



Pink Tower Press

Kennedy Heights Montessori Center Newsletter



A Word From Our Director!

Marybeth Schneider - Executive Director

We **really** appreciate you and your continuous **generosity** to KHMC! When thinking about your end of the year contributions for your taxes, please consider a donation to KHMC. Many companies match their employees' donations. Be sure to check and see if your company participates in that type of program.

Many other things will be happening in December and January, so please review the calendar section of the newsletter and read the many reminders that will be posted on the door and bulletin boards in the hallway. **The last day of school before the Winter Break is Friday Dec. 16.** Extended Day will be open Dec. 27, 28, 29 and 30 for those who have made a reservation.

Reminder: While the weather is constantly changing it is very important that you check your child's cubby to make sure that they have the proper change of clothing for the winter months.



Birthdays!!!

The Busy Bee's

- Armstrong Dec. 5th
- Charlie Dec. 7th
- Lou Dec. 29th
- Ozzie Jan. 7th

Mrs. Beiting's Class

- Kenndan Jan. 10th
- Zoey Jan. 19th

Mrs. Clark's Class

- Henry Dec. 28th
- Madison B. Jan. 7th

Mrs. Carlson's Class

- Wade Jan. 6th
- Sydney Jan. 9th
- Naomi Jan. 25th
- Voss Jan. 25th

Mrs. Roemhild's Class

- Aiden Dec. 2nd
- Nolan Dec. 19th
- Clive Jan. 8th

Staff

- Mrs. Imwalle Dec. 4th
- Mrs. Schneider Dec. 30th
- Mrs. Beiting Jan. 18th
- Mrs. Clark Jan. 30th

Extended Day Program

Mrs. Rasheed & The Extended Day Teachers

Season's Greetings to K.H.M.C. Families,

December is here and the children have been working very hard on their Holiday Sing-A-Long. The Extended Day teachers have been getting the children prepared for this year's program on December 13 at 5:00 p.m. The program begins promptly at 5 p.m. lasting about 45 minutes to an hour. Please don't be late or you just might miss your child's performance. The children have been working very hard on learning their songs. They are all excited to sing their "Christmas Carols" to their Parents, Grandparents, families and friends. Feel free to bring a camera or camcorder to take pictures of their performance. We look forward to seeing you at Our Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long.



While the weather is constantly changing it is very important that you check your child's cubby to make sure that they have the proper change of clothing for the winter months.

Enjoy the Holidays with your family and Friends until we see each other again. Be Kind to people everywhere.

This month our Monthly Theme is "Celebrating Music and Movement" The teachers will help the children to develop these "Ohio Early Learning Content Standards"

OHIO'S EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

- Present own experiences, instruments or creations through different instruments
- Participate in the recitation of poems, chants, songs and nursery rhymes
- Select category that have the most or fewest objects
- Explore musical instruments and voice to recognize changes in sound quality (loud/soft, high/low or fast/slow)
- Identify purpose of instruments (bells, rhythmic sticks and drums)

- Demonstrate safe use of musical instruments with guidance
- Participate in spontaneous scientific exploration (sink/float)
- Gain information through participation with music

Kindergarten Readiness Skills

(January Monthly Theme is "Children Around The world" The teachers will help the children to develop these skill "Ohio Early Learning Content Standards")

- Identify both similarities and differences in the traditions of various music
- Participate and cooperate in classroom activities
- Show that one make choices or own and take responsibility for their actions
- Identify the diversity in human characteristics and how people are similar and different
- Compare own characteristics to those of other cultures
- Express concerns for the needs of others and people in distress
- Select favorite books and poems and participate in familiar shared oral reading and discussions
- Identify characters in favorite books and stories
- Choose a topic for writing relate to shared or personal experiences through discussion with others
- Demonstrate awareness of different cultures by exploring family traditions (music, food and dancing)
- Recognize the flag as a symbol of different countries
- Listen to and discuss songs, poems and stories about the customs of children who live in different countries
- Demonstrate basic understanding that eating a variety of foods helps the body
- Participate in structured and unstructured active physical play exhibiting strength and stamina



The Busy Bees

Mrs. Shinkle, Ms. Emely, Ms. Hall, & Mrs. Best

Dear Families,

In November we learned about the Pilgrims and Native-Americans. We will now touch on the holidays for December. We do not stress any one belief. We will be helping the children understand what is out in their environment. There will be a celebration of the winter holidays on December 16 th .

We have completed magnetic and non-magnetic experiments. We now will experiment with items which sink and float. The new color is yellow the new shape is the triangle and the new sound is "p".

The children can read each others names through our morning "name song". They also know who is absent. I think this is pretty amazing, considering they are only 2yrs. old. They are continuing to clean up after they eat. Maybe you would like to encourage them to do this at home.

We will play outside every day. Please send them with boots , hats, mittens (NO GLOVES). Please put their name on coats and boots. WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL: boots in plastic bins under cubbie, put on shoes - bin placed in lowest shelf in cubbie - hat goes in one cost sleeve - mittens in the other coat sleeve. I know everyone needs to get to work, but, we have 10 toddlers to dress for outside play.We have to stay in ratio and don't want your children to get hot and frustrated waiting for the teachers to look for missing "parts".

