

GREENBELT CHILDREN'S CENTER
Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770
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WINTER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009



Edited by Flora L. Gee, Director



Dear Parents,

Reminder-Parent-Teacher Training Tuesday December 1, 2009

6:30-8:30 pm! Please be prompt! We will be in the Terrace Room. (Sorry no child care is available for this event).

Soon we will be experiencing the natural phenomenon that Mother Nature sends our way each winter - SNOW! As adults, we often take the wintry wonderland for granted or we may even complain of the inconvenience that it sometimes brings. However, young children are often in awe of this event, as many pre-schoolers are just old enough to be observant of the properties of snow and its ability to change the way their world looks by transforming it to a beautiful, quiet, and blanketed place. Each snowflake is unique and has six sides! At Greenbelt Children's Center, we delight in having the opportunity to share in the experiences that Mother Nature provides for our children. Remember to dress your child for the weather each day, so that he/she will be comfortable exploring the outdoors this season. **Your child will need a hat, gloves or mittens, boots and a warm coat.** Be sure each is labeled with your child's name! The best way to keep up with gloves/mittens is to attach them to the sleeves of your child's coat with fasteners. If you will be purchasing **snow suits or pants, be sure to get the ones with zippers at the ankles** so that they can slip on easily over shoes or boots. It often takes longer to dress the children to go outside, than the time actually spent outside! We thank you for your help with this! Our goal is to help each child to have 60 minutes of vigorous play each day to combat childhood obesity and support good health. Please support the teachers in their efforts to do this! (Reminder- follow PG County Public School closings/delays for emergencies/bad weather.)



THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

We have SO much to be thankful for at our center and Thanksgiving gave us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on this. We are thankful for our precious healthy children who brighten our world and renew our faith in the future. We are also thankful for you wonderful parents who support our program in so many meaningful ways. Deep and sincere thanks to the parents, grandparents, and other family members who attended the Thanksgiving Feast! We know that there were other parents who were with us in spirit but were unable to get time off from work to join us- maybe next time. We truly appreciate your company and help! And remember, we sincerely welcome and encourage parent involvement ANYTIME!!! It's nice to have a little help from our friends! December will have some additional opportunities.

Special thanks to the:

- **Jaden Nutt's Grandfather (Rm 1) for preparing a turkey, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings**
- **Logan Balot's Grandmother (Rm 1) for the Phillipino Rice Noodle dish**



- **Zakia Dickerson (Kaitlyn Rm 1) for the Sweet Potato Casserole**
- **Denise Samuels (James Rm 3) for the Sweet Corn Casserole**
- **Claudia Rivera (Nilo Rm 3 & Veronica Rm 2) for the chicken pot pies, fresh fruit and for reading to the children in Spanish & for the delicious coconut candy they brought the staff from their vacation in San Juan, Puerto Rico**
- **Kristal Peters (Kaylin Rm 2) for the delicious green beans**
- **Tameeka Pickett (Xavier Rm 1) for the yummy rotisserie chicken**
- **Marina Alexander (Ethan Rm 1) for the fancy cookies**
- **Joy Hart-Vaughan (Devin Rm 3) for the scrumptious cookies**
- **Leeane Wells (Carter & Grayson Rm 2) for the delightful homemade cookies & reading to the children**
- **Barry Sterling (Aaric Rm 2 & Aaron Rm 1) for making the world's best Jerk Chicken for the faculty on 10/30/09**
- **Sgt. Dawne Frisby (DeVaughn Rm 3) for talking to the K/Pre-K children about the significance of Veteran's Day**
- **Toye McLean (Toye Jr Rm 3 & Ramiyah Rm 2) for the same**



Thanks to GCC families and staff for all the contributions to the food drive! Greenbriar management staff made the trip to take donations to the local food pantry which has been so severely depleted due to the economic strains on so many families. Let's keep the giving spirit in mind throughout the holiday season and into the New Year.



December Toy Drive

Our center has long participated in the Annual Toy Drive that the Greenbriar community is sponsoring. If you can contribute a new or gently used toy in good condition, we will have a box in our center for that purpose. The toy drive will run from December 1-18, 2009. At this time of year, parents are often sorting out toys that children may have outgrown or are no longer interested in and these may be treasures for children who are in less fortunate circumstances. Thank you for thinking of others and for helping us to teach the children about compassion for less fortunate children in our community by participating in the annual toy drive.



FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

The month of December is centered on the theme of children that live all around the world. Our goal is for the children to experience food, songs, dress, and customs of children from many lands, **especially those represented by the places that our families, community partners and staff are connected to by birth or family history.** We will also be discussing the traditions and holidays that are celebrated by others. **Families are invited to share in our plans by scheduling with teachers for a date and time to come into the classroom and tell about your particular holiday or family tradition.** This helps to present a multi-cultural curriculum that broadens children's knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Our goal is to help children to become comfortable and knowledgeable about the diversity of their world. The best way is to have this done authentically by members of our diverse community, who have personally celebrated their own special traditions and have history passed to them through family as well. It makes sense that this is the very best way to try to accomplish our goals. If you can help, *please* tell your child's teacher! We believe this is a very important part of our program, and ***extend this invitation to other than holiday times as well.*** You are each the experts of your culture and we ask that you help the teachers to convey accurate and reliable information about a tradition that they may not have much knowledge about. This is truly a gift you could give! Parents-we need you!



