

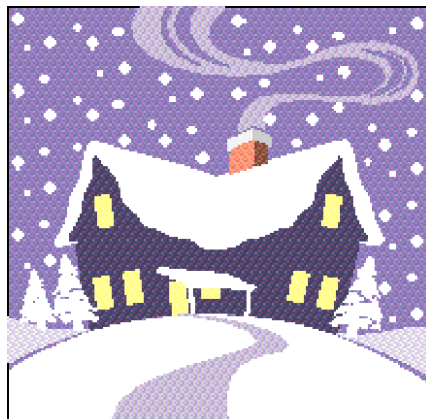
## More Notes

Weekly e-mail memos are sent Sunday afternoon with important information for the week ahead. I hope that this is helping with communications and keeping you all informed. If you are not receiving the e-mail memo, please see me.

I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving week. How nice to have such great weather while on break.

We are looking forward to a busy three weeks before Christmas. The children will make ornaments, some of which will go on a small tree to be delivered to Miss Penny, and some will decorate our own tree in the hall.

Watch for information about our holiday classroom feasts to be held on December 17 and December 18.



# KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

December, 2009



## Director's Notes

### Calendar

#### December

11/29 - 12/13      Holiday Greenery Sale  
Sunday-Sunday

1 - 18              Holiday Crafts and Activities  
incorporated in the daily lessons

16 - 17             Holiday Feast Days during snack time

21 - 1/5            **No Classes - Winter Break**

#### January

6, Wednesday      Classes Resume

18, Monday        **No classes - Martin Luther King Day**

19-29      Priority fall pre-registration.  
Sign up early!

26          Family Pizza Supper and Math  
Tues.      Night - a social evening to visit  
with other families and share fun  
preschool math activities with your  
child.

As excitement builds at home and in our communities toward Christmas, remember to keep your children's routines as constant as possible and provide for a little quiet time each day to read a book or share a snuggle. These times help to support children's coping skills as they see the pace of life picking up during the holiday season.

Children are always excited about the upcoming holidays in December, but we'll try to keep our class time low key while enjoying seasonal books and craft activities.

We'll put together an ornament with photos of all students to send to Miss Penny on a miniature tree from the whole school.

We'll also make some special ornaments for children to hang on the school tree before taking them home, as well as a special personalized ornament for each to share with family.

Our science themes will include hibernation, migration, and camouflage. Children love hearing stories and seeing pictures of wild animals, and the fall/winter activities of many animals are especially interesting.

For math activities, we will practice counting by tens, in addition to our usual counting with

## Toddler News

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving with your families! Mine was nice and very relaxing! In November, we did some activities with turkeys. The children enjoyed working with feathers and doing some painting.

During the month of December, we will focus our theme around Christmas. The crafts will include making Christmas trees, wreaths, and stars with glitter. We will also do some painting with reindeer and Santa hats, and we will make cotton ball stockings.

Please remember to send appropriate coats and boots for the weather. We will try to at least go outside at the end of the day even when we have a lot of snow. The children love to have the opportunity to play in the snow, even for just a short time. But, we can't do that if the children don't have the proper cold weather gear. On most cold days, we also go to the gym to run around and play games.

the calendar. We'll also continue offering cubes and tiles for creating patterns.

All of the children have done especially well creating their own patterns on paper and with manipulatives.

We will do easel painting that will incorporate some special techniques to create interesting textures and effects. The children will create a collage effect by gluing on small squares of tissue paper, sometimes

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**Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784**

I have a few family photos but would love some more! I am going to put them up on our wall for the children to see. They love to show off their families to their friends.

We will have pajama days before winter break. Look for more information to come on that.

Starting in January, we will have a few more children in our class. Make sure to sign up as a helper in January. We have been fairly relaxed about helpers so far this year but will need them starting in January, since we will have more children in our classes.

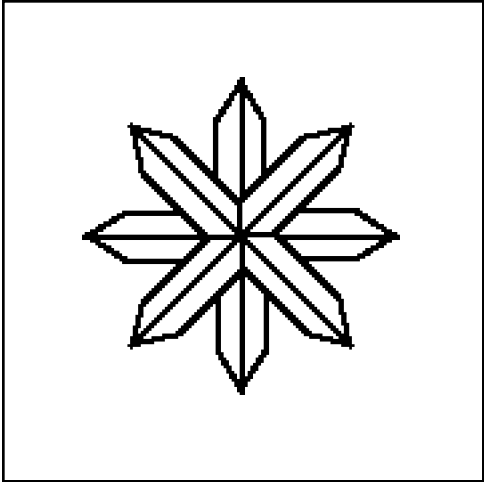
Thank you to all the parents! You make our classroom a success! We love working with you and your children!

Feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns. Happy Holidays!

