

Chestnut Grove Child Development Center Newsletter Three

Dear Friends,

12/9/11

November was an amazing month at Chestnut Grove! The children learned about being truly thankful for all that we have by sharing a canned good. Mrs. Foard read the book **Giving Thanks** during library and we worked on units about seasonal changes and friendships. Pastor Ken greeted the children in the chapel and told them stories about the first Thanksgiving. He listened to all of the songs the children learned in Music with Mrs. Busta and was delighted with the stories of gratitude. We shared our bounties with each other on our annual Thanksgiving feasts. The children churned butter, baked pumpkin muffins, and enjoyed turkey and carrots dressed as Native Americans. It was nice to see the entire school eating together in the Big Room.

We have been practicing for our Christmas pageants after our morning opening. Please plan to attend our rendition of the Nativity on Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16 at 9:15. The children will perform their skit in the chapel then everyone is invited to the reception downstairs in our school. Please remember to be on time as we need to get the children in costumes and our performance is brief. This is a very special day for your child! Our school will close after the reception so please plan accordingly for your family.

Now that the weather is changing, many families with small children will use the curbside parking. Please use the parking spots in front of the school only if you have small children. If a staff member is not available to watch your child, please designate a person to stay with your vehicle. We are all in this together!

Our Chestnut Grove family would like to know that all of you are in our thoughts during the holiday season and we wish all of you a year of hope and abundance! We are truly blessed to be working with such a remarkable group of teachers, children and parents.

Helen Welde Doyle

Director

hdoyle@chestnutgrovechild.org

School Board Update

We would like to extend our gratitude to Jamie Beynon and Beth Collins for organizing **Parent Decorating Night**. What an amazing night! Our parent elves brought Christmas magic to the school transforming Chestnut Grove into a Winter Wonderland. Everyone enjoyed some adult time and forged new friendships.

This week the children were delighted to purchase gifts for their families at our **Elf Shop**. Your incredible donations enabled us to provide some much needed assistance to the Ark Preschool, a homeless shelter and our sister school. We are indebted to Faith Hubbard and Nancy Bowers and their committee for executing this event. Any items that were not sold were donated to local charities.

Preschool Center Council

This past April, the session of Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church voted to reaffirm our ties and responsibilities to the Child Development Center. A committee has been established to provide consistent oversight to school administration and the daily operations of the school. The council is appointed by the pastor and composed of members of session, the school director and a parent of a currently enrolled student. This group has been meeting monthly to update policy and procedure manuals, review budgets and combine resources for mutual growth. The current group is composed of Kenneth Ironside, Pastor, Leonard, Tilman CPA, Elder and Chairman of Church Finance, Robert Vogelsang, Elder of Church Property, Patricia Neary, Elder and Clerk of Church Session, Faith Hubbard, Deacon and Parent and Helen Doyle, Director of CDC. Mrs. Sottile-Jackson has been working with the steering committee to provide insight on the school budget and assist with the transition to a unified financial reporting system. The CDC is thrilled with this partnership and is eager to work together for the success of our children.

Friends and Family Playdates

Each month, playdates are scheduled for families to meet one another and forge new friendships. These days are an opportunity to get out of the house and have fun.

Friday, December 16, 2011 - Port Discovery 4-7 PM - \$2 Admission

Wednesday, December 28, 2011 - Vacation Day at the Baltimore

Museum of Industry 11 - 12:30 PM

Open House/School Spirit Day

We will be hosting an Open House for prospective families for the 2012-2013 school year on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

(Reservations can be made by calling the school). The format includes a tour then a brief Question and Answer session. Please spread the word as we will be taking requests for the 2012-2013 school year.

December 13 - Registration for 2s

January 23 - Registration for 4s

January - 25 - Registration for 3s

Parent Conferences

Teachers are glad to conference with you at any time. A formal conference day is scheduled on Friday, January 13 for the MWF classes and on Tuesday, January 17 for the TTh classes. Each teacher has their schedule posted so please be sure to sign up for mutually agreeable time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (hdoyle@chestnutgrovechild.org)

Homeroom Parents

You do not need to provide anything for our Christmas party. The school will buy everything needed for the receptions. There will be white bags on each child's cubbie if you want to provide a card or holiday treat for classmates. Please do whatever works for you.

White Boards

Outside of each classroom, the teachers have white boards which highlight the lesson for each day. Please take a minute to read the message and use it as a springboard for conversations about your child's school day. Thank you for helping us to reinforce the learning process.

School Communication

www.chesnutgrovechild.org

Please check our website for school forms and newsletters. If you have a question please do not hesitate to drop in the office. Email blasts are also sent from our class coordinators to keep you posted on activities specific to your child. Thank you to the coordinators for your assistance.

2s Rachel Teimon; 3s Liza DeBolt; 4s Laura Beynon

Inclement Weather Policy

We follow the Baltimore County Public Schools for school closing and delays due to inclement weather. If BCPS is two hours late, we will begin school two hours late at 11:15. If Baltimore County closes early, we will dismiss all programs at 12:30. If you have any questions, feel free to email me

HYPERLINK "mailto:hdoyle@chestnutgrovechild.org"
hdoyle@chestnutgrovechild.org

MSDE Credential

Congratulations to the faculty and staff at Chestnut Grove who completed the qualifications for the Maryland Child Care Credential. Staff members completed professional development classes in addition to what is mandated by licensing. We are very proud of all of the efforts of our teachers and the time they work outside the school day to ensure the best possible program for our children.

January 11, 2012

On Wednesday, January 11, 2012 our Tuesday and Thursday classes are welcome to bring a parent to "Snowmuch Fun" a presentation by Candy and Cupcake. The show will take place in the Big Room at 9:30 AM. For more information please log on to HYPERLINK "<http://www.candyandcupcake.com>"

Hopkins Research

From January - April, the children in Mrs. Huxtable's pilot class will be working with Sharon Delgado from the Mind, Brain and Teaching Division of Johns Hopkins University. Sharon will work in conjunction with Christine to study how movement enhances memory and the recall of letters and sounds. There will be an optional parent meeting to provide more information on Wednesday, January 25, 2011 at 2:30 PM. Please try to come so we may answer your questions.

Emergency Cards

Mrs. Sottile-Jackson sent reminders to all parents who needed to update your emergency cards in the office. Please take care of this.

Happy New Year to all of our Chestnut Grove Family!

