

FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER

DECEMBER 2023 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 Covid and RSV! 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.

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.

If your child requires medication while in our care, we need a medical form from your doctor.

If you need one, just ask in the office.

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.

CHURCH SECURITY

DOORS: After a great deal of planning, researching, budgeting, and meetings, we are excited to announce that our building will soon be getting a new security system. This will allow the entire building to be locked down during the day while your children are present. Parents and staff will be issued key fobs to gain access to the building. Others will need to be buzzed in through a camera/intercom system.

Many of the finer details are still being worked through. There will be more information coming your way, but we plan to implement our new system early next calendar year.

We are proud to be able to offer this added layer of protection for our students.

PREPARE WITH APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:

Temperatures are dropping! Please make sure your child has a WINTER coat, hat, gloves, etc...here at school at all times. Our classes go outside twice a day except in harsh weather. Sweatshirts are no longer enough to keep warm on our windy hill.

Also, please make sure your child has spare clothing. The younger they are, the more they need. Spills and accidents can happen at any time. We are having to resort to sending home children in the school's stash of spare clothes if you don't have enough in their cubby or backpack. Then, we sometimes don't get our clothes back. Please make sure your child comes prepared. Label EVERYTHING! Thank you.

FROM THE FALLSTON CHILD CARE CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Joy to All!

Thanksgiving was a beautiful day of celebrating family and friends and being thankful for our health and happiness with one another.

Now, in the blink of an eye, the Christmas season is upon us. Decorating the tree, wrapping all the presents and getting ready for Santa's arrival. Let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas, The birth of Christ! Truly a miracle for all of us.

Enjoy and embrace the miracle on Christmas Day with your family and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year,

Marina Lattanzi

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES:

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

- **Monday, December 25th**
- **Tuesday, December 26th**

We will be open on the 27th, 28th, and 29th 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 day:

- **Monday, January 1st**

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. At this time, Covid vaccines

are also elective). Thank you in advance for your 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 families 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 preschool classes will be celebrating in their own classrooms on Thursday, December 21st. There will be a visit from the big guy! 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 do not accept cash for tuition, field trips, or activity fees. Please pay all items with a check. Thank you.

REGISTRATION: We have been getting lots of questions about registration for next year. Our annual registration opens in January. When you return after the holidays, you will have a registration form at your child's cubby.

We begin with "in house" registration, meaning those of you who are already attending, get first pick for next year. Forms are numbered as they are returned, and we fill next year's spots in the order in which forms were turned in. You have two weeks to complete your form requesting both summer camp and school year care. After that, we open up the remaining spots to the public.

So, start thinking about your needs for next year, so you are all set. Would you believe lots of plans are already in the works?!!

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 SARA'S TWO-YEAR-

OLDS: WOW! I can't believe how well this school year is going! I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving!

This month we will continue working on name and letter recognition, gluing, and one-one correspondence. We will also introduce some new skills such as sorting, threading, and tracing. This month, we will focus on letters K and L. We will also be learning about the importance of family and home as part of Frog Street curriculum. Our new shape of the month is diamond, and our new color of the month is green.

We will also do some holiday celebrations. Our elf, Cocoa, will be

making an appearance and occasionally leaving treats for good behavior!

Happy Birthday to Theo W. on the 2nd! We will also be celebrating my birthday this month!

As the weather starts getting colder and colder, you may want to bring a hat and gloves for your child's cubby since we do go outside in the cold! Happy Holidays everyone!

MISS ROSIE'S THREE-YEAR-

OLDS: Happy Holidays!! We will be reviewing colors, shapes, and letters that have been introduced so far. We will also meet letters K and L. We 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 Thursday, December 21st. 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 Salvatore on December 12th!

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 be reviewing letter recognition of letters we have learned so far as well as introducing letters K and L. We will discuss 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 Thursday, December 21st. 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 review the letters we have already learned as well as add K and L. We will have a classroom Christmas celebration on Thursday, December 21st. 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. More information to follow.

Happy Birthday to Brynna on 12/11!

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!

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. We will also introduce letters K and L.

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.

Happy Birthday to Ellis on the 14th!

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 AND MISS KAYLA'S SCHOOL AGE

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

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. When in doubt, please err on the side of caution.
4. Remember to take the papers from the pockets on the door to the gym daily.

Happy Birthday to Declan (12/16), and Mr. Chris (12/17).

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

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 1-20, colors, parts of the body, 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 from
the Fallston Child
Care Center staff. We
wish your family a
very safe and Happy
New Year!***

***Diane Quinn
Kathy Stuart
Chris Richards
Maura Syrylo
Faith Barnett
Lizzie DeLong
Addison Chervon
Kayla Moore
Sara Nay
Lia Snyder
Jackie Schnell
Bekah Troyer
Elise Riser
Rosie Friskey
Valeree Imperiale***

