



2011 Newsletter

This month we are busy busy busy! December is finally here, and we begin to prepare for winter and all the fun holiday celebrations this month. A couple of new activities:

The Fun Bus and **Acting Out with Miss Karen** will both be visiting during the month of December. So many childrens' programs were victims of budget cuts this year that we are not going on any field trips beside the pumpkin farm. Instead we will have the Fun Bus and Acting Out with Miss Karen come to us. I will not usually have both programs visit within the same month. It just happens that one of Miss Karen's programs I thought the children would enjoy only takes place in December. I have made sure to schedule these programs on different days of the week so that if your child does not get them this month they will the next time. The cost for the **Fun Bus is \$12.00 per child**, and the cost for **Miss Karen is \$9.00 per child**. You may include these costs in your tuition check or send a check in the day of the activity. I have enclosed the respective brochures so you know exactly what your child is participating in.

December Important Dates:

December 13th - Scholastic Orders Due (books will be received after our holiday break)

December 16th - Schoolwide Holiday celebration and pajama day. Wear your favorite pj's to school.

December 16th - Holiday Sing Along with our families and friends 5:00pm at 3,4 Open the Door - all are welcome! Join us for cocoa and cookies afterward.

December 19th - January 2nd - Winter Break - No School

January 3rd - Staff Development Day - No School for partial day children. All day children have a regular school day

January 4th - Everyone is back!

December can be a blustery month in many ways. It can surprise us with...**SNOW!!!** **In the event of inclement weather, the school will follow the same plan as the Westport Public Schools.** When the public schools are delayed 2 hours, we will be delayed 2 hours. The AM sessions will begin at 11:00am and will dismiss at 1:00pm, this includes Twos Program and Threes and Fours Program. Fives and Kindergarten will dismiss at their regular time (1:30). Lunch Bunch will dismiss at their regular time (1:30). If the public schools are closed, we will be closed. By 7:30AM a message will be placed on our voice mail informing the parents of any change in the school day schedule. You may also call the town's emergency phone # 341-1766. The message is usually posted @ 6:00am. You can also log onto www.ctweather.com and look up IAN cancellations.

This time of year provides for a wonderful opportunity for our children who are working on their self-help skills; putting on jackets, mittens, and hats. We do go out for recess each day, so please be sure your little ones are dressed appropriately. Please label all winter clothing. We also ask that the children take off their shoes upon entering school because a large part of our day is spent playing on the floor. You can have them leave a pair of slippers in the shoe basket to wear every day.

We will have our 1st Annual "Sing Along" Friday December 16th at 5:00pm right here at 3,4 Open the Door. It will take place outside, so dress accordingly. We will enjoy hot cocoa and cookies afterward. In the coming weeks we will be practicing a few songs that the children will present to you, and singing some of our

favorites together with our families. Please mark this fun filled evening on your calendars now!

Two's Program

This month we are excited to celebrate the holidays by making fun crafts and singing holiday songs together. The crafts we will be making are: snowflake collages, symmetrical mittens, hot chocolate mugs, handprint menorahs, marshmallow dreidels, tissue paper Christmas wreaths, and Santa handprint ornaments. We will be singing the songs "Lighting All the Candles," "Dreidel Song," "Jingle Bells," and "Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Star." We look forward to a very cheerful and festive month ahead!

Threes and Fours Program

Our threes and fours will be starting off the month of December learning about Hanukkah. During the first week of December we will be creating our very own Menorah, candy Dreidel, and for our cooking project, we will be making yummy latkes! Some of our Choice Time projects include our special parent project, Glitter snowflakes and Holiday cards.

The following week, December 12th we will focus our attention on the Christmas holiday. Throughout the week of December 12th we will be making ornaments and Ginger bread houses. Some of our Choice Time projects include Pine cone Christmas trees and Christmas coloring.

Five's and Kindergarten Program

This month we will continue our study of the letters M and C. We will read, "The Mitten" penned by a few different authors and compare the characters and storylines using a Venn diagram. We will graph preferences of "Mittens or "Gloves", a mitten art project and create a poem using words that describe mittens. Our songs for "M" week are "Miss Mary Mack, Two Warm Mittens and We Love the Winter Holidays". (Please see attached)

Our second letter, and the last of this year, will be "C". Our theme for "C" week will be "Color". Some of our activities will be recognizing and writing color words, creating a class book about our favorite colors and mixing colors many different ways. The last week before we break for the holidays we will be celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas. Our projects will include elves, trees menorahs and a gingerbread house. Our focus for math will be addition fact families using numbers 1-10, including word problems. We will be comparing numbers using greater than and less than and learning to use the appropriate symbols.

When thinking about this Holiday Season so many wonderful traditions come to mind. We all have our own unique ways of celebrating messages of peace, sharing, giving and diversity. Throughout this month we will be focusing on these concepts and talking with the children about how we can practice and celebrate them. We love learning about all of the wonderful traditions that are practiced throughout this country and the world! We would like to welcome parents and friends to come in and talk to the children about the different celebrations and traditions that take place with your family during these winter months. If you would like to volunteer for this please talk to your classroom teacher ASAP to set up a time for this special learning experience.

This December we will be donating to the [Evergreen Network](#) to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The Evergreen Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping those affected by HIV/AIDS in the greater Bridgeport area. We will be collecting new and gently used adult and children's clothing, diapers, wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste and gently used or new toys. Please bring any of these items to our Holiday sing along on Decemb16th. Christina Bassler, a mom of three children who have all been through 3,4 (Mattias is currently in the 3's and 4's) is helping to coordinate this effort.

As this is a time for reflection; and acknowledgement of the many blessings in our lives, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to you and yours. My most sincere wishes for health and happiness throughout the holiday season and the New Year!

*With appreciation,
Cyndi and the entire staff at 3,4 Open the Door*