We also need a picture of each family for every child to display in the classroom. This is

a requirement of accredited centers. Please be sure that your child's teacher has received this from your family!



We will also use this time to talk about the meaning of friendship and how to be a good friend to others. This is one of the ways that we work to promote the development of good social skills and peace in our world. We ask that parents help by reinforcing this concept at home. One way would be to ask your child to think of good ways to solve a problem that they might experience with a friend or ways to be helpful and kind to another child. We believe **it is important for you as your child's first teacher to tell your child that you expect him or her to solve problems without violence (i.e., using words to express anger or frustration rather than hitting) and that you expect that your child will show kindness toward others each and every day.** Make it a point to discuss this with your child each night. Children at this young age are very egocentric and feel that everything should revolve around them because it is very difficult for them to see things from anyone else's perspective without the help of the important people in their lives (family and teachers) to ask them to really think about other people and their feelings. **Help to make a contribution towards peace in our children's world.**



TUITION AND CALENDAR REMINDER

Charges for tuition apply to each week of the school year. Please remember that tuition **MUST** be paid for the time the center is closed for Winter Holiday (December 24, 2009-January 1, 2010) in accordance with our published calendar given at enrollment. This is an important benefit for the teachers at GCC and we are sure that you have experienced the kindness, dedication and joy that the GCC teachers & staff give to your child. Payment due for the week of December 28th must be paid **on or before Monday, January 4, 2010**, when we resume our schedule. Please mark your calendar now so you are prepared for this. We thank you for your support.

HELP!

An observation of the daily sign in/out sheets in the classrooms is of concern to the Director and staff. Some parents are faithful and sign in and out with written instructions about who is to be expected to pick up their child at the end of each day. **ALL PARENTS AND FAMILY ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN/OUT WITH ALL INFORMATION EVERY DAY.** Mrs. Gee has in the past circled missing information to bring this to the attention of some families. **As you read this, please have a conversation with all the adult members of your family including your extended family to make sure every one knows what is expected. This is for the safety of your child.** Please help us with this! Please remember, this form is a legal document.



WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND BOOK CLUB EVENT!

Each classroom is planning a **Holiday Party and Book Club Event on Friday, December 18, 2009.** Please check in your child's classroom for a sign-up sheet for parents to help with contributions of goodies and for family members to join in the fun, help with holiday crafts, read to children individually or in groups and help distribute books!! Sign up to join them if you can!

Remember the Lending Library! No excuses! We have received many books in our lending library-CHECK THEM OUT!!!! There are just so many benefits that come from reading good books to young children. You are your child's first role model for literary experiences. You show your child how to hold a book properly, which way to



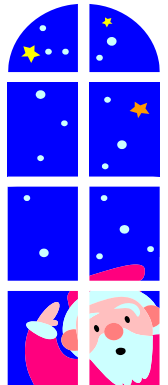
turn the pages, and you spark interest with your fluency and enthusiasm! We know you want these great experiences for your child and so do we! Remember, if **EVERY FAMILY READS 10 BOOKS** or more, the classroom will be awarded with a special treat! Also, for every 10 books that are purchased from the Books Are Fun display that comes here every 6 weeks, GCC gets to choose a free book that gets added to our lending library. Also, some families in the past have donated a book to the lending library in honor of their child's birthday. **We hope that other families will make this a tradition to honor their child's birthday in the same way. It is a lasting gift when a book with your child's name becomes a legacy for many parents to read to their child for years to come.**



DID YOU KNOW???...

... That a note is **required** for any **absence of three days** or more? It can be a doctor's note or note from parent, but it must state why your child was absent, that your child may resume regular activities and is not contagious. It is suggested that a note be written for **each** absence so that you will get into a habit required for elementary school.

... That learning for young children is a combination of maturation and experience? Young children learn best when they are actively involved in concrete learning experiences. This means that the best teaching materials allow the child to see, touch, manipulate, explore, dismantle, reshape, listen to, or taste. (Keep this in mind when buying toys!) Play is how young children learn best!



...that pre-school is a time for establishing good habits for later years of school. We are helping to prepare your child for success in school, so **we ask that you bring your child in by 9:00 am daily**, as they will be expected to come on time to school. Children who arrive late miss so much of the enriching curriculum teachers have planned.



... that our **Federal Tax Identification Number is 52-1689271 for your income tax purposes!** Yearly summaries will be given to you in January to assist you in documenting child care expenses for your income tax filing. This number also appears on every receipt you receive!



**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Fundraiser News

Look for our next fundraiser to begin next month. We will be asking for each family to participate in the Joe Corbi's Pizza fundraiser that we do each year. Remember, this year we are working towards building a playground fund to replace our 1993 climber and slide structure which is showing signs of age from being much loved by children at GCC for 16 years!



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

