Dear Families,

The holiday season is upon us. Our classes will be busy with the many wonderful projects, stories and songs that pertain to this time of year. We hope that our recurring message to the children is that families and customs are not all the same, but that for everyone, this is a time of love and sharing.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Holiday Recess:** The Preschool will be closed from Monday, Dec. 21st through Friday, January 1st and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 4th.

**Martin Luther King Day:** Monday, Jan. 18th: School will be closed.

**Parent Conferences and Staff Development:**

No school for our 3s, 4s & TK students - Monday, Jan. 25th - Friday, Jan. 29th.

Two-year-old students ***are*** in session & will not conference at this time.

**Registration for the 2021-2022 school year:**

Registration forms received from current families have been processed.

New application forms will be accepted on a rolling basis. We have begun waitlists for a few classes. Contact Lisa Wrona if you’d like to enroll your child.

Registration will be open to the public on Friday, December 11th, from 11-1.

**Drop off reminder:** We ask that your child have their **mask** and **coat** on if you wish them to wear one on their way from the car to the building. We are experiencing a large back up onto Thornell Road due to additional time needed to dress children at the cars. The Sheriff’s office would like us to minimize that backup and the danger it imposes to drivers on Thornell Road. You may utilize the back-parking lot to get your child dressed and then may proceed to the car line from above. We are happy to assist your child with their masks as they enter the building. Also, of note – please pull as far down the driveway as possible to buckle your child at dismissal. When cars pull up right in front of the first cone, it makes it difficult for the car line to keep progressing. Thank you for your cooperation.

**COVID-19 Health Policy** ~ Please continue to follow the Daily Health Screening procedures. Your diligence along with our safety and wellness policies are making it possible for the students to have a happy and healthy preschool experience.

**SNOWY WEATHER DRIVEWAY PROCEDURES:**

**As weather conditions change during the day, so do our driveway conditions. When snow or ice develop during the day, our driveway may become slick and occasionally, cars become stuck. If you notice a long line or a car that is stuck, please use the driveway for Thornell Road School, and enter the parking area behind the church. You may drive around the church, down the hill on the far side, and enter the front loop from above. (Minivans and small cars seem especially susceptible to getting stuck.)**

**We ask that you exercise extreme caution when going through the line and patiently wait until the teachers and children have moved a safe distance away from your car before proceeding forward.**

**Mark your Calendars ~ Parent Conference Week:**

There will be **no school for** **3s, 4s & TK students** during the week of

Jan. 25 - Jan. 29. This includes Arts & Smarts, Literacy and Science (STEAM). Classes will resume the week of February 1st.

**School WILL be in session for our two-year-old students only.**

Parents will be asked to sign up for a 20-minute conference during their students scheduled days.

Conferences for 5 day 4s: January 25 (M),26 (T) & 28 (TH) corrected dates

Conferences MWF classes: January 25 and 27

Conferences for Transitional Kindergarten: January 27 (TH) & 28 (F)

Conferences for TTh & TThF classes: January 26 and January 28.

Please note that teachers will ***not*** be available at other times that week for conferences due to professional development training.

There are **no** conferences on Friday.

Friday, Jan. 29th is a staff meeting.

Information regarding signing up for conferences will go home in January.

\*\*we will NOT be conferencing with our two-year-old parents at this time\*\*

**WINTER IS HERE!**

Please continue to send indoor shoes and the necessary outdoor clothing. **Please label each and every item.** All classes will be working towards our goal of dressing independently: we start with snow pants, followed by boots, jackets, hat and **mittens (no gloves, please)**. We work on sequencing the items in that order and try to make a game of it with plenty of time. Extra practice at home will help us get to the playground with plenty of time to spare. The children take great pride in mastering this task.

\*\*\*From now until springtime, there will be mud on our playground during warmer weather. We make every attempt to steer children clear of muddy spots, but they always find them. Please consider this when sending outdoor clothing.

It is also helpful if your child has a **large tote bag** to hold all their belongings. Many children have small bags and thus have difficulty managing all their gear in addition to their projects.

**A HOLIDAY REMINDER:**

Young children have a very limited understanding of time. As we enter this holiday season, they can be bombarded with images of gifts and Santa Claus. They often expect Christmas or Hanukah to come right away, and the long wait builds stress and anxiety which often creates changes in behavior. Many young children also experience a fear of monsters and someone coming into their house at night while they sleep - Santa fits this description for many two and three-year olds! We ask that you as parents be mindful of these thoughts and try to keep things low key for as long as possible. We will all benefit, especially the kids! We will be making every effort to keep our routine familiar while enjoying the many activities that make this season so exciting!

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

Kelli, Kerry, Ali, Jan, Brigette, Julie,

Kim, Cathy, Jeneva, Jessica, Chris and Lisa