

CPS & ECC Gazette

DECEMBER 2011

The Director's Corner

Dear Families:

I hope you are all taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher for a conference. When parents and teachers share knowledge about a child, we move closer to our goal of providing each child with the best possible learning environment.

December will be a short busy month at CPS. Starting with the Holiday Breakfast December 3rd, culminating the timeframe with music, a spark that can ignite all areas of development – intellectual, social and emotional, motor, language and overall literacy, whether you can sing or not is irrelevant, come join us on December 21st for the Holiday Sing A Long.

Our thanks to families for the success we are experiencing with our goal to improve health and nutrition by providing snacks and supplies from the Healthy Snacking List and Birthday Party Plan, designed to encourage the development of good eating habits. Please be especially mindful of snacks and gift items during the next few weeks for it *tis the season!*

With all the hectic excitement the holiday season can bring, we always keep in mind the children's perspective and keep to our routines, taking time to enjoy the simple joys of the season. And remember the old adage; "Less is More".

Wishing you peace and joy in the new year,

Peg Smith
Director

FYI...for Staff In Service we were fortunate to receive grant money to cover the cost of a workshop with the Ooey Gooley Lady (Lisa Murphy). Lisa in turn was kind enough to provide us with a grant to purchase as a resource for each classroom a copy of her book, Play (the Foundation that Supports the House of Higher Learning.) We encourage you to borrow, please check with your child's teacher.

Community Family Events

Attend one of the area's Art Walks. The First Friday Art Walk the first Friday of each month in downtown Binghamton from 6-9pm which highlights our area's growing art community.

Visit www.gorgeouswashington.com for information where to go. The Owego Art Walk is the third Friday of each month from 5-9pm.

Roberson Museum & Science: their Home for the Holidays event runs from November 25 – January 1st. They also have a new Digital Planetarium Exhibit.

www.roberson.org

WEE BEAR

As the holidays approach our lives get even busier! In the Wee Bear room, we try to keep it as low stress, low key as possible. We do some baking, we have a “baking” table instead of sand, a tree that we can decorate, some new art activities and we are building our vocabularies with all the excitement that the holidays bring.

Soon after Thanksgiving, you will have an opportunity for a parent/teacher conference. Watch for the sign-up sheet near the snack chart.

Happy Holidays!

Kelly
Louise
Sue



BEAR CUB

It is hard to believe that December is here already. December is a very busy month for everyone. The Bear Cubs will be getting ready for the holidays. We will be making decorations for the classroom and home, working on special parent gifts, making a piñata for a fun filled activity for the last week of the session, and working on many other arts/craft related projects. The children really enjoyed their art work, working with art allows children to be spontaneous in their experiments with color, shape and texture. For the young child, it is the process of creating that is important, not the product.

If there is anyone who would like to share any family traditions or projects with our classroom, please see Chris, we would be thrilled to have you participate.

Also, December usually brings snow! Please be prepared with the proper outdoor clothing for your child. We try to go outside on a daily basis. You will need to bring snowsuits, boots, hats, mittens, and extra socks. A suggestion would be to place them all in a plastic bag and hang this on your child's coat hook. Please label all clothing and boots.

We hope you all enjoy the holidays with your families. Treasure all of the moments you have with each other and look forward to the New Year!

Chris
Megan
Cathi



POOH BEAR



“Tis the season to be jolly” and the Pooh Bears certainly are! We are so excited about the busy month ahead with our annual Sing-A-Long, parent gifts, and so many fun activities.

November was a “hoot” with our Harvest Feast which we made cranberry sauce for, the Tom Knight Puppet Show, and parent/teacher conferences. Thank you to all the parents who signed up and took the time out of their day.

We want to remind you all to please check your child's cubbies for warm weather clothes. The snow will be falling before you know it and we will need the following: *snowpants, coat (heavy), hat, gloves/ mittens, and boots*. All must be labeled with their names.

We would like to wish Connor and Jakob a Happy 3rd Birthday this month!!!

And last we would like to thank our wonderful and very helpful BU Interns for their time spent here this semester. Thank you Jackie, Gabby, and Katie. We wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors.

Megan, Heather, and I want to wish all of our Pooh Bears and their families Happy Holidays!!!

See you in the New Year,

Nadine Heather Megan

HONEY BEAR

The children were busy getting ready for our Thanksgiving Feast. Our contribution was vanilla pudding. The children loved mixing the pudding. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families.

Thank you to all of the parents who signed up and came in for our parent/teacher conferences. It is always great to learn about your child at home and important for you to know how he/she is in school.

It seems impossible that it is December already. This is now a very busy time of the year for most of us. Please remember to spend time with your child. They will remember these special moments for years to come.

