



Dear Families,

Please make sure to read through and send in your permission slips for our field trip to the Kohl Children's Museum! Please send them in whether you plan to attend the field trip or not so that we can have an idea of how many kids and adults will be present. We will not have class Thursday, February the 28<sup>th</sup> at Marie Murphy school because all teachers will be attending the field trip.

## Six Things Every Parent Should Know About Play!

1. Children learn through their play. Children learn and develop:

**Cognitive skills** – like math and problem solving in a pretend grocery store

**Physical abilities** – like balancing blocks and running on the playground

**Vocabulary** – like the words they need to play with toy dinosaurs

**Social skills** – like playing together in a pretend car wash

**Literacy skills** – like creating a menu for a pretend restaurant

2. Play is healthy.

Play helps children grow strong and healthy. It also counteracts obesity issues facing many children today.

3. Play reduces stress.

Play helps your children grow emotionally. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.

4. Play is more than meets the eye.

Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, socio-dramatic, functional, and games with rules--to name just a few.

5. Make time for play.

As parents, you are the biggest supporters of your children's learning. You can make sure they have as much time to play as possible during the day to promote cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development.

6. Play and learning go hand-in-hand.

They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.



## Registration is Open!

We hope that you are planning to register your child for our 2019-2020 school year! You should have received a registration form this week in your child's backpack. Please turn in all forms with application fee to Dawn Scaramuzza in the Pupil Services office.

## Reminder: Birthdays in School

You are welcome to celebrate your preschooler's birthday (or half-birthday) in school with his or her friends! You can come in to the classroom around story time (10:30AM and 2:15PM, but we can be flexible) and be a guest reader, then donate the book to our class so that all of the kids can read it over and over again during school. If you'd like, you can also bring a store-bought, peanut-free snack to share with the kids. If you'd like to bring a snack, we ask that you send it in at arrival so that we can set it out during snack time.



# CENTERS AND REMINDERS

Center	Activities	Why are these activities so important?
<b>Blocks</b>	Igloo blocks and polar animals Gems Pictures of polar habitats	Creative play; turn taking; strengthening fine and gross motor skills; task persistence and problem solving
<b>Table Toys and Games</b>	Snowman phonics matching game Upper- and Lowercase Mitten match Roll-a-Snowman turn-taking game	Visual discrimination; measurement and size; turn taking with a peer; hand-eye coordination
<b>Dramatic Play</b>	Birthday Party center -cake and presents -party invitations, cards and colored pencils	Developing language and social skills; socialization and building friendships; imaginative and pretend play; sharing materials and turn taking
<b>Writing</b>	Winter word wall Writing on ice (Foil-covered whiteboards and dry erase markers) <u>What I See in the Winter</u> book	Fine motor skills; early literacy; language development
<b>Library</b>	Class-made books Winter-themed books Magnetic letters and flip books	Book-handling skills; social interactions; imaginative and pretend play; early literacy
<b>Sensory</b>	Multicolored rice, birthday number candles and birthday candles  Play dough and play dough tools	Sensory; fine motor development; volume and measurement; science concepts- sink/float, solid/liquid, hard/soft; sharing materials with peers
<b>Snack</b>	Self-serve during center time	Self-help; language development and social skills
<b>Art</b>	Snowman project with puffy paint (glue, shaving cream and white paint)	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
<b>Science</b>	Sensory writing trays- Salt and Glitter Snowball letters to copy	Exploring cause and effect; making observations; turn taking with peers

## Important Dates:

1/21: No School- MLK Holiday

2/14: Preschool Valentine Exchange

## January Birthday:

10th- Miss Barello

