

## **Tree Town Newsletter - December 2011 - January 2012**

### **Curriculum**

Our focus during December will be the winter season; including family customs and traditions used in celebrating the holidays. During the month of January, we will focus on fish, fire safety, and what to do in an emergency. Our 4 year olds will begin learning their phone number and home address.

### **Registration 2012 - 2013**

#### **Alumni registration**

All currently enrolled families at Tree Town will have registration forms sent to them via e-mail during the week of November 28<sup>th</sup>. Insure your spot by registering for next year on December 20<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>! Please bring your registration information to the flowered registration box in the staff room on one of those 2 days. Michelle Huber is our returning family registrar (630) 530-2388.

#### **New family registration**

New families will be asked to call the school starting January 2, 2012, at 8:30 AM, to be placed on a list and to receive registration forms. Tree Town's phone number is (630) 279-8778. Word of mouth is our best advertisement! If you know of families interested in Tree Town, please have them call the school to schedule an observation. Krista Nunnemaker is the new family registrar (630) 516-3454.

#### **Parent Helper Tips**

Our classrooms tend to be quite warm in the wintertime. If you send your child with a sweater please have another shirt underneath so they can remove the sweater if they become too warm. Please keep in mind that if you are unable to keep your assigned helping day you are to first call and trade with someone. If that is not possible, you may contact an emergency helper. The fee is \$20 for the class they cover.

## **Absences**

You are not required to contact us if your child will be absent. However, we appreciate a call, so we know if you are not coming that day.

+If you will be on vacation for a few days, please let your teacher know.

+If your child contracts a contagious disease such as chicken pox or strep throat, please let the school know so we may inform other families.

+We do appreciate you not sending your child with a severe cold. In addition to spreading germs, the child may be tired and find the day overwhelming.

+We teach the children to cough into their elbow so as not to spread germs.

Children are reminded to wash hands after blowing or wiping their nose.

## **Outerwear**

As cold weather approaches and children are wearing winter coats, please make sure to put your child's name on everything. It helps us know whose clothes they are. If your child wears snow boots, please send a pair of shoes. This allows wet boots to stay in the hallway and keeps our class dry and clean. Please encourage your child to button and zipper themselves. They are so proud when they can do that all by themselves.

## **Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Tree Town will participate in the community tree lighting ceremony at Wilder Park this year on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. The children will be making decorations for our tree the week of November 28th. Our tree will be located near in front of the Wilder Mansion by the Park District office parking lot. The tree lights are turned on at 7:00 PM. Please come and trim the Tree Town tree!

## **Treats with Santa**

Back by popular demand is Treats with Santa. Santa will make a special appearance for his Tree Town friends at St. Peter's Church (corner of Church and Cottage Hill) on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 – 12:00. There will be crafts, snacks, stories, and an opportunity to have a picture taken with Santa. The cost is \$40 per family.

## **Snack Suggestions**

Please don't forget fruit (no grapes, though). Some suggestions this time of year are Clementine tangerines. Children are able to peel their own. What a great fine motor activity! Children also love bagels.

## **Arrival:**

Please arrive at school promptly, but no more than five minutes before school begins, unless you are serving as a parent helper. Scheduled helpers need to arrive 10 minutes before the start of class.

**Tuition**

Tuition is due February 1, 2012. Please make checks payable to Tree Town Cooperative Nursery School. Tuition checks may be put in the gray tuition box in the school office or you may forward it to:

Meredith Vogel  
481 E. Adams  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
(773) 230-4019  
Meredith.vogel@us.gt.com

Please remember there is a late fee of \$20 for any payment made 1-7 days after the due date and a \$50 late fee for payments after seven days. If you need to make arrangements for an alternative payment schedule you must contact Meredith prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Tuition Amounts Due**

- 1 day per week 2's class is \$367
- 2 day per week 3's class is \$509
- 2 day per week 3's class is \$609 (flexible helping)
- 3 day per week 4's class is \$680
- 3 day per week 4's class is \$834 (flexible helping)

**Fine Motor Skills**

Playing with play dough is an excellent way to strengthen little fingers in preparation for writing. We make it in the classroom as a math/science experience. It's a great activity to do on long winter days with your child. Here is our Tree Town play dough recipe:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 2 cups water
- 1 tsp oil
- Food coloring.

Mix dry ingredients (first 3) in pot. Mix wet ingredients (last 3) in pitcher. Pour wet ingredients into pot of dry ingredients. Cook play dough until it is difficult to mix. Remove to trays and continue to knead.