This month we will be talking about the different holidays and how people celebrate them. If anyone would like to come in to talk to us about their family's special holidays, please set up a day and time with the teachers.

We go outside everyday, please remember to dress your child for the weather outside. They need hats, mittens, coats, (soon we will need snowpants and boots). Also, please check your child's extra clothes bin. Several of the children have had to borrow clothes when they have had an accident.

Happy holidays. Enjoy this wonderful time of the year with your little ones.

Brenda Irene Mary



TEDDY BEAR

In the month of December we will be sewing stockings to hang on our fireplace bulletin board. We will be talking about the different holidays that people celebrate. If you would like to come in and share your holiday tradition with us we would love to have you. Many children at this age are only familiar with the holiday that their family celebrates. It is nice to teach them that not everyone celebrates the same holiday as they do.

Please remember that the holiday season can be busy and a stressful time. Be mindful that your children can be affected by this during this holiday season so they may need a little attention from you.

We would like to wish Julia and Braden a Happy Birthday! They will be turning 4 this month.

Have a very happy holiday season!

Gabe
Michele
Renee



PANDA BEAR

The Campus Pre-School annual Thanksgiving Feast was a hit! The children gratefully appreciated everyone's efforts and contributions to our meal as they ate and ate and ate. We hope your Thanksgiving celebration was as much fun!

We are fast heading into Winter. The Pandas keep singing "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!"

The children are talking about Snow Angels and Snowmen. Let's be sure they are ready. Please send in hats, mittens, boots, and snowpants. These items can be left at school if you wish. As the Pandas prepare for Winter, we will be learning what animals do to prepare and survive the winter months: hibernate, migrate, or acclimate.

The holidays are fast approaching. If you have any traditions that you would like to share with the class, please be sure to see Tina or me. We would be glad to make the arrangements.

We can't wait for Jen's recuperation to be over! We miss her!!!

Happy 5th Birthday to Alexandra Back-Dec. 28th!

Claire
Jen
Tina



GRIZZLY BEAR

Hello again Grizzly Families,

November was another quick month, packed with fun and learning. We learned about the food groups, what they do for our bodies and which ones we should eat the most of. This is a good thing to think about this holiday season. Our Harvest Feast was a good time, we definitely got our fill of the food groups.

December will be over and done with in the blink of an eye. December 3rd (Saturday) is our annual Holiday Breakfast. We hope to see you all there!

We will be learning all about gingerbread men/women, Hanukkah, and Christmas throughout the month. We are looking to plan a field trip to the Hanukkah House & Roberson Museum at some point during the month. More information will follow.

Please be sure to check your child's cubby for weather appropriate changes of clothes. We are also in need of a set of gloves/mittens, hat, snowpants, and boots here at school for your child. Please be sure to label all items.

If your family has any special traditions they would like to share with the class for the holiday season, we would love to have you pay the classroom a visit. Please see Nicole or Kat to plan something. We love to have family involvement, especially around the holidays.

Thank you,

Nicole & Kat



POLAR BEAR

La La La La!

December is full of catchy songs that are fun to sing with your family. Once the radios and stores return to their regular music, don't stop singing! Howard Gardner, who believes there are nice intelligences by which we learn, states that the musical intelligence is not only the first one we acquire, but it is also the last one we lose.

Don't think you can help your child learn music? Here are just a few benefits of music:

- * Vocabulary development
- * Being exposed to rhythm at this age can help with being able to successfully break apart words when spelling and reading later in their development
- * Rhyming
- * Fluency-children can be taught about reading speed and expression through song

These are just a few benefits to music!

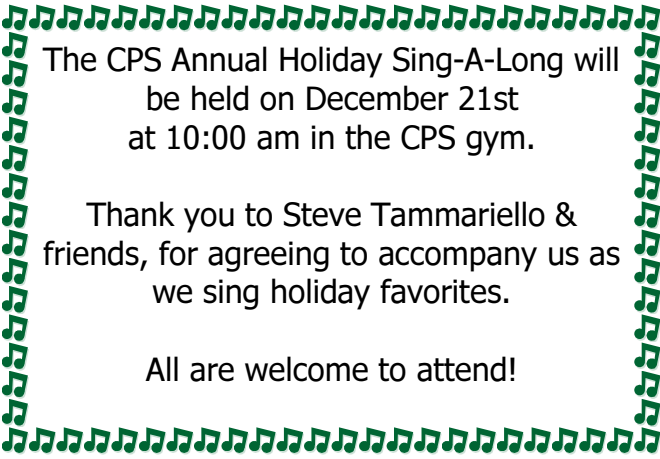
What an easy way to incorporate skills your child is working on at school! We have such a fun time singing numerous songs in our classroom (and no one realizes they are learning as well!) and you can also share the fun by singing in the car, on a walk, or even in the bathtub!

