

## Tree Town Newsletter - November 2011

### Curriculum

Our focus this month will be cooperation, family, turkeys, vegetables and Thanksgiving. We will end the month with our traditional Tree Town Thanksgiving Feast!

### Harvest Open House - November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

We hope that you and your family will be able to join us for our Harvest Open House at Tree Town. This event is intended to be an opportunity for you and your child to share his/her school activities, and friends, with you. We will be decorating our room and making a special snack to share that evening. We also look forward to meeting and in some cases, seeing again, the brothers and sisters of our Tree Town students. This is a very non-structured evening. Families may come and go as they please. You do not have to stay the entire hour. Since space is limited, it gives us more space if families do come and go.

### Harvest Open House Schedule

Mon., Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00PM	Four-year-old classes
Tues., Nov 8 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00PM	Three-year-old classes

### Thanksgiving Feast - November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

We are planning the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Tree Town Feast! Our feast will be during regular class hours on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be making vegetable soup in class to eat on Feast Day. Children should bring one fresh vegetable to put into the soup pot on the day of their feast. Examples include; carrots, beans, peas, tomatoes, onion, garlic, potatoes, sweet potatoes, broccoli, corn and green pepper. The more variety the better! The children will wash, peel, and cut their own vegetables at school and put them into our soup. We will need extra helpers for chopping and washing! If you are interested please sign up on your class board. When you pick up your child on Feast Day, please feel free to come into the class a few minutes early to sample our soup.

### Learning Corner

Not only is our Thanksgiving soup tasty, it provides our students with many learning opportunities. We talk about what vegetables are and learn to identify them and their color. We talk about healthy eating and the importance of eating vegetables. Having the children cut their own vegetable is a great, fine-motor activity. It strengthens little fingers to prepare them for writing.

### 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 do not distribute birthday invitations at school unless you are inviting the whole class. We would not want anyone to have hurt feelings.

## **Absences**

You are not required to inform Tree Town if your child is absent due to illness. We do however appreciate a call, so we know if you are 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. Besides 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 mittens 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.

## **Used Ink and Toner Cartridges and Old Cell Phones**

Don't throw out your used toner or ink cartridges! Tree Town can use them! Please deposit them in the gray container in the staff room. Also, if you upgrade your cell phone, we will gladly recycle your old one. The proceeds from recycling contribute toward our Weekly Reader subscription.

## **Tree Lighting Ceremony - December 1st**

Tree Town will participate in the community tree lighting ceremony at Wilder Park this year on December 1st 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 Wilder Mansion. Please come and trim the Tree Town tree!

## **Treats with Santa - December 3rd**

Treats with Santa is back by popular demand. Santa will make a special appearance for his Tree Town friends at **St. Peter's Church (corner of Church and Cottage Hill)** on December 3rd from 10:00 - 12:00. There will be crafts, snacks, stories with Tree Town teachers, and an opportunity to wear your holiday finest to have a picture taken with Santa. The cost is \$40 per family. Thanks in advance to our hard-working Ways and Means committee who sponsor this event.

# Tree Town Calendar

## November Dates

- Nov. 1 – 3's Naturalist visits Tree Town with a talk on Animal Coverings
- Nov. 4 – 4's Naturalist visits Tree Town with a talk on Rocks
- Nov. 7 – Harvest Open House for 4's classes – 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- Nov. 8- Harvest Open House for 3's classes – 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- Nov. 14 – Budget Meeting – 7:00 PM at Tree Town
- Nov. 14 – Health Dept. Presentation during class on Feelings (Moody Me) for 4's
- Nov. 17 – Feast Day for T/Th 3's class
- Nov. 18 – Feast Day for MWF 4's class
- Nov. 21 – Nov. 25 – No School Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28 – Board Meeting

## December Dates

- Dec. 1 – Wilder Park Tree Lighting 6:30 – 7:30 PM
- Dec. 3 – Treats with Santa – 10:00 AM– 12:00 PM at St. Peter's
- Dec. 12 – Librarian Visit at Tree Town for 4's
- Dec. 13 – Librarian Visit at Tree Town for 3's
- Dec. 20- Current Family Registration for 2012-2013 School Year
- Dec. 21- Current Family Registration for 2012-2013 School Year
- Dec. 23 – Winter Break begins

## January Dates

- Jan. 2 – Phone Registration for new families
- Jan. 4 – Mid-year clean-up at Tree Town
- Jan. 9 – Classes resume
- Jan. 12 – Karen Ritter Fish Presentation T/Th 3's
- Jan. 16 – No School – Martin Luther King Holiday observed
- Jan. 17 – No School – Dist. 205 Institute Day
- Jan. 19 – Parent Teacher Conferences times TBD
- Jan. 20 – Parent Teacher Conferences times TBD
- Jan. 23 – Board Meeting – 7:00PM at Tree Town
- Jan. 27 – 4's Classes visit Elmhurst Fire Station
- Jan. 28 – Casino Night