**Preschool 4/5 Fridays  
Mary Fanyo 303-425-6143**

On November 5, we discussed what giving thanks means. The children thought very hard about what they were thankful for and illustrated their ideas for a class book. Other autumn activities during the month included sponge painting squirrels for stick puppets used in dramatizing squirrel songs and poems, pine cone turkeys for our holiday tables, and dramatizing with "costumes" the story of the first Thanksgiving.

The children made colorful collages of foods for a holiday feast. They also enjoyed listening to *Clifford's Thanksgiving Visit*, the first of many entertaining holiday books that we will read. I am certainly thankful for the opportunity to work with your delightful children. Best wishes for Happy Holidays!



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creating a new color over the paint. We'll also use the light table with small colored discs to practice color mixing.

Our books will include stories of sharing and kindness, along with books about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We'll have our first **Show and Tell** times this month. On **December 2 and December 3**, children can bring quilts, baby

blankets, or afghans that they currently use or had as babies. If a child doesn't have a special quilt, a favorite toy is fine. (No weapons, please.)

Thank you to parents and grandparents for your help - we couldn't have gone outside in the snow last month without their help "bundling up" kids!

## Preschool Two/Three

What a fun November we had in Preschool Two/Three. We talked about farm animals, turkeys, Thanksgiving, and what we are thankful for. Some of the kids had such touching things that they were thankful for. We also learned a little about hibernation. I'll bet your house is still doing the "Turkey Pokey."

During December, we will talk about the many holidays celebrated during this month. We will read stories and do crafts that explore some holidays that your family may not celebrate, as well as the ones that you do. We will play musical instruments as we sing "Jingle Bells," so expect to hear that song around your house.

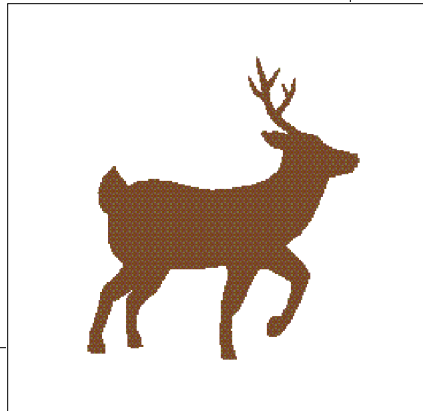
On December 16 and 17, we will have our holiday feasts when we ask families to bring their family's holiday specialty. On Friday, December 18, we will have a pajama day.

### December Finger Play

Five little cookies sitting on a plate,  
Waiting for Santa; he was running late.  
Along came a reindeer; guess what he ate?  
Crunch!  
Four little cookies sitting on a plate . . . .

Please remember that we will go outside on all but the bitterest cold days. The children really enjoy the fresh air and need to have time to play and develop gross motor skills. Make sure your child has warm mittens, hat, jacket, and snow boots when needed. Please make sure you label these items.

Both of us want to wish your family a Happy Holiday Season. Please take time this Winter Break to enjoy a story with your child or to play a game together. This is what children will remember more than toys under the tree.  
**Cindy 303-469-1160 Suzanne 303-424-5806**



## Preschool 3/4

Lisa Newkirk 303-420-2888

November was a short month and a fun time for our class. The children enjoyed singing turkey songs, doing the "Turkey Pokey," and talking about what they were thankful for.

Multicultural music activities included singing, dancing, and playing a variety of instruments.

The Friday class had a great time making a giant turkey as well as pudding pies with our Friday Friends.

The month of December will be an even shorter month filled with holiday discussions, songs, and stories. Our feasts will be Wednesday, December 16, and Thursday, December 17. You are encouraged to send a small serving of a family holiday favorite for the class to sample at snack time. I will post sign-up sheets.

Our Friday Friends field trips will be on December 4, and on December 18. We will have a holiday music celebration on December 4.

We will listen to the story of *The Gingerbread Man* and will decorate our own gingerbread cookies to eat on December 18.

We hope that you have a relaxing holiday season with your children. Special times with family are what the children will remember.

## Preschool Three

It has been a lovely autumn in Preschool Three! In December, we will be immersed in holiday themes. We will learn about some celebrations around the world, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We will discuss traditions and enjoy a holiday feast. In science, we will explore trees and northern animals. Our art projects will include beaded wreaths and a variety of painting, along with cinnamon dough creations.

As you know, we see lots of drippy noses this time of year. Please reinforce good hand washing and cough catching (in the elbow or shoulder technique). Colorado weather is delightfully variable, and we go out most days. Thank you for sending hats and mittens; your kids smile with confidence and know they are prepared! As always, remember that your love and time are the best gifts that your wonderful children could ever receive. Thanks for sharing them with us, and please call if you have questions, concerns, or insights to guide us.

**Marsha Schultze 303-423-8638**

**Katie Meeks 303-419-5574**