Here are some favorites:

- * I'm a Little Teapot
- * Oh! Susanna!
- * This Old Man
- * You are My Sunshine
- * Hear a fun song your child is singing from our classroom? Ask us and we will give you a copy of the words!

Kathryn & Jane





The CPS Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long will be held on December 21st at 10:00 am in the CPS gym.

Thank you to Steve Tammariello & friends, for agreeing to accompany us as we sing holiday favorites.

All are welcome to attend!

Did you know.....

That leaving your car running either occupied or unoccupied is unsafe and **against the law.**

Leaving your child(ren) unattended in the car is also **against the law.**

Beware, we don't want anyone to receive a ticket.

CPS HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Our Annual Holiday Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, December 3rd from 8:30am-11:00am.**

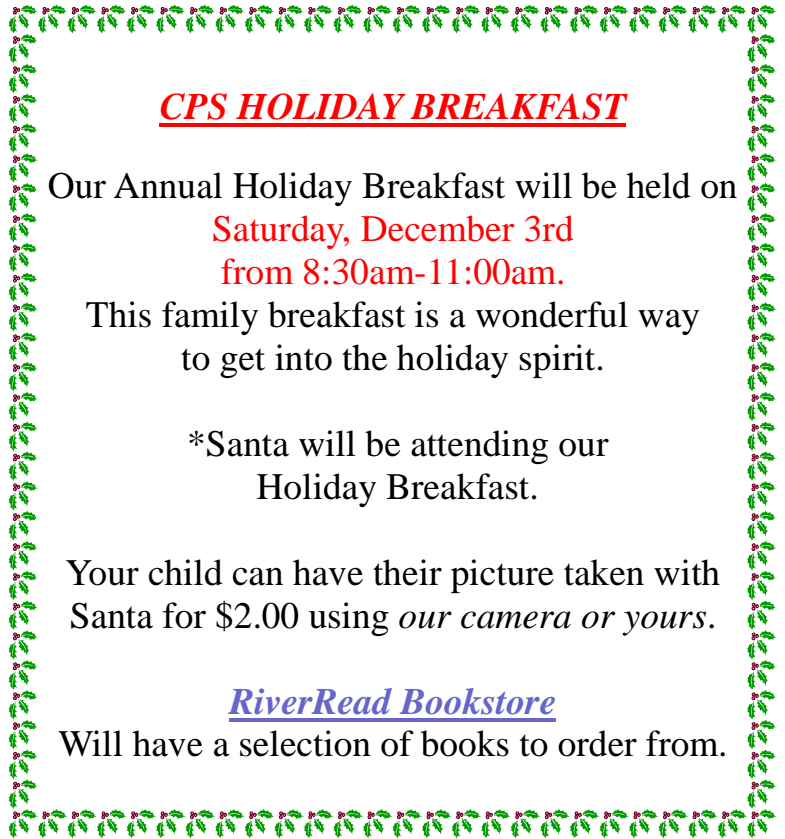
This family breakfast is a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit.

*Santa will be attending our Holiday Breakfast.

Your child can have their picture taken with Santa for \$2.00 using *our camera or yours.*

RiverRead Bookstore

Will have a selection of books to order from.



Holiday Closing

CPS will be closed

December 23rd through January 2nd.

We will reopen January 3rd.

CHECK THIS OUT!!!!

www.kidseatright.org

The Kids Eat Right website is designed to bring families together for nutritious meals each day by providing fun and simple tips. On this site you will find ideas on how to shop for healthy foods, how to cook nutritious meals (including kid friendly recipes), and the many benefits of eating family meals.

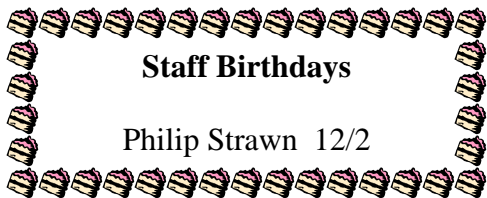


TOYS FOR TOTS

During the month of December, we will be collecting toys for Toys For Tots. A collection tub is located in the main hallway. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Staff Birthdays

Philip Strawn 12/2



During the month of December we will be collecting mittens for the SOS Shelter. Please bring your donated mittens to the office. We will have a mitten tree waiting to be decorated!!!



Snow Policy

CPS will only close if there is a State of Emergency. Also, it is important to remember that state facilities may be closed only by order of the NYS Governor, however, university presidents are authorized to cancel classes and release employees. In this situation, parents will be informed through major radio stations. We are usually short staffed in bad weather, so please do not brave dangerous roads to bring your child if it is not absolutely necessary.