Please welcome Ethan McKenzie & his family , Lianna and Jason. Also, Nil Ozkok & her family, Elif and Baris.

Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas,

Phyllis, Emely, Rachael

Mrs. Clark & Ms. Geiger

November is here and gone, our Thanksgiving feast was quite a success. I would like to thank Catie Davison who volunteered food and time to help us with our Thanksgiving feast. In our classroom for the



month of December we will be discussing different cultural Holiday Traditions, which include: Christmas and Hanukkah. In Geography we will be studying Europe. They will also be studying properties of sound. In addition we will be learning about holidays around the world we will be discussing Nutcrackers and St Lucia. for St. Lucia we have a parade with the children and by tradition the oldest female child in the classroom will be Saint Lucia (Nora Sonnenberg). The parade will be on Wednesday, December 14th; the children will pass out cookies, to others in the school and sing songs. We will also be discussing how holidays will be celebrated around the world. The children will be learning the days of the week in German, and we will have a German advent Calendar "Weihnacht Kalender" which we will do each day counting down to Christmas. Also we will be having a Christmas celebration on Friday December 16, for the children. This will be a pajama party and have children bring their favorite game.

In Kindergarten the children will be studying: Pangaea, gravity, the equator, Europe and the

Polar Express. They will also learn about famous European artists: Picasso, Monet and Seurat. Field trip to the School for Creative and Performing Arts: The Nutcracker will be on Friday, December 2nd 9:00-12:00.

(January 2017)

Welcome back everyone, I hope everyone had a great holiday and we are looking forward to a new year. This month we will be studying The Polar Regions. This month in the classroom the children will be learning about: winter, weights/balance, night vs.day, bubble blowing, the cone, reptiles, vacuum, machines, tools and Martin Luther King. Our artist of the month will be George Seurat and our author will be Janell Cannon. In art we will be studying block painting and sculpture. There will be no school on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16th . First year Conferences will begin on Tuesday January 17th I will have a blue sign up sheet with different time slots on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

In Kindergarten the children will be studying glaciers, caves and children around the world. We will be taking a field trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center on Tuesday January 31st at 12-2:45.

I appreciate any questions, concerns or comments at any time. Feel free to contact me at my home phone number at 513.526-3874 or you can email me as well at: shannon_callahan@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Shannon & Meghan

Mrs. Roemhild & Ms. Paddock

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Our celebration was a lot of fun. Thank you Mrs. Foley for coming in and helping the children make the sweet leaf turkeys. The children really enjoyed the activity. The stone soup was a joy to make with the children. It was fun to put each ingredient in the pot as we read the book. We do have so much to be thankful for; it was nice to take the opportunity to share with one another.

In December, the kindergarten children will be going to SCPA to see "The Nutcracker" on the 2nd. We will be exploring the continent of Europe and focusing on some of the different celebrations in the month. We will include a look at Hanukkah, St. Nicholas Day, St. Lucia Day, Winter Solstice and Christmas. If your family celebrates a different holiday/tradition in December, please let me know. We would love to learn about it. We will have our Winter Festival on the 16th.

We will also be celebrating the birthdays of Aiden and Nolan as well as Trinity's and Javier's half birthdays.

In January, we will be snipping orange peels, cracking herbs with the mortar and pestle and using a spice grinder. The smell from the simmering pot is incredible. In the geography area, we will look into the Polar Regions and learn about some famous Americans such as Matthew Henson, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. The



kindergarten class will be going to the zoo on the 31st.

We will be celebrating Clive's birthday along with Evelyn and Addy's half birthdays. We will also finish out the month with a Chinese New Year celebration on the 27th. Wow! What a busy month.

Thank you so much for all of your attention and participation in our activities. We greatly appreciate you and the time you share with us.
Peace and Kindness,

Mrs. Beiting & Ms. Paddock

Welcome to December and hello winter! In this month with great anticipation amidst expectant joy, may we all be filled with child-

like innocence and wide-eyed wonder! As we learn about cultural celebrations, including Advent, St. Nicholas Day, St. Lucia Day, Christmas and Hanukkah the children will adorn the classroom with decorations and make gifts for their families. We will look for opportunities to create peace by sharing the gifts of kindness, respect, generosity and cheerfulness. Kindergarteners will attend a performance of The Nutcracker on Friday, Dec. 2nd at the School for Creative and Performing Arts. In January, with colder weather surrounding us, we are sure to make good use of our large muscle room when the weather is inclement. Yet whenever the weather and temperature permit, we will spend time outdoors. Indoors, children will apply and refine their skills and creative ability to unweave and weave paper, ribbon and yarn. Once again, the children will happily snip orange peels and use the mortar and pestle to grind herbs and spices for our simmer pot. The aromatic fragrance offers added pleasure to our work atmosphere. We'll learn how to squeeze oranges for juice. We will focus on the people, animals and climate of the Polar Regions of our world. We will highlight the lives of Matthew Henson, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. On Tuesday, Jan. 31 st the kindergarteners will explore the Cincinnati Zoo to discover how animals adapt to the seasons and their surroundings. Lastly, please remember to sign up for a parent/teacher conference if your child is currently a three year old or first year student. Conferences will be held according to the schedule posted on the board outside our classroom.

