



Dear Families,

Winter is here! Welcome back to school after a long Thanksgiving break. Please know that we will be using our preschool gym (room 135) when temperatures are too cold to go outside. The same goes for a very snowy day. We will not take the class outside if the snow gets too high. Keep the following points in mind when dressing your preschooler for school:

1. Do NOT send your child to school in boots or snow pants.
2. Please send in MITTENS as opposed to gloves.
3. If we do decide to go outside and play in the snow, we will give you prior notice so that you can send in snow gear.

Your child is working hard on being independent with putting on coats and backpacks during arrival and dismissal. Excess winter gear makes this process frustrating and time-consuming. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to ask.



January Developmental Screenings

The preschool teaching team will be conducting developmental screenings on Monday, January 7th. As written in the preschool calendar, this means there will be no class for our current preschoolers on this date. If you know any families in the district who have students aged 3-5 years old who may be interested in having their child screened, please reach out and let them know about our screening date! An appointment is required to participate in the screening. Please contact the Pupil Services at (847) 728-4142 to set one up.



ACP Holiday Party!

Planning has begun for our holiday party on Thursday, December 20th. Save the date! Festivities will be from 10:30-11:00 for the AM class and 2:00-2:30 for the PM class. Siblings, babysitters and grandparents are invited! The more the merrier. We hope to see you there to enjoy some holiday music and snacks to kick-start our winter break!

Arrival for students will be at the usual times (8:50 and 12:25) and dismissal will begin when the party ends.

Gingerbread Week!



We have filled the classroom with fun, candy-themed math and literacy games. Our dramatic play center is a gingerbread bakery filled with cakes, cupcakes, donuts and cookies for the kids to pretend to bake and sell. We might even decorate real gingerbread cookies at the end of the week for a fun treat!

CENTERS AND REMINDERS

Center	Activities	Why are these activities so important?
Blocks	Legos Tools Wooden blocks	Creative play; turn taking; strengthening fine and gross motor skills; task persistence and problem solving
Table Toys and Games	Gingerbread puzzles: -Letter match -Color sort -Rhyming match -Letter/sound match	Visual discrimination; measurement and size; turn taking with a peer; hand-eye coordination
Dramatic Play	Gingerbread Bakery and Store: Bakery supplies Cookie sets Cash register	Developing language and social skills; socialization and building friendships; imaginative and pretend play; sharing materials and turn taking
Writing	Colored pencils and paper Gingerbread pictures	Fine motor skills; early literacy; language development
Library	Class-made books Winter-themed books Magnetic letters and flip books	Book-handling skills; social interactions; imaginative and pretend play; early literacy
Sensory	Oatmeal with shovels, shapes and buckets	Sensory; fine motor development; volume and measurement; science concepts-sink/float, solid/liquid, hard/soft; sharing materials with peers
Snack	Self-serve during center time or as a whole group activity	Self-help; language development and social skills
Art	Gingerbread gluing activity Cookie cutter stamping	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
Tech	CLOSED THIS WEEK	Turn taking; developing hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills; practicing various cognitive skills (literacy, math, science concepts)
Science	Dissolving Experiment: (Gingerbread cookie, candy canes)	Exploring cause and effect; making observations; turn taking with peers

Important Dates:

12/20: ACP Winter parties

12/22-1/6: No School-Winter Break

1/7: No School- Community Screenings