Another way to improve Fine Motor skills; is to practice cutting. Carry a pair of child size scissors with you to practice cutting while you are waiting in the doctor's office or at a restaurant. It will make the time pass faster and help develop those fine motor skills.

### **Tree Town Wish Tree**

The teachers will again be posting a "Tree Town Wish Tree" for the holidays. If you and your child would like to give a gift to Tree Town for the holidays, the teachers will post items they would like for their rooms.

### **Valentine Carnival**

Our carnival will be on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign posted at the end of January for extra helpers. Each class will need up to three extra helpers. The games that are a part of the Carnival cannot be run without adequate helpers. If you wish to have your child start working on Valentine cards please do not address the envelopes with the names of classmates, merely have your child sign their own name. We are "Allergy Aware" and refrain from any Valentine treats that might contain peanuts.

### **Tax information**

For income tax purposes, the Tree Town Tax Number is 36-2659362. If you need a statement on Tree Town letterhead for tax purposes, you may contact Mrs. Baker or Meredith Vogel (773) 230-4019 or Meredith.vogel@us.gt.com

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Conference sign up sheets will be posted on your class bulletin board after winter break. Conferences will be offered in the evening on January 19<sup>th</sup> and the afternoon on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Since parents are involved in many of the classes, we fully understand you may not feel it necessary to have a conference. Please don't sign up for a conference because you feel it is expected. If you do not sign up for a conference and a teacher has some concerns she wishes to share with you, she will contact you. If the times arranged do not accommodate your schedule you may talk with your teacher about another time.

### **Recycling Ink Cartridges and Cell Phones**

Please remember to bring us your old ink cartridges and cell phones. There is a gray box in the staff room just for that purpose. If Santa brings you a new cell phone, Tree Town will gladly take your old one. Last year we earned enough money to help pay our Weekly Reader Subscription!

### **Fire Station Field Trip**

Permission forms for the four-year-old field trip to the Elmhurst Fire Station on South York Road will be sent in January. The trip is scheduled for Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Spanish for Tots**

Martha Mendoza will be continuing Spanish Instruction for our four-year-old class. Our next 10 week session will begin January 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost will again be \$75 for 10 weeks and will be due prior to January 13, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Baker.

**Winter Wonders of Learning**

Mrs. Sutherland and Mrs. Mitchell will be offering a four year old/Kindergarten Enrichment class on Thursday afternoons from 12:30 – 2:30 PM. Our class will focus on phonics enrichment and winter science experiments. The first class will be January 26<sup>th</sup> and classes will end on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The cost for the five-week session is \$120. Please contact Mrs. Baker or Mrs. Sutherland with questions.

We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season!

Barb, Anne-Marie, Colleen, Karen, Marcy, and Sarah

## **Tree Town Calendar**

### **December Dates**

Week of November 28<sup>th</sup> - Registration e-mailed to current families

Dec. 1 - Wilder Park Tree Lighting 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Dec. 3 - Treats with Santa - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Dec. 12- Librarian Visit for 4's

Dec. 13 - Librarian Visit for T/Th 3's

Dec. 20 - REGISTRATION DAY

Dec. 21 - REGISTRATION DAY

Dec. 22 - Ages & Stages Questionnaire due back

Dec. 23 - Winter Break begins

### **January Dates**

Jan. 2 - Phone Registration for new families

Jan. 4 - Mid-year clean-up at Tree Town (6:30 - 9:30 PM)

Jan. 9 - Classes resume

Jan. 12- Karen Ritter "Fish" for T/Th 3's

Jan. 16 - No School Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 17 - No School - Dist. 205 Institute Day

Jan. 19 - Evening Tree Town Conferences (4:30 PM - 6:30 PM)

Jan. 20 - Afternoon Tree Town Conferences (11:10 AM - 1:10 PM)

Jan. 23 - Board Meeting

Jan. 27 - Fire Station visit for 4's class

Jan. 28 - Casino Night Fundraiser

### **February Dates**

Feb. 1 - Tuition Payment

Feb. 13- Valentine Carnival MWF 4's

Feb. 14 - Valentine Carnival T/Th 3's

Feb. 20 - No School, President's Day

Feb. 21 - Dad's Night - T/Th 3's Class

Feb. 22 - Dad's Night - MWF 4's Class

Feb. 27 - Board Meeting