



# Pink Tower Press

Kennedy Heights Montessori Center Newsletter

## A Word From Our Director!



### Marybeth Schneider - Executive Director

Ready or not the holidays are here! The classrooms will be very busy with holiday excitement! Many other things will be happening in December and January, so please review the calendar section of the newsletter and read the many reminders that will be posted on the door and bulletin boards in the hallway. The last day of school before the Winter Break is Friday Dec. 15. Extended Day will be open Dec. 27, 28, and 29 for those who have made a reservation.

**The first essential for the child's development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy. ~ Dr. Maria Montessori**

**\*Reminder\* : The last day of school before the Winter Break is Friday Dec. 15.**



### Birthdays!!!

#### Staff

- Mrs. Imwalle Dec. 4th
- Ms. Jones Dec. 12th
- Mrs. Smith Dec. 17th
- Mrs. Schneider Dec. 30th
- Mrs. Clark Jan. 30th

#### Mrs. Shinkle's Class

- Logan Nov. 29th

#### Mrs. Clark's Class

- Jack Dec. 11th
- Fayola Dec. 17th
- Madison Jan. 7th
- Seth Jan. 30th

#### Ms. Geiger's Class

- Charlie Dec. 7th
- Kenneden Jan. 10th

#### Mrs. Carlson's Class

- Lou Dec. 29th
- Jay Jan. 6th
- Ozzie Jan. 7th
- Voss Jan. 25th
- Naomi Jan. 25th

#### Mrs. Roemhild's Class

- Aiden Dec. 2nd
- Nolan Dec. 19th
- Clive Jan. 8th

# Extended Day Program

## The Extended Day Teachers

December is here and it's time for our Holiday Sing-A-Long. The Extended Day teachers have been getting the children prepared for this year's program on December 12 at 5:00 p.m. The program begins promptly at 5 p.m. lasting about 45 minutes to an hour. Please don't be late or you just might miss your child's performance. The children have been working very hard on learning their songs.

Feel free to take pictures or a video of their performance. While the weather is constantly changing it is very important that you check your child's cubby to make sure that they have the proper change of clothing for the winter months. Enjoy the Holidays with your family and Friends until we see each other again.

## The Extended Day Teachers and Assistants



## OHIO'S EARLY LEARNING STANDARD SKILLS

This month our Monthly Theme is "Celebrating Music and Movement". The teachers and assistants will help the children to develop these "Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards" skills:

### Ohio Early Learning Development Standards

- \*\* Present own experiences, instruments or creations through different instruments
- \*\* Participate in the recitation of poems, chants, songs and nursery rhymes
- \*\* Select category that have the most or fewest objects
- \*\* Explore musical instruments and voice to recognize changes in sound quality (loud/soft, high/low or fast/slow)
- \*\* Identify purpose of instruments (bells, rhythmic sticks and drums)
- \*\* Demonstrate safe use of musical instruments with guidance
- \*\* Participate in spontaneous scientific exploration (sink/float)
- \*\* Gain information through participation with music

The January Monthly Theme is "Children Around The world" The teachers will help the children to develop these "Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards" skills:

- \*\* Identify both similarities and differences in the traditions of various music
- \*\* Participate and cooperate in classroom activities
- \*\* Show that one can make choices and own and take responsibility for their actions
- \*\* Identify the diversity in human characteristics and how people are similar and different
- \*\* Compare own characteristics to those of other cultures
- \*\* Express concerns for the needs of others and people in distress
- \*\* Select favorite books and poems and participate in familiar shared oral reading and discussions
- \*\* Identify characters in favorite books and stories
- \*\* Choose a topic for writing related to shared or personal experiences through discussion with others
- \*\* Demonstrate awareness of different cultures by exploring family traditions (music, food and dancing)
- \*\* Recognize the flag as a symbol of different countries
- \*\* Listen to and discuss songs, poems and stories about the customs of children who live in different countries
- \*\* Demonstrate basic understanding that eating a variety of foods helps the body
- \*\* Participate in structured and unstructured active physical play exhibiting strength and stamina

# The Busy Bees

Mrs. Shinkle, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Hall & Ms. Peacock

Dear Families,

In November we learned about the Pilgrims and Native-Americans. We will now touch on the holidays for December. We do not stress any one belief. We will be helping the children understand what is out in their environment. There will be a Christmas celebration on Friday, Dec. 15 th.

