

FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS!! What a joyous time! What we all need is a little bit of the white stuff falling from the skies to really get us in the mood for a beautiful holiday season. Do you know why snow is white? Actually, ice crystals are clear. Snow crystals reflect all the colors of the spectrum—a combination that appears white to the human eye. Imagine that.....

GET READY...: Here comes flu season!! On top of our new world of COVID. We are taking several precautions to help keep the center as germ-free as possible. Your child's cot is bleached daily and scrubbed weekly. We are currently bleaching door handles, telephones, etc...

How can you help? Keep a close eye on your little one and be aware of any illness. Please remember that fevers, rashes, tummy aches, etc....require a child to stay home. The Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care requires a doctor's note for pink eye, rashes, open sores, or illnesses that keep a child out of school for three or more days.

Now we are also contending with coughing. As you know, this may be symptom of COVID. So, while this seems extreme, please understand you may not send your child if they exhibit this symptom. It will require, not only sending your child home, but the other children and staff who were with them

will have to quarantine. We know this is extremely inconvenient in a household where parents work. It is unfortunate that we are facing this situation. But, be that as it may, we must still follow the guidelines. Please opt for an inconvenient day for your household rather than an inconvenient two weeks for one or more classes of children.

Additionally, if your child has had stitches or surgery or other medical intervention, please automatically ask your doctor for a note to return to school with a description of any limitations.

Please understand that we are charged with taking the best possible care of your child. We can only do this when we have clear instructions. If your child is sent home from school sick, remember that they may not return the following day. While we know that there will be plenty of winter illnesses, we hope that these precautions can keep them to a minimum. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

FROM THE FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Countdown Begins...

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving with your family and friends, and are now preparing for the "Big Guy's" arrival. This time of year can be stressful for all of Santa's

helpers! Getting the tree decorated, wrapping all of the presents, baking everyone's favorite cookies, and trying to find some time to rest in between. Take a deep breath and look at Christmas through your children's eyes. They never feel the stress of Christmas, just the pure joy of its arrival.

Celebrating the Birth of Christ is truly a miracle, as was your miracle when your children were born. Your children are your gift from God.

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends, and embrace the best gift of all....The Gift from God!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Marina Lattanzi
Daycare Board Chairperson

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES:

For the Christmas holiday, we will be closed on the following days:

- Friday, December 24th
- Monday, December 27th

We will be open on the 28th, 29th, and 30th for your convenience. However, there will be no curriculum on those days.

For the New Year's holiday, we will be closed on the following days:

- Friday, December 31st

Prior to the holidays, there will be a mass email that will come out for daycare families to sign up for Christmas week. Traditionally, our numbers are very low during this time. We will gladly accommodate your needs, but we ask that you give it careful consideration before signing up. We prepare snacks and staff schedules according to the number of children

expected. Thank you!!

IMMUNIZATIONS: Please be advised that the State of Maryland requires that we always have your child's shot record up to date and available for their inspection. Yes, they do really come out and randomly check students' immunization records. Please remember any time your child receives shots to request a copy from your doctor for our records. (We are not required to keep track of flu shots since they are elective). Thank you in advance for help with this record keeping task.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS:

It is here. The temperatures have dropped, the leaves are gone and it's only a matter of time before we are scraping our windshields.

As you know, we are almost always open. If the weather is truly terrible, please remember we ALL need to get home safely. Arrange ahead of time for an alternate person to pick up your child, if necessary. If you decide the weather is too bad to come out in, please call or email and let us know your child will not be attending.

Headcounts help us while making plans for staffing, snack and heating different areas of the building.

Please monitor your email! It is not possible to call 75 parents at 5:30 am, if we have to open two hours late. Please get in the habit of checking your email regularly. Add your spouse or the child's grandparent if you wish to have some back up for yourself. Simply go to the home page of www.fallstonchildcare.org and sign up at the bottom right-hand side. If you have any issues getting your mass e-mail

communication, email valeree.imperiale@fallstonumc.org, and we can reset your account.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

All of our classes will be celebrating in their own classrooms. We do have a policy update: We may have donations from families as long as the food is store bought and INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED. Ingredient list and freshness date must be listed. So, instead of bakery cupcakes this year, a great substitute would be individually wrapped Little Debbie Christmas tree cakes. We just have to think a little more creatively! But there will be lots of friends, fun, and yummy treats—that's what we're all about here at Fallston Child Care Center! Please see your child's teacher for special instructions or donations needed.

