



Parent Link

Newsletter of The Learning Tree Preschool

January 2010

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908 (239) 433-5499

► Happy 2010 everyone!
I hope it was a wonderful winter break for everyone with memorable family time together!

We are excited to dive back into school and have a full newsletter with exciting plans and events for the coming months!

January's mitzvah project will be to collect food which will be delivered to the Cooperative Ministries Soup Kitchen in Fort Myers. Some of you may recall that we typically did this around Thanksgiving time in previous years. However, that seemed to get to hectic on top of Toys for Tots in the hallway etc.

So this year we decided to try January. Stands to reason that after a busy holiday season, the

food shelters will be much in need of some replenishing. Please watch for a collection box early this week and we will continue collecting until Friday January 29.

I would love your feedback on parent survey topics. I try to put one out per month. Typically I have ideas for 2 or 3 months ahead of time and honestly, I must admit I need some inspiration! We have surveyed aftercare, snacks, and lunches frequently in the past as well as general open ended questions about program satisfaction. If you have any suggestions for future parent survey topics, please call, email, or stop by the office. Thank you!

Jesyca Virnig, M.A.Ed.
Director

**Developmental
Screening
By KidSpirit**
(optional)
**JANUARY
14 & 20**
*Separate permission slip
will be sent home.*

Playtime Pals

Each Friday in the new toddler classroom, Miss Christine leads our Playtime Pals class where parents & children participate together. This is a great introduction to the preschool program and highly recommended for parents seeking to start their children next fall. Come enjoy story-time, songs, art, and sensory activities. Get to know other families you may be in class with next year!

9:30-10:30 young toddlers
11:00-12:00 older toddlers/
young preschoolers

\$48 per 4 week session

2010-2011 Priority Registration

For current students and siblings to choose schedules before we begin placing from the wait list.

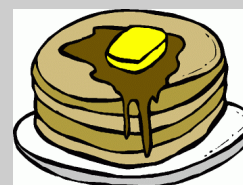
February 1-12, 2010

Forms available last week of January.

Pajama Pancake Dinner



Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 14. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be hosting this fun event featuring Miss Louanne from Music Together!



Watch the long bulletin board right outside the office for sign up and more information this week!

Classroom News!

Cool Cats

We spent our time in December learning about Chanukah and talking about Christmas. We try to help the children understand the meaning of each holiday and the wonderful sense of friendship, giving, and being together with family and friends. The children put a lot of time and love into preparing presents and cards for their moms and dads. On the last day we had a wonderful holiday party with songs and desserts. We thank all the parents who helped us with the party and came to celebrate with the children.

January is traditionally the month when we explain to the children the meaning of winter and about the life of some birds and animals during the cold season. We will make an ice castle, have a snowball fight, make a snowman, and even go skiing! Our best helpers in this topic of course are books, tapes, and pictures!

We will continue to work with letters and numbers. In December we explored P and D and in January we will study M, O, and B. We have started to "read" some simple words with letters the children know and will add more fun activities with our new letters.

In December our friends Kiran Shah and Emilia Thomas turned four. And in January we will celebrate Jack Nicolosi's birthday!

Thank you to December room mom, Chris Yoshida for the help, time spent with the children, and wonderful treats you brought to class.

We hope all of you had festive holidays and are looking forward to the wonderful New Year.

Miss Alla & Miss Jennifer



WEBSITE

Please remember to check in to our website frequently for updated photos from the classrooms.

You need the password to enter the area of the website with classroom photos.

Busy Bees and Bear Cubs

December was filled with lots of discussion and fun activities for Hanukkah and Christmas. We learned about how families celebrate each one of them.

This month, January, our theme will be about winter and cold weather animals. We will be discussing animals such as polar bears, penguins, and seals. We will learn what they eat and where they live. We will be making snow and ice for our sensory table so your children will get to feel the real cold!

Thank you so very much to all our room moms Jodi Barras, Karolina Ruberto, Stacy Kay, and Nancy Aloia for your wonderful and generous donations to our classroom.