We have completed magnetic and non-magnetic experiments. We now will experiment with properties of sound and vacuums, with bells, rubber bands and straws.

The children can read each other's names through our morning "name song". They also know who is absent. I think this is pretty amazing, considering they are only 2yrs. old. They are continuing to clean up after they eat. All the children are capable of eating with a spoon and using a cup. Maybe you would like to encourage them to do this at home.

Hibernation will be a "big" word as we learn about reptiles. We will also have fun learning about "tinting" as we add the color white to blue.

We are happy Emma Claire is feeling better. We will see her on the 3yr. old playground as she transitions to Mrs. Clarks classroom.

We will play outside every day. Please send them with boots , hats, mittens (NO GLOVES). Please put their name on coats and boots.



WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL: boots in plastic bins under cubbie, put on shoes - bin placed in lowest shelf in cubbie - hat goes in one coat sleeve - mittens in the other coat sleeve. I know everyone needs to get to work, but, we have 12 toddlers to dress for outside play. We have to stay in ratio and don't want your children to get hot and frustrated waiting for the teachers to look for missing "parts".

Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas,

Phyllis, Karen, Rachael, & April



“Weihnacht Kalender” which we will do each day counting down to Christmas. Also we will be having a Christmas celebration on Friday December 15, for the children. This will be a pajama party and have children bring their favorite game.

In Kindergarten the children will be studying: Pangaea, gravity, the equator, Europe and the Polar Express. They will also learn about famous European artists: Picasso, Monet and Seurat. Field trip to the School for Creative and Performing Arts: The Nutcracker will be on Friday, December 1st 9:00-12:00.

I appreciate any questions, concerns or comments at any time. Feel free to contact me at my home phone number at 513.526-3874 or you can email me as well at: [shannon\\_callahan@hotmail.com](mailto:shannon_callahan@hotmail.com).

1/30

Welcome back everyone, I hope everyone had a great holiday and we are looking forward to a new year. This month we will be studying The Polar Regions. This month in the classroom the children will be learning about: winter, weights/balance, night vs.day, bubble blowing, the cone, reptiles, vacuum, machines, tools and Martin Luther King. In art we will be studying block painting and sculpture.

There will be no school on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15th. First year Conferences will begin on Tuesday January 16th I will have a blue sign up sheet with different time slots on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

In Kindergarten the children will be studying glaciers, caves and children around the world. We will be taking a field trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center on Thursday January 25th at 9am.

## Mrs. Clark & Ms. Geiger

November is here and gone, our Thanksgiving feast was quite a success. I would like to thank you to all the parents who volunteered food and time to help us with

our Thanksgiving feast. In our classroom for the month of December we will be discussing different cultural Holiday Traditions, which include: Christmas and Hanukkah. In Geography we will be studying Europe. They will also be studying properties of sound. In addition we will be learning about holidays around the world we will be discussing Nutcrackers and St Lucia. for St. Lucia we have a parade with the children and by tradition the oldest female child in the classroom will be Saint Lucia (Stella Leidenheimer). The parade will be on Wednesday, December 13th ; the children will pass out cookies, to others in the school and sing songs. We will also be discussing how holidays will be celebrated around the world. The children will be learning the days of the week in German, and we will have a German advent Calendar

I appreciate any questions, concerns or comments at any time. Feel free to contact me at my home phone number at 513.526-3874 or you can email me as well at: shannon\_callahan@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Shannon & Meghan

## **Mrs. Roemhild & Ms. Paddock**

Dear families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Our celebration was a lot of fun. Thank you to Mrs. Foley for coming in and helping us with our activity and serving the Stone Soup. Thank you families for your participation in making our Stone Soup. It went well with the story and the children enjoyed bring the book to life. We have so much to be thankful for; it was nice to take the opportunity to share with one another.

