



# Happy New Year, January 2012!

Welcome 2012!! We are all going to be busy, busy! We will 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 fun songs!

## **Important Dates:**

Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> - No School New Year's Holiday

Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> - No School - Staff Development Day

Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> - Parent Coffee at 9:15am - Nutrition

Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (ALL SCHOOL CLOSED)

Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> - Scholastic Online Book Orders Due

**Two's** - This month we will be doing so many fun winter projects! Our art crafts projects include making mitten sticker collages, polar bear crafts, penguin Oreo snacks, igloos, paper plate walruses, winter crowns, sponge paint snowmen and snowmen door hangers. We will be singing the songs "Snowflakes, Snowflakes", "Polar Bear" and "Snow is Falling All Around".

**Threes/Fours** - Our letters for this month are N, M, K, L and U. We also will be taking a trip to Madrid, Spain. We are excited to start 2012 by creating New Year Resolutions, and making our Nurse Puppet. For M week we will be making a Moose puppet and a game for our felt board that goes along with the Story, "If you give A Moose a Muffin." While learning about Spain, we will have so much making Nachos and we will begin to learn the native language of Spain during circle time. We have a lot of fun activities planned for K week, such as a Kiss Keychain, Koala puppets and Krispie Kisses. During L week we will be writing love letters in our writing center, making a ladybug sock puppet, juicing lemons to make fresh lemonade and playing a Letter Lotto game that will go along with our Foundations curriculum. The letter U will end the month of January and begin February. We will be designing Underwater Underwear, a Unicorn puppet and Rainy day Umbrella Pictures.

**Fives/K** - Our letters this month are L, B and G. We will be travelling to the continent of Africa in our cultural arts program. We will continue our world travel and go next to China to prepare for the Chinese New Year celebration in late January. We will also begin our study of the Spanish Language with our Beth Manners Spanish program. Our math study this month will focus on teen numbers. We will also begin writing in our Word Prompt journals. Our Choice Time Room has been transformed into a Pet Hospital! Don't forget to take a look at our bulletin boards throughout the month to see some of our other activities.

**Clothing Reminder** - now that the winter weather has arrived 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°. If you are looking for a wonderful way to label your child's clothing we have found a great website - [namebubbles.com](http://namebubbles.com). Many of our teachers use them for their own children. They are laundry and dishwasher safe and adorable at the same time! It saves clothing and belongings from ending up in the Lost and Found as well!

In the case of **inclement weather** we follow the Westport Public School system. If we have a two hour delay the 2's, 3's and 4's, begin at 11:00am and dismiss at 1:00. Lunch Bunch will dismiss at 1:30. Fives/Kindergarten will start at 11:00am and dismiss at 1:30pm and 2:00pm respectively. ALL DAY children dismiss at their regularly scheduled times. Early drop off will begin at 10:30 am ONLY for those who are regularly scheduled early drop off in the Infant Room. If Westport schools are closed we will also be closed. A message will be posted on our voicemail (203.454.1924) 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 immediately to pick them up. If your child has vomited or has loose stools, they must remain at home until vomiting and loose stools have stopped for at least 24 hours. 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. If any of these symptoms develop at school parents will be called to pick their child up. Children will not be permitted to return to school until symptoms disappear or a **note from student's pediatrician states that they are not contagious and may return to school**. Please send a copy of this note into school for our confidential records.

Should your child have conjunctivitis (pink eye) they must remain at home until they have received medication for 24 hours. In regards to the flu or H1N1 students must remain at home even if they are using anti-viral drugs. Students who have an ill household member should remain at home for at least 5 days from the day the first household member became sick.

During the Flu Season, beginning in September, ALL students entering Three Four Open the Door will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Students will wash hands before and after snack and at any time after coughing or sneezing. As always, all classrooms, bathrooms and common areas are cleaned several times daily. We ask for your FULL cooperation in order to prevent any possible outbreaks during the cold and flu season.

For the safety of all our children, staff and parents we do reinforce all these policies. If you are not available to pick up your child if your child should become sick please make sure your emergency contact list is updated or you have arranged for alternative pick up.

**Activity dates to mark on your calendars:**

Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> - The Fun Bus!! 3's and 4's and 5's and Kindergarten

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> - Miss Karen will present The Mitten to the 5's and Kindergarten

**Future Staff Development Days:**

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL - ALL DAY children ONLY.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2012!!

Cyndi, Jenn, Bobby, Leslie, Lori, Linda, Marianne, Jen S., Renea, Libby, Hillary, Lucy, Wendy, Annmarie and Shannen