

# THE GIVING NEST PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN IN MARTINSVILLE



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### Holiday Celebrations...

What a fun and exciting time at the Giving Nest! It is delightful to be with the children to share the spirit of the season during the holidays. Children love celebrating the holidays, during circle time the children will hear about Christmas and Hanukkah through stories and songs. Of course, we will be learning many holiday songs as we always do each December. This year the children will be able to share the songs they learn with you during the Holiday Sing. The children will bundle up for Caroling Fun and we will sing our favorite holiday songs to our guests. Make sure you received the email regarding the date and time or check your child's class calendar.



### The Giving Trees have arrived! December at The Giving Nest

makes its debut with our "Giving Trees" located in the front entrance hallway. When the trees first appear, they are awaiting decorations. Soon child- made decorations will adorn the trees. During circle time the teachers will explain the purpose of our Giving Tree-to help others. First, we ask the children where we get our food from, where do we buy it. The Supermarket and the store are enthusiastically called out. We then discuss how lucky we are that we can go to any store to get what we need. Our Mommy's and Daddy's can bring us home whatever we like. We then begin to wonder if everyone is able to go to any store they want to? We explain that not everyone is as fortunate as we may be. We explain that there are places called Food Banks that people donate to. These Food Banks collect food so that family's that need food and other items go to and pick what they need. Usually, one child wonders how we can help others that cannot go to the store. Another may ask if there is anything we could do to help other families that may need food or other items. We then ask, "Do you want to help these children and families?" Hopefully one student will suggest, "Let's buy food for them." we exclaim. "What a great idea! But we need money to buy food." Next question is "How does one get money?" We are looking for the response, "People work to make money." After clarifying that they are too young to go out and get a job, we explore some of the jobs the children can do at home this week (making their bed, doing the dishes, cleaning up toys). We suggest, "Perhaps on this special occasion you could ask your parents to pay you for doing a special chore at home and you can donate this to buy food for the Food Bank. The children then share with the class what chore they want to do at home.

## Parent Teacher Conferences:

The week of December 19th, the Duckling, Bluebird and Cardinal parents will receive an email to sign up for al Parent/Teacher Conference scheduled in January. This is an opportunity for you to sit with your child's teacher to discuss his/her progress report and answer any questions you may have. Progress Reports will be sent home the week of January 9th<sup>rd</sup>. Specifics on dates and times will be included in the email. Conferences are 15 minutes long. It is very important to be on time for your conference as we do schedule them back-to-back. If you are late, your will still end at the scheduled time.



## Winter Weather and School Closings...

If we need to close due to snow or other inclement weather, you will be informed via e-mail. Please check your email by approximately 7:00 AM. If you need to know before 7:00 you may call the school, there may be a message on the machine by 6:30am. The delayed opening schedule is below, please note these times may be changed depending on the conditions. THERE WILL BE NO EARLY CARE ON DELAYED OPENING DAYS.

In the past we have had difficult situations when the snow started falling after school began. If it is snowing hard after you have dropped off your child, please err on the side of caution and come back to get your child.

### **\*Delayed opening schedule:**

Classes J 10:15am - 2:45pm

All Other Classes:

Morning classes 10:30am - 12:00pm

Full Day Classes 10:30am to 3:00pm

\*There will be no Early Care on delayed opening days.

**Reminder! Influenza vaccine:** Children 6 months through 59 months attending any childcare or preschool facility must annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 & December 31 each year. It is very important you comply with this state mandate. The state sends a nurse to the preschools to check each child's medical paperwork and ascertain all shots have been administered. If shots are not up to date the child may have to leave the school. The nurse checks all immunizations. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school to discuss with Mrs. Barbara. Please send in all Influenza records no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!



# Kids Holiday Shoppe!



The Holiday Shoppe is a fun event where the children are given the opportunity to "shop" for special gifts for their loved ones. The second week of December the entranceway will be transformed into a gift boutique. This is a special shop; it is not gifts for the children but gifts the children can buy for mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, pets, etc., each item is only \$3.00. It is a magical time at the Giving Nest when the Holiday Shoppe opens its doors. The children become little adults shopping specialty stores; clutching the money in their hands as they examine the items. After much thought and deliberation each child excitedly chooses the perfect gift for a special loved one. The children count out three dollars for the shopkeepers. She takes the money and gift wraps the special surprise. What will your child pick for you?

If you would like for your child to shop, please fill out the form we sent home the week of November 14<sup>th</sup> and return it to the Giving Nest with payment. We have volunteers who will then shop at the local dollar stores for gift items using the forms received so that we know how many gifts and what type of gifts to buy. We will request all forms and payment by December 2nd. We have asked for volunteers from each class to come in to help as personal shoppers. Rest assured we will be sending plenty of pictures of this event

## Playground Fun!



The children will continue to visit the playground throughout the winter season weather and temperature permitting. Please dress your children in appropriate clothing for the colder weather. We prefer mittens to gloves if possible. It takes a long time getting those little fingers into the finger slots. Hats are soooo important too!! We will keep the children in only if it is raining, sleeting or the temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Please help us and label all their coats, hats, mittens etc.

This is also a good time to please check that the extra clothes you have packed in your child's backpack are also weather appropriate. Thanks!

## 2023/2024 In-House Registration

The dates for Pre-Registration and In - House Registration are as follows:

**January 23rd:** In House Pre-Registration information will be emailed to you.

**January 26th:** In House Pre-Registration is over

**January 30th:** In-House Registration forms go home

**February 5th:** In-House Registration is over

**February 6th:** Calling new families outside the school

*THANK YOU!*

- ❖ Thank you to our families who participated in our fundraising efforts! The outpouring of support is amazing, and we cannot thank you enough. *We are so grateful for each and every one of you!*
- ❖ Thank you to all our parents for following all the guidelines every day you drop off and pick up your child.



*Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season!*