In December, the kindergarten children will be going to SCPA to see "The Nutcracker" on the 1st. We will be exploring the continent of Europe and focusing on some of the different celebrations in the month. We will include a look at St. Nicholas Day, Hanukkah, St. Lucia Day, Winter Solstice, and Christmas. If your family celebrates a different holiday/tradition in December, please let us know. We would love to learn about it. We will have our Winter Festival on Dec. 14th. If you would like to help, please let one of us know; we would love to have you. On a personal note, I will not



be in school on the 15th due to the occasion of my oldest daughter, Emily's graduation from Miami University.

During this month, we will also be celebrating the birthdays of Aiden and Nolan and the half birthdays of Trinity and Javier.

In January, we will be snipping orange peels, cracking herbs with the mortar and pestle and using the spice grinder. The smell from the simmering pot is incredible. In the geography area, we will look into the Polar Regions and learn about some famous Americans such as Matthew Henson, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. The kindergarten class will be going to the Museum Center on the 25th for a Learning Lab entitled, "Cave Dwellers".

We will be celebrating Clive's birthday along with Evelyn's and Addy's half birthdays. WOW!! What a busy two months.

Thank you so much for all of your attention and participation in our activities. We greatly appreciate you and the time you share with us.

Peace and kindness all year 'round

## Ms. Geiger & Ms. Paddock

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Welcome to December!

I hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving and was able to spend it relaxing with friends and family. Our classroom Thanksgiving feast was a lot of fun and the children loved offering what they brought to their peers. They especially loved the stone soup. We will be doing this again for our Holiday feast because it was so popular! Be sure to check your child's cubby for your special ingredient. Our Winter Feast will be Friday, December 15th and will need the ingredients to make the soup by Wednesday, December 13th. Thanks again to all the families that contributed to the feast.

This month we will be concentrating on the continent Europe and how different cultures celebrate the holidays. I especially love this time of year to show the children the unique ways the holidays are spent. If there is a special activity and/or holiday you celebrate I would love to hear from you! On Friday, December 1st the kindergartners will be going to SCPA to see "The Nutcracker".

In January, we will be discussing the Polar Regions in our geography area. In culture area we will be discussing Rosa Parks, Matthew Henson, and Martin Luther King Jr. In our Practical Life area your child will learn more



about herbs. We will be bringing out our mortar and pestle for herb crushing and present how to use an herb grinder. Your child will also have the opportunity this month to snip orange peels. All of these Practical Life lessons in the environment make for a great aroma!

Birthdays in December that we will be celebrating: Charlie Fielden 12/7 Birthdays in January that we will be celebrating: Kenneden Taylor 1/10 If your child has a birthday in the summer months our class would love to celebrate them by celebrating the 'half birthdays'. Let me know if your child does and we will work on a half birthday date.

Thank you so much for everything you do. Second and Kindergarten conferences went fantastic! I look forward to having conferences with my first years in the month of January. Have a fabulous holiday season!

Smiles,  
Ms. Geiger  
Ms. Paddock

# Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Smith

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Happy Holidays Families!

I am enjoying watching the children learn and grow every day. At this point we are refining our order, independence and concentration. As Maria Montessori said, "As soon as children find something that interests them they lose their instability and learn to concentrate." As new materials come out for the children to work with, at school and at home, we can encourage their concentration. We can make sure that we minimize distractions around them, show them the way at first and then step back and let them take over. We can let them make mistakes and give ideas for fixing them.

In December, we will be talking about and celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, St. Lucia Day, Kwanza, and Winter Solstice. If any of you would like to come in to talk about the holiday you celebrate, let me know. Also, look for materials concerning cylinders, bubble beating, cinnamon toast, Europe, magnets, properties of sound, nutrition, art deco & art nouveau. Our artist of the month will be Alphonse Mucha and our author will be Dr. Seuss.

Our themes in January will be winter, day & night, bubble blowing, the cone, reptiles, vacuum, weights & the scale, machines & tools, Polar Regions, and pointillism. Our artist of the month will be Seurat and our author will be Janelle Cannon.

Parents of first year preschoolers- please sign up for conferences in January. You will see the sign-up posted on the green bulletin board.

Have a restful and fun holiday break! Enjoy your time with your loved ones!