Happy Birthday to Matthew Kim (12/1), Sara Hassan (1/2), Ava Cuellar (1/3), Vaughn Lennon (1/13), Gracey Mizwa (1/16), and Hannah Zettler (1/30).

Miss Debbie & Miss SonChae

HERMIT CRABS

Well, I am happy to say that the hermit crabs in the office have been a big hit! I love all my little visitors who stop by daily to watch, hold, or help feed the crabs!

In this spirit we will begin this week sending home a hermit crab or two for the weekend with any interested families. Please sign up in the office!



Jazzy Giraffes and Mini Monkeys

The cold weather has arrived!

In December we read favorite story books, sang favorite holiday songs, and learned about multicultural holidays. In January we will learn about weather and winter animals. We will enjoy science experiments that include ice and snow!

Thank you to all the room moms for bringing special treats and crafts. And a big thanks to all the parents that donated to the classroom. Our January room moms are Amber White and Veronika Meyers.

Happy Birthday to:

Sophie Virnig (12/12), Lucy Waldau (12/19), and Addison Stokes (1/30).

Miss Gloria & Miss Candy

Mighty Mice

December was an exciting month as we learned about many holidays and discussed respecting the beliefs and traditions of others. We also discussed money and played store.

Dinosaurs are a very popular theme and they will be back in January. Kids love learning about dinosaurs! And tick, tock goes the clock as we introduce lessons about time in January as well.

A special thanks to Sally Lee, Nancy Spencer, Susan Rathur, Niki Georgatos, and Michele Cloutier for gifts from the giving tree.

And thank you to Kimberly Brandt for being our December room mom—the New Year's Party was a hit! Also thanks to all the parents that contributed and helped to make it a festive time. Our room mom for January is Rachel Zammit.

Happy Birthday to Abbie Brandt (12/5).

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Miss Ellen & Miss Belinda

Tiny Turtles and Funny Frogs

It certainly has been an exciting few weeks. As to be expected, many of our December always seems to come and go so quickly! We would like to thank all of our families for the generous gifts received. We are blessed to have such wonderful families in our school. Also thank you to the Robinson family for the donation of puzzles to the classroom.

Congratulations to our two families that have special additions! Ian Thompson became a big brother and Phoebe Magas also became a big sister!

In December we transformed our room into a circus. The children practiced walking on a "tightrope", throwing beanbags through the hoop, dropping pins in the bucket, and experiencing fun art and sensory activities. We even saw Miss Christine dressed up in a clown hat and green hair! In January we will be learning all about insects (YUCK!)

Happy Birthday to Anikka (12/17), Brady (1/9), Hanna and Karina (1/14), Josh (1/24), and Kaitlyn (1/25).

See you all in 2010!

Miss Christine S. & Miss Christine B.

Yakity Yaks

This month we will meet up with our very old friends—the dinosaurs. We will learn about different types of dinosaurs and how they lived. We will also spend time talking about winter weather.

The Letter People will continue to arrive and challenge children to find words that start with our letter of the week. The kids love having their initials next to the words they think of.

We have introduced a few sight words and it is amazing how quickly the children pick them up!

Thank you so much to our November room mom Maryanne Lamon for all her goodies and fun stickers. December Room mom is Lisa Muench and January room mom is Liza Thomas.

We hope all our Yaks and their families had a Happy Holiday!

Miss Susan & Miss Laura

Back by Popular Demand

Parents who attended last year's positive discipline workshop by Marie Morales asked her to please stay late and keep talking! So this year she will present a series of workshops in February and March. Registration available soon!

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 7
Music Together
begins

January 8
Playtime Pals
begins

January 12
School Choice
Roundtable
w/special guests
C.C. Mattingly &
Kayce Campbell

January 14
Pajama Pancake
Dinner

January 14&20
Developmental
Screening

January 18
Closed
Teacher
Inservice

January 28/29
Wear Your Learning
Tree T-shirt Days

February 25
Breakfast With
Dad

