



Dear Families,

Thank you so much for following our winter gear rules last week! The kids are working so hard to get their coats, hats, mittens and backpacks all on at dismissal, and we're so proud of how well they're doing! Once again, they do not need to wear boots or snow pants unless we specifically ask for them on a certain day. Gloves work MUCH better than mittens if you have them, and remember that we will usually play inside with our fun, indoor gym toys!



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 20st. 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...Extended!

Since the kids are LOVING learning about the story of the gingerbread man, we decided to take a few lessons into this week! So far, we have read, The Gingerbread Man and The Gingerbread Girl with the kids. We even had the kids to a retelling of the story in their own words. They did amazing and we can't wait to share them with you!

This week we will bake gingerbread cookies. If anyone would like to donate any ingredients for the cookies or decorations (gingerbread cookie mix, mini M&Ms or other small colorful candies, and white frosting) please let us know!



Arrival and Dismissal

Please arrive on time every day at arrival and dismissal. Times are 8:50AM-11:10AM and 12:25PM-2:45PM. If you are going to be more than 20 minutes late, please consider keeping your child at home for the day. Extreme tardiness can be disruptive to the other students.

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	Rainbow chickpeas, bowls and shovels Rhyming match game	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