



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2013

**MEDICAL ALERT: Please do not send your child back to school until s/he has been free of the symptoms that kept or sent him or her home for at least 24 hours.**

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Happy New Year to all our families! The teachers and I thank you for all the goodies, warm wishes, and presents that we received this holiday season. While we were on break, I (with the help of Handy Man husband, Joe) was getting the new space, suite 102, ready for our younger toddlers and babies. We welcome Jacob Wu's sister, Julia, to our baby program. One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is creating a new classroom for the children. Expanding next door has given a separate napping room to our preschool students as well as an a.m. group meeting (story time) room with less distraction. Please stop in and take a peek if you'd like. Also-if your child is a member of this new class, please enter through suite 102's entrance. Just ring the bell if it's locked.

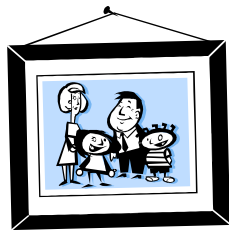
We've had a few staff changes since our last newsletter. Ms. Kristi has moved on and Ms. Janet left in December to care for her elderly parents. Ms. Sarah, from Hopkinton H.S., is taking a break to play basketball and Ms. Marie's daughter, Colby, is helping out in toddlers most afternoons. Another Hopkinton H.S. student, Jyan, will be helping out on Wednesdays and Fridays, starting this week. Now, on a sadder note, Ms. Margaret will not be returning in September. She has shared her expertise in the areas of literacy, child development, observation and documentation of special needs, and parent communication for the past 10 years. She has been a powerful example to all of us and lives the

cooperative spirit she has worked tirelessly to impart to her students every afternoon. The Playhouse will not be the same without her. She'll be with us until June, 2013.

Sincerely, Ms. Ida

### **INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLANS**

If your child needs to keep medication at preschool, either prescription or over the counter, please let a teacher know and we'll provide you with a form to sign and be faxed to your pediatrician.



### **FAMILY PHOTOS**

Please take a minute to find a family photo (including pets) for our bulletin boards. The children like to show off their pictures and to hold them in moments of insecurity.

### **HOLIDAYS & MAKE-UPS**

We do not follow the Hopkinton school schedule for closings. We are open Martin Luther King Day but closed on Presidents' Day. Make-ups will be available for Monday, February 18, but we are open the rest of the week. Our new toddler class has several openings and preschool afternoons are rarely full. Please check our website for holiday/vacation listings.

### **FLU SEASON**

If your child has a fever or another symptom, s/he may return to school only when s/he has been symptom free for 24 hours. For example, if your child goes home with diarrhea on Mon., the earliest s/he may return is Wednesday.



### **SUPERHEROES UPDATE**

As you may remember, we have removed all superhero figures and costumes to see if their absence reduces the frequency of physical aggression in the preschool classes. We would appreciate your help by discouraging your child from bringing them to school. We will still have capes to wear and other dress-up items. So far, we like the change in atmosphere and the lessening of limits needed to be set during free choice/play time. The children have been identifying their feelings and visiting the feeling wheel to help them regulate and come up with peaceful solutions. We will continue to reinforce and practice the STOP-BREATHE-COUNT-THINK of SOLUTION steps in our classrooms.

### **FALL REGISTRATION**

We will conduct on line registration for September this March. Summer program applications will be distributed in April, not on line. Starting in September, to qualify for the full day rate, your child must stay 8-10 hours per day.