Emily & Karen







# Director's Notes

Dear KHMC families,

We **really** appreciate you and your continuous **generosity** to KHMC! When thinking about your end of the year contributions for your taxes, please consider a donation to KHMC. Many companies match their employees' donations. Be sure to check and see if your company participates in that type of program.

We will be pre-registering current students for the 2018-19 school year in January. **If you have any doubt about the importance of keeping your child at KHMC for their Kindergarten year (the 3rd year of the 3 year program) please see your child's teacher, a current Kindergarten parent, or me! You will be so glad you kept your child here! You may not realize it now, but when your child is in junior high and high school you will still be seeing the benefits of your child completing their 3rd year at KHMC, before moving on to either another Montessori school or a traditional school.**

As those of you who have lived in Cincinnati through a winter know, the weather is very unpredictable. Please review the insert on Severe Weather Plans and Outdoor Play Policy before the unavoidable winter weather comes to Cincinnati.

Thanks to all the parents who attended second and third year student conferences. Remember, as a parent at KHMC you are required to attend at least once parent conference each year. Parent Conferences for our 1st year students will take place in January. Look for the sign-up sheets on your child's teacher bulletin board in the hallway when school resumes on January 2.

When **school resumes again on Jan. 2**, I will have a survey in your child's pocket to let us know how we're doing at KHMC. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to the white box in the hallway at the entrance of the Extended Day room. We appreciate your help in keeping KHMC the best pre-primary Montessori school in Cincinnati!

School Choice week is Jan. 21-27. More information about that week will come in January. If your child is missing an article of clothing, especially a jacket or coat, check our lost and found basket in the hallway. It is getting pretty full!

Wishing you a wonderful, joyful, safe holiday and a peaceful new year!

Marybeth

## Parent's Night Out!

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Our December Parent's Night Out will be **Saturday Dec. 9 from 5 - 11pm**. It's a fun night for the kids to be with their KHMC friends, eat pizza, make a craft, decorate a cookie and drink hot chocolate, eat popcorn and watch a movie in their pajamas (if they wish) while parents enjoy some time to go out, do some shopping or just relax. The cost is only \$35 for the first child and \$18 for each additional sibling (potty trained). Ms. Sha'Ron and Ms. Banks will be caring for the children that night. There are still some spaces available. Sign up today on the sign in sheet on the table inside the Extended Day room.

## December Family Fun

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Our December Family Fun event will be on **Sunday December 10 th** . "A Pioneer Christmas" at Keehner Park, 7211 Barret Road in West Chester. Celebrate the holidays, pioneer-style! The Cabin in the Clearing will be decorated for a traditional holiday celebration with Santa. **This event is FREE! From 1-4 (we will be there from 1-3)**. Wear your Kennedy Heights Montessori shirt so we can find each other and mingle

## Holiday Sing-Along

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**On Tuesday Dec.12**, the children in the Extended Day Program and all Kindergartners will have a sing-a- long. It will take place in the large muscle room. The girls and boys who take Webby dance class will also perform. The event **begins at 5:00 p.m. sharp!** All parents, siblings and relatives are invited to attend. **We will also be having a KHMC restaurant night at Molly Malones, in Pleasant Ridge that night. 10% of the sales from**

**4-8pm will be donated back to KHMC. Make plans now to go there after the sing-a- long! Invite your friends, and relatives to meet you there!**

## Parent Open House/ Info Meeting

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Looking ahead, our Parent Open House and Informational Meeting for new incoming parents for the 2018-19 school year will be on **Wednesday February 7 at 6:30 p.m.** Please tell your friends. Childcare will be provided. We are always looking for families who are interested in spending **all three or four years** with us!

## Parent Education Night

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We plan to have our **2nd Parent Education Night on Tuesday January 23 at 6:00pm** with cheese pizza and childcare provided. I am still working on getting the speaker for that night. I will send out information as soon as it confirmed.

## SCHOOL CLOSED!!!

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– **The last day of school before the Winter Break is Friday Dec. 15.** Extended Day will be open Dec. 27, 28, and 29 for those who have made a reservation.

– School will be closed on **Monday, Jan. 15** in observance of Martin Luther King Day.