the forms and attended a training workshop already) we will keep you on our substitute list unless we hear differently from you.

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Please do not forget there is no school on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. This day is reserved for an in-service training day for all of our staff. We are following the public school schedules in our area. The public schools are also closed for an in-service day.