Happiness and peace be with you all!



Amy and Laura

Ms. Carlson & Ms. Geiger

Happy Holidays Families!

I am enjoying watching the children learn and grow every day. At this point we are refining our order, independence and concentration. As Maria Montessori said, "As soon as children find something that interests them they lose their instability and learn to concentrate." As new materials come out for the children to work with, at school and at home, we can encourage their concentration. We can make sure that we minimize distractions around them, show them the way at first and then step back and let them take over. We can let them make mistakes and give ideas for fixing them.

In December, we will be talking about and celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, St. Lucia Day, Kwanza, and Winter Solstice. If any of you would like to come in to talk about the holiday you celebrate, let me know. Also, look for materials concerning cylinders, bubble

beating, cinnamon toast, Europe, magnets, properties of sound, nutrition, art deco & art nouveau. Our artist of the month will be Alphonse Mucha and our author will be Dr. Seuss.

Our themes in January will be winter, day & night, bubble blowing, the cone, reptiles, vacuum, weights & the scale, machines & tools, Polar Regions, and pointillism. Our artist of the month will be Seurat and our author will be Janelle Cannon.

Parents of first year preschoolers- please sign up for conferences in January. You will see the sign-up posted on the green bulletin board.

Have a restful and fun holiday break! Enjoy your time with your loved ones!

Emily & Meghan



Director's Notes

We will be pre-registering current students for the 2017-18 school year in January. **If you have any doubt about the importance of keeping your child at KHMC for their Kindergarten year (the 3rd year of the 3 year program) please see your child's teacher, a current Kindergarten parent, or me! You will be so glad you kept your child here! You may not realize it now, but when your child is in junior high and high school you will still be seeing the benefits of your child completing their 3rd year at KHMC, before moving on to either another Montessori school or a traditional school.**

As those of you who have lived in Cincinnati through a winter know, the weather is very unpredictable. Please review the insert on Severe Weather Plans and Outdoor Play Policy before the unavoidable winter weather comes to Cincinnati.

Wishing you a wonderful, joyful, safe holiday and a peaceful new year!

Marybeth

Holiday Sing-A-Long

Ready or not the holidays are here! The classrooms will be very busy with holiday excitement! On **Tuesday Dec.13**, the children in the Extended Day Program and all Kindergartners will have a sing-a-long. It will take place in the large muscle room. The girls and boys who take Webby dance class will also perform. The event begins at **5:00 p.m.** sharp! All parents, siblings and relatives are invited to

Lucy's Diner Restaurant Night!

We will also be having a KHMC restaurant night at **Lucy's Diner in Reading** that night. The restaurant is very close to Kennedy Heights Montessori Center, right at the bottom of Ridge and Reading Rd. A portion of everyone's receipt will be donated back to KHMC. Lucy is the grandmother of Sasha Dombrovski. Make plans now to go there after the sing-a-long! Invite your friends, and relatives to meet

you there. We will have a sign up sheet on the table in the Extended Day room so we can let Lucy know how many to expect.

First Year Student Conferences

Thanks to all the parents who attended second and third year student conferences. Parent Conferences for our 1st year students will take place in January. Look for the sign-up

sheets on your child's teacher bulletin board in the hallway when school resumes on January 2.

Parent Education Night!

We plan to have our **2nd Parent Education Night** on **Tuesday January 24 at 6:00**. We are very excited to have a guest speaker from COTI (Cincinnati Occupational Therapy Institute). She will help raise awareness and understanding of sensory processing, and increase knowledge and understanding of children who have difficulty with sensory processing. The night will begin with cheese pizza and then the parents will move into the meeting space while children will be cared for in the large muscle room. (We need at least 10 adults to sign up for the meeting by Fri. Jan. 20 or the meeting will be canceled.)

School Survey

When **school resumes again on Jan. 2**, I will have a survey in your child's pocket to let us know how we're doing at KHMC. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to the white box in the hallway at the entrance of the Extended Day room. We appreciate your help in keeping KHMC the best pre-primary Montessori school in Cincinnati! thinking about Winter Break Childcare. Reservation forms are available in the pocket outside the office doors. Our last day of school before Winter Break is December 16, 2016. Winter Break is from Dec. 19 - Dec. 30 School begins again on Jan. 2, 2017. Childcare will be available December 27, 28, 29, and 30. Reservations are required. Please fill out the

registration form and return it to the office to secure your child's space.

Martin Luther King Day!

School will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Parent Open House Info Meeting

Looking ahead, our Parent Open House and Informational Meeting for new incoming parents for the 2017-18 school year will be on **Wednesday February 8 at 6:30 p.m.** Please tell your friends. Childcare will be provided. We are always looking for families who are interested in spending all three or four years with us!