TUITION: Please remember that tuition is due on the first day you attend of a tuition week. When payments are made late, additional trips to the bank are necessary. The late fee is \$20.00 and will be strictly enforced. Additionally, please understand we are not able to let any balances carry over from week to week. You must pay your bill in full.

Each time you get a receipt at your cubby, please look at it and make sure that you have a zero balance. If you have a balance, it is due immediately.

Additionally, please be aware that we are no longer accepting cash for tuition or for field trips or activity fees. Please pay all items with a check. Thank you.

SCHOOL DONATIONS:

There is absolutely no need to feel obligated to make a donation. We work

within the confines of our budget and will continue to do so. However, some of you have voiced an interest in sending items in. If you feel moved to do so, our greatest expense increase right now has been in cleaning supplies. We can always use paper towels, disinfecting wipes, Lysol, magic erasers, bleach, baby wipes, and Ziploc bags (snack, sandwich, and gallon sizes), and masks (kids and adults). Thank you, for those who have asked. We are doing what it takes to keep on rolling!!

MASKS and THERMOMETERS: Please remember to mask up at FCCC to protect our staff and students.

Also, please keep your thermometer with you at drop off time. We do have back ups if you should forget, but our regulations state that you should be using a family thermometer rather than having your child share with other students. If you do need to borrow ours, please disinfect with alcohol pads and handle with gloved hands.

KEEPING IN THE LOOP:

Oh, we are a busy, busy place! Music, Spanish, pizza parties, community outreach programs, and on and on.... The life of a busy daycare center is alive and buzzing all the time with excitement! We know there is a lot to keep straight for our working parents. So how can you make sure that you always know what is happening?

- Read the papers that come home daily
- Read our monthly newsletter
- Follow us on Facebook
- Make sure you are getting (and responding to) mass emails

Remember, if you are not receiving those emails, you will not know about altered schedules when bad weather hits! Take a moment today to make sure you are getting them and if not, you can sign up to get them on the bottom of the website homepage.

FROM OUR TEACHERS:

MISS KAYLA'S TWO YEAR

OLDS: Woohoo! We have almost made it through 2021! Thank you to all our school parents, who have been so understanding, as we navigate through all these changes together!

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving, even if it was a little bit different this year.

This month we will be focusing on Letters I and J. Our shape of the month is a diamond, and our color of the month is green! We will be talking about holiday helpers as well as making our own gift to send home to our families!

Our Frog Street curriculum themes for December are Family and Home.

Also, our classroom elf, Tinsel, will be making an appearance and occasionally bringing us good behavior surprises!

Have a happy and healthy Holiday season!

MISS ROSIE'S THREE YEAR

OLDS: Happy Holidays!! We will be reviewing colors, shapes, and letters that have been introduced so far. We will be introducing letters J, K, and L and will practice organizing items for counting. We will also be exploring transportation, animals in winter, and Christmas around the world.

Our Frog Street curriculum theme for December is Safe and Healthy Me.

We will also begin to identify and extend patterns.

We will have our Christmas party on Wednesday, December 22nd. The children will enjoy some treats, games, and a few surprises!

Please continue to dress your child for the weather.

Have a blessed and safe holiday!
Happy Birthday to Caleb on December 31st and welcome Liam! We are glad you are here.

MISS BEKAH'S THREE YEAR

OLDS: Here we are at the month of December. It is my favorite month of the year!! Once again, we have a busy month planned. We will continue with our alphabet by adding letters J, K, and L. We will be discussing Christmas traditions around the world, signs of winter, hibernation and continuing our cutting skills on upcoming projects.

We will be learning how to be safe and healthy as well as introducing patterns.

There will be special Christmas cooking activities – gingerbread, cookies! We will also be continuing our numbers 1-10.

Our Christmas Party is planned for Monday, December 20th. Details will follow.

As the weather gets colder, we are still required to go outside. Please make sure that your child has a winter jacket, gloves, and hat. **Please label everything** so they go home with the rightful owners.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

MISS DIANE'S FOUR YEAR

OLDS: It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! This time of year is always so much fun, but super busy.

