



Happy New year in January 2010!

Thank you to all of our families who participated in our Giving Tree this year. The MALTA house was appreciative of all the wonderful donations that will help to make the lives of those less fortunate a little brighter this year. We hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday and we wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Moving on to January. We are going to be busy busy! We are going to begin our study of the Spanish language. We will be using Beth Manner's Beginning Spanish Program during Circle Time three times a week. The children will be learning the Spanish language using puppets, props and through fun songs!

The letters we will be studying in January are N, M and K. Some of our projects for N week include a Number Glove Puppet, a Night Notebook, and Winter Luminaries. For cooking we will be using a sugar cookie recipe to create Name cookies! Some of our Choice Time projects will be a Nurse Puppet, snowflakes, having some sensory fun with shaving cream and lacing some name necklaces. For M week some of our projects will be a Moose Finger Puppet, and "If you give a Moose a Muffin" Math Game. Some of our choice time projects will be a mouse puppet, marble painting and playing with moon sand. For M week we will also be cooking up some delicious Monkey Bread.

We also will be spending some time over the next few months focusing on the cultural arts piece of the program. We will be preparing for our travels by making a Passport, and getting ready to visit our first country, Mexico. The children will be using their passports throughout the next few months while we visit our other countries too! While in Mexico we will learn about the Mexican Flag, we will explore Mexican music by learning the Mexican Hat Dance and making Maracas. We will also be making piñatas during choice time for our Mexican Fiesta Party. For our party we will be dancing and cooking up some home made Tortillas.

Learning about letter K is how we will be ending the month of January. Some of our projects will be a Kangaroo Puppet, and a Kite Math Game that will focus on patterning and strengthening our small motor skills. We also will be cooking Krispy Kisses!

Our field trip this month will be to the downtown Cabaret Theater to see Hansel and Gretel on Tuesday January 26th. Please meet at the Tiburon Restaurant parking lot at 8:45 a.m. We will return to the lot at 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

NEW! We will begin our Mystery Reader program this month and continue it until the end of the year. Each week we are looking for a parent volunteer to come into our classroom and choose a book to read to their child's class during Snack and Story Time. In the AM this would be at 10:00; PM will be at 1:30. Please contact your classroom teachers through email if you are interested and what date you are available.

Just a reminder that school will be closed on Monday, January 18th in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Now that the winter weather has arrived - just a reminder to send your children in each day with mittens, hats and boots. Please send in snow pants when necessary. Also, in order to keep everyone's clothes separate we are asking that you clearly label each item before sending them into school. We try to go out for recess every day as long as the temperature is above 20°.

In the case of **inclement weather** we follow the Westport Public School system. If we have a two hour delay the AM session and Fives will start at 11:00am and dismiss at 1:00pm. This is the same for lunch bunch. The PM session will begin at 1:30 and end at 3:30. If Westport schools are closed we will also be closed. A message will be posted on our voicemail informing you of any delays or closures. You can also call the Westport Snow Line at 341-1766.

Just a quick reminder of our **sick policy**. Should your child awake with a fever of any kind, they must remain at home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines. If your child develops a fever at school, parents will be called to pick them up. If your child has vomited they must remain at home until vomiting has stopped for at least 24 hours. If any of these symptoms develop at school parents will be called to pick up their child up. Should your child have a runny nose, is sneezing or coughing, has a sore throat, body aches, headaches or is fatigued please do not send them to school. Should your child have conjunctivitis (pink eye) they must remain at home until they have received medication for 24 hours. For the safety of all our children we do reinforce all these policies.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2010!
Cyndi, Jenn, Gina, Lori, Linda, Leslie, Nikki, Natalia, Marilyn and Jen L.