



THE SCHOOL SHED

JANUARY 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year everyone. I was afraid I wasn't going to get this newsletter out until the end of next year the way things have been going with me and electronics. I have a new computer, however there is some outdated software that I am still working on to get things up and running smoothly.

Thank you so much for your patience.

All of us at Town and Country would like to thank all of you for the many holiday gifts we received and all the thoughtful words. Thank you.

The theme for January is "Winter Wonderland."

The children will be making igloos, polar bears and snowmen. They will explore how the weather changes through different science demonstrations as well as a variety of sensory tables.

Ms. Julie and Ms. Pam have been busy with a Family Snowman project, glittery snowflakes and polar animal puppets. Ms. Amie . Ms. Laurie brought in the New Year with the kids making balloon buddies and has introduced the children to polar animals through several different sensory activities. Ms. Regina converted the dramatic play center into an igloo "in progress" and has discussed how it actually stays warm in an "ice house." Ms. Bailey made some textured penguins with the children and discussed the many different species and their silly names.

Take some time to check out all these wonderful activities. I am so proud to see the diverse projects that the teachers come up with each and every month.

Town and Country Preschool will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in honor of
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day.



Pajama Day

We will be having a pajama day on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 12 & 13. The children are

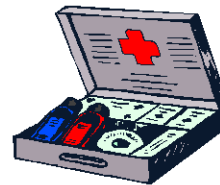
welcome to wear their jammies, slippers, robes and bring a small stuffed animal. We will be having popcorn and hot chocolate and will watch "Barney's Winter Wonderland!"

End of the Year Tuition Statements

If you would like to receive an end of the year tax statement there is a sign-up sheet at the front desk. I will be providing these only as requested. Thank you!

Allergy Reminder

I would like to thank those of you who have made a conscious effort to provide peanut free meals and snacks. These allergies can be life threatening and therefore we take it seriously, thank you!



Fall Registration

It's time to start thinking about registering your little one for next fall already. If you are currently enrolled with us, you have the opportunity to re-enroll your child or enroll a younger sibling before we open registration up to the public. This early registration will take place from Monday, Feb. 6th to Friday, Feb. 17th. During this two week period you will be required to pay the \$50 non-refundable registration fee that will guarantee your child's spot for August, 2012. I will be sending out more details as the time gets closer. Please let me know if you have any questions.

For those of you that will be moving on to Kindergarten, Banning Lewis Academy and Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning have already begun Kindergarten registration. Woodmen Hills Elementary, Falcon Elementary and Meridian Ranch Elementary have not begun the registration process and do not have dates scheduled as of January 9th. I will keep you posted.



SILLY SAYINGS

MATTHEW M. SAT UP AFTER NAP TIME ALL BRIGHT-EYED, MS. REGINA SAID "LOOK AT YOU ALREADY AWAKE." MATTHEW REPLIED, "YEP, I SLEPT JUST LIKE A KID."

LOGAN, RUNNING WITH OTHER BOYS ON THE PLAYGROUND STOPPED AND SAID TO MS. TANYA, "HEY, THIS IS KINDA FUN, WE'RE CHASING GIRLS."

January Birthdays

Happy birthdays to our January babies!!



Riley 01/03
Travis 01/06
Devon 01/11
Madison B. 01/18
Kaleb 01/19
Matthew M. 01/25

If you would like to bring in a special treat on or near your child's birthday please feel free to do so.

May I make a few suggestions:

- fresh fruit with a dab of whipped cream
- ice-cream/sherbet cups
 - muffins
 - cookies

BUILDING EFFECTIVE LISTENING SKILLS

Children's listening habits and skills are a good predictor of oral language proficiency, reading and writing skills, and later school success. Good listening skills do not develop naturally, they must be taught and practiced. Children, especially in the preschool years, are ready to learn about becoming good listeners. Below is a list of resources that will enhance your child's listening skills:

Bee, W. **And the Train Goes...**

A parrot at the train station listens in on passengers talk and the sounds the train makes.

Cumberbatch, J. **Can You Hear the Sea?**

On her grandfather's advice, Sarah listens to a shell in hopes of hearing the sea.

Martin, B. Jr. & J. Archambault. **Listen to the Rain**

A favorite picture book author team urges children to listen carefully to sounds all around them.

* Please do not hesitate to ask for more resources!!