We will continue to work on the

alphabet letters. We will have a classroom Christmas celebration on Wednesday, December 22nd. Please bring in a wrapped gift with your child's name on it from Santa. Our classroom elf will be bringing the gifts from Santa to our classroom. We will also have a special snack

Our Frog Street curriculum units for December will include: Compare and Contrast, Living and Non-living, Real Versus Make Believe Stories, and Opposites.

I want to thank all our daycare families for being so understanding this year! I wish all of you a blessed holiday season.

MISS MAURA'S FOUR YEAR

OLDS: Jingle all the way!!!! We have made it to December. Yay us!!!! This is one of the busiest times of year at school and at home. Don't forget to have fun. We sure will!

Our Frog Street curriculum unit for the month of December is Compare and Contrast.

The theme for the month will be Celebrations. Christmas is big at this time of year but there are other holidays happening now too. We will take the time to explore the other ways people celebrate.

Our Christmas Party will be different this year from years past. To help you get ready for our fun time, please send in a gift for YOUR child. It should be wrapped and labeled with their name. Santa will make a drop off for us to find an early gift. Please keep the item below \$10 in price. You can send it in ASAP, but I will send reminder notes home with a bit more detail on our party fun.

Don't lose your holiday spirit in the rush to make things perfect. Focus on

the fun and memories of doing things together. Happy Holidays to all!

MR. CHRIS'S SCHOOL AGE

GROUP: First and foremost, I would like to wish all our families a Merry Christmas!

Secondly, I would like to extend the warmest thank you for everyone's support in keeping up with the COVID protocol. It can be daunting, but we are all working hard to do our part in keeping our students as healthy as possible.

For December, we will begin talking about many fun topics such as movie-making and dining etiquette. We will also be touching on more important issues such as mindfulness and cleanliness, all with science experiments and art projects along the way.

Finally, we wanted to offer a few reminders to help us operate at maximum efficiency:

1. As winter and the holidays approach, we are bound to have some altered schedules from inclement weather days, or just celebratory days. Please let us know if your child will not be attending. With a wide age range in this group, it is most helpful to know which students to expect so that we may prepare appropriate activities to keep everyone engaged. It also helps us know the amount of supplies needed for each day.
2. Bring winter clothes on school closing days so we can play in the snow.
3. Keep any students with symptoms home and notify me or the office immediately. Contact tracing is really important, especially among our school age

cohort, since we are sending kids back and forth to Youth's Benefit Elementary. When in doubt, please err on the side of caution.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. This is a work in progress, and it is continually changing. But the best way to get through it is together.

Happy Birthday to Cassie (12/7), Luciana (12/15), Declan (12/16), and Caleb (12/20).

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

“NOTES” FROM MISS JACKIE:

December music!! We have now discussed vibration (how sounds are made) and rhythm (the steady beat or feeling of music). This month we will begin discussing melody (the tune of the music).

Because it is December, we will spend most of our time singing special tunes like “Rudolph” and “Jingle Bells”. We will also review our fundamentals.

Music is a beautiful language. Sing as many Christmas songs as you can remember. Can you get all of “Frosty the Snowman” in the correct order? We are going to try!! Make up your own words to “The Twelve Days of Christmas”! Singing with your child is such a joy! Feel the beat and always keep a song in your heart!!

Merry Christmas!

SPANISH WITH MISS VAL: Feliz Navidad! Can it be December already? Wow----we have such a great time with our Spanish lessons, the time is just flying by!!

So far, we have done numbers 1-10, colors, and some vocabulary. Our lessons are filled with stories, songs,

games, flashcards, and cultural activities. There is so much to learn!!

Next, we will begin to work on feeling words. We will also learn a dance to “Feliz Navidad”. This is one of my favorite Christmas tunes and one that your child will be hearing lots of this season. Ask them to show you! We will also be learning about the Christmas poinsettias in Mexico.

I hope your holiday is filled with the wonder of a child! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from the
Fallston Child Care Center
staff:*

*Diane Quinn
Kathy Stuart
Chris Richards
Maura Syrylo
Grace Williams
Nina Oxendine
Charla Moore
Kayla Moore
Sara Nay
Lia Snyder
Jackie Schnell
Bekah Troyer
Elise Riser
Rosie Friskey
Valeree Imperiale*

