



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2012

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

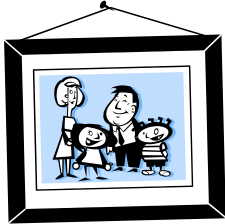
It's hard to believe that we've been back at school for a month now. The children have settled into their routines and have begun to bond with their teachers. Our classrooms are bustling with babies crawling and pulling themselves up, toddlers asserting themselves and dancing to Kids in Motion by Greg & Steve, and preschoolers mixing fall colors with eye droppers and negotiating turns on the tire swing on our playground. Our staff totals 12 teachers and soon we will add another to float between all our classrooms. Ms. Melanie has left to pursue her personal training business and is greatly missed. I am blessed to have Ms. Marie in babies and toddlers, Ms. Betsy and Ms. Desiree in toddlers, and Ms. Maureen, Ms. Donna, Ms. Mechelle, Ms. Margaret, and Mr. Peter in preschool. Ms. Janet recently joined our staff. She spends a morning in toddlers and preschool. Ms. Sarah, a Hopkinton sophomore, helps out in preschool 3 afternoons per week. Ms. Mandy and Ms. Joanna may fill in as substitutes occasionally.

As the weather cools, please send warm jackets as we go outside at least twice a day. Of course, we always have extra just in case. We would love clothing donations of pants sizes 2-5. I'll post a wish list on line of things we always need. Thank you for choosing the Playhouse.

Warmly, Ms. Ida

FAMILY INFORMATION FORMS

Some student files are missing their 2012 information packets. Baby, toddler, and new preschool parents must complete all 6 pages and submit documentation of last physical plus the list of immunizations. Parents of returning students must fill out 4 pages, omitting the developmental history. We also need documentation of your child's most recent physical and immunization list if it's been over a year. We need these ASAP; its state required.



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.



SCHOLASTIC ORDERS

I've attached book order forms to this newsletter. Please return orders to the envelope in the coat room by October 15. Thanks to Ms. Betsy for overseeing this task.

NEW LUNCH TIME ATMOSPHERE

We want our parents to know that we will no longer be the "food police" at lunch time. Your child will be free to eat whatever is in their lunch box, in whatever order they choose. We can encourage but not control this meal. We have limited the amount of snack served so the children will be hungry for lunch. At the post-nap snack, we reintroduce the lunch boxes so your child can choose some items. If it is empty, we will provide a snack.

HOLIDAYS & MAKE-UPS

We do not follow the Hopkinton school schedule for closings. We are open Veteran's Day, but closed on Columbus Day. Make-ups will be available for Monday, October 8. Please check our website for holiday/vacation listings

Because we are very full this year, the opportunity for make-ups is limited. Parents have a month from the missed day to reschedule and it's not guaranteed to happen. It's a courtesy that we offer to our families. Both toddlers and preschool have more room in the afternoons; 2:30-5:30 in toddlers or 12:30-3:30 in preschool.

FAMILY VISITING NIGHT

Please join us for visiting night on Monday, October 29, from 6-8 p.m. It's a chance for your child to show his/her family around and meet their friends and teachers. The sign-up sheets will be posted in the entry way. Siblings and grandparents are welcome to attend.



MAKE-UP/SNOW DAY

There's been some confusion about what days students can make-up. If your child misses school for illness or any other reason, s/he can make up this class within the next 4 weeks. If your child misses school due to a Monday holiday (Columbus, President's, Patriot's, Memorial), s/he can make up this class within the next 4 weeks. There are no make ups for snow days, certain holidays listed on our website, December holiday break, and the 2 public school vacation weeks, as we are open in February and April.

We do not close due to weather unless the governor declares a snow emergency and mandates we stay off the roads. If we're closed, you will receive an email. We do not delay opening or dismiss early. We do not follow the Hopkinton Public Schools closings. Parents are welcome to pick up early if they're concerned about driving.



SUPERHEROES AT SCHOOL

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. We'll keep you posted.

NAPPERS

If your child naps at school, please send in a blanket that will be sent home every 2 weeks, on a Friday for washing. Thanks.