



WINTER NEWSLETTER

Jan 31st 2020





Greetings and Happy New Year!

Returning from their holiday break (as least as much as mother nature allowed) the children have been exploring a lovely mix of lessons, planning and practicing their upcoming performance, fighting off a wicked flu, and keeping our little school filled with great stories, hearty laughter, some tears, and a bright joyful rhythm that is a true wonder to follow.

While the entire month is dedicated to a peek into the rainforests, weather and the continent of South America, for the oldest children, the story papers, math booklets, seasonal art projects and scientific tracing books have held sway in the new year. The second years have been pushing forward into the teens, preliminary reading, and many of the larger practical life kits, and our newest students have been busy with puzzles of all kinds, line walking and a wealth of small group lessons from the spoken language and sensorial areas.

Amazing as all this work is, there has also been plenty of time to enjoy the more social side of things, both amongst ourselves, and with our amazing guest Antoinette (Storybird) Botsford and weekly music with "Miss Mandy" Troxel. What a gift! We are always open to visits from the community, and from parents. Please let us know if you have something or some talent to bring to the children at our daily group.

I have really appreciated the great talks we have been having, and am working to check in with all our families before the Mid-Winter break.

Finally, having begun their planning and rehearsal for the upcoming Mid-Winter Tea, the whole class is now counting the days until they can take their songs, poems and introductions to a crowd. We will be keeping everyone updated about the event, and keeping ourselves busy with the decorations.

See you at the Tea!
Tom

No School Feb 14-17
Mid Winter Break
Enjoy the long weekend!



Our class cordially invites you to tea, with songs, poems and a potluck lunch. All family members are welcome.

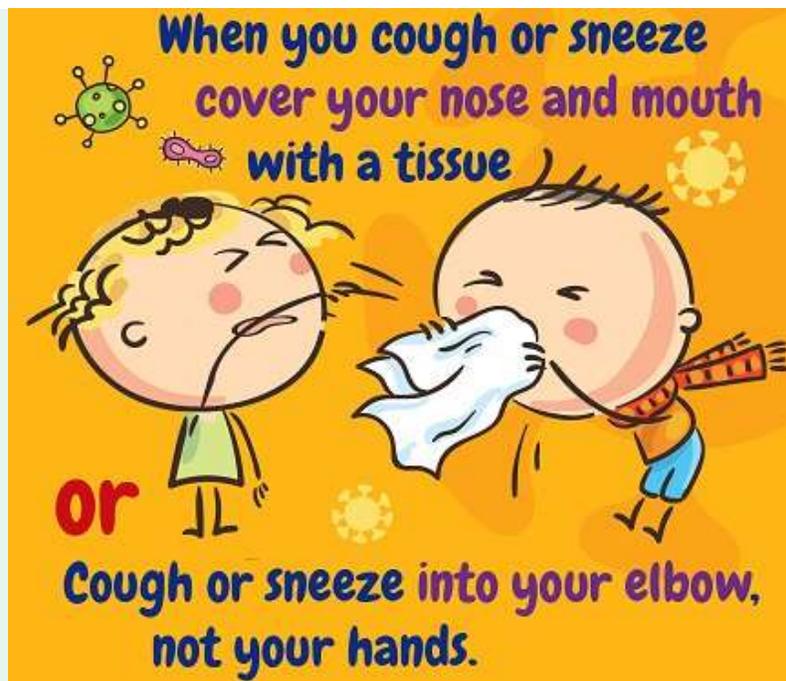
Kaleidoscope has kindly offered to transport the children from OMS to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in their bus. Tea will end around our usual dismissal time of 12.30.

Permission slips for the bus trip are on the sign-in clipboard.

Please sign up to bring something to the tea - you'll see the sign-up sheet with more details on the front door.

If you have some time to help set up the tea, and tidy up afterwards we would love to have some extra hands. Just let us know!

Please also let us know if you will be unable to attend.



'Cough and Sneeze? Elbows please!' Teaching your Child Germ Etiquette

Germs spread quickly in classrooms where children are in close proximity, tend to put their fingers in their mouths, and might not have mastered the art of hand washing. We work with them on using proper techniques for managing germs and hand washing. You can model and practice these at home:

1. Wash hands with plenty of soap and warm water after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose, going to the toilet and before eating.
2. Coughs and sneezes should be covered by elbows, not hands.
3. Sneezing directly into a tissue, throwing it away and thoroughly washing hands is the best practice.

4. Nose blowing can feel strange for small children. Practice it with your child so they can keep their nose clear at school!

When to keep your child at home...

The time is right for a reminder about our sick child policy. Thank you to all the parents who have given their children time to rest and recover at home - we know it can be difficult where work and life demands are at play! The health of our children and staff is important so we ask that you keep your child at home when:

- It is in the onset of a cold, or they have colored nasal discharge, frequent sneezing or symptoms of communicable illness
- They have had a fever (temperature must return to normal for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol)
- They have had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- They are unusually fussy, tired or 'not themselves' and would benefit from extra rest

We hold our teachers to the same standards, and ask that they stay at home for the same reasons.

If your child becomes ill at school you or an authorized person will be notified immediately and asked to collect them.

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences are well underway! This is chance to come in to the classroom after school for a chat with Teacher Tom. We ask that you arrange childcare for the conference, which usually lasts 20 - 30 mins. This is also a good time to start thinking about your plans for next year, especially if you'll have a kindergartener!

Pre-enrollment forms for new students are also available at this time.

A Note on Valentines

We welcome all children and families who would like to participate to bring Valentines to school on the morning of our Mid Winter Tea, asking only that no children are left out. We currently have 22 enrolled students, so please ensure you have enough for everyone (please don't put names on them as this makes distribution much more time consuming!)

Make-Up Days

If your child missed school due to the snow, we have made some sessions available so that they can be made up. The calendar is on the sign-in clipboard. You will see that we can take two additional children for each available session - just write your child's name in so we know to expect them!

SPECIAL THANKS

To the Wreath Sale Committee and everyone who bought a wreath

The 2019 Wreath Sale was another great success, providing much-needed funds for the school and continuing our good work of spreading cheer and raising our visibility in the community. Feedback was so positive - about the quality of the wreaths, the efficiency of our deliveries and shipments, and the joy they brought to everyone who received one.

Huge thanks are due to Alison and Chris, Denise, Khadoma, Laine, Nicole and Dwight, and Phil for performing their tasks with good cheer. Their time and skills kept the whole sale moving.

We would also like to thank every parent who bought a wreath and encouraged others to do the same - your participation and support in our fundraising endeavours is so valuable.

Get Involved...

VOLUNTEER CORNER

In the month of December parents volunteered **40 hours** to the school

This is a huge amount of work considering we were only open for three weeks! It doesn't even cover all the times a kind parent has stepped in to change a light bulb, shift heavy sandbags or offered us their expertise to problem-solve or make suggestions for the school. We are so fortunate to have such a strong school community of willing and capable people, and couldn't keep this place running without you all!

[Remember to shop Amazon through our affiliate link!](#)

Annual Auction & Venetian Carnival! May 9th 2020

The Auction Committee had our first meeting last week! Once again we are making plans for a spectacular party, working on procurement for the auction, and starting to put publicity materials together. If you'd like to join the party please let Maggie or Krista know.

This year we are planning to add more experiences to our auction offers, so we're on the hunt for plane rides, event tickets, season passes, memberships and hotel stays - anything that gets people out and about! If you have any good connections or suggestions send them our way!

We are also looking for volunteers to help cater the event so if that's in your wheelhouse please join the team.



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