

Tree House Hollow Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 4

December 1, 2007

Family Fun

What a wonderful time we had on Friday Night. Thank you to all who participated. I feel so blessed to have such supportive, amazing families and staff here at Tree House Hollow. Some families have been wondering about special "holiday events" that the children can enjoy. Here's a short list:

See bulletin Board outside for details of the Pooh Show at the Sonoma County Repertory Theatre, Revels in Oakland, Snoopy Ice Show at Redwood Empire Ice Arena call 546-7147 for details, Fairyland in Oakland is tons of fun as is the Oakland Museum (it's only one hour away), Finally, just hanging out with family is fun. Doing puzzles, playing games and singing together.

From Darkness to Light

It's hard to believe that the days will be growing longer in just three short weeks. During this short month we always celebrate the coming of the light and how different cultures celebrate this festive time of year. We 'll begin with Hanukah and move on to Christmas, Kwanza and Solstice. Making candles, holiday gifts, wrapping paper and cards usually fill our month.

The Spirit of Giving will be discussed and we'll collect toys for children and bring them to the fire station. Please bring in an unwrapped toy for the toy drive. Going through your child's things and talking

about others who are not as privileged as we are is a sweet activity to do with your child. Pick something out that she/he doesn't use anymore to bring to the fire house (It should be in excellent condition or else go shop for something new. We'll have a box by the door for all donations.

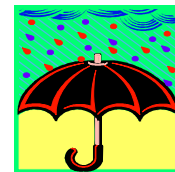


Measuring the sun's shadow each day with a stick is a fun way for children to observe that the sun is getting lower and then higher in the sky. Provided we get some sun, we'll mark the length of the stick on the ground. Notice with your child how dark it gets before dinner.

Wishing your family a safe, joyful and loving holiday season. Peace!

We have a new child beginning this month. His name is Lucas Silver Morris and his mom is Helenice and his dad is Jay. Some of you may remember them from our work parties this summer. Jay is the guy with the chain saw making the playground safe from falling branches. Helenice and Lucas have been in Brazil and just got back so now he can join the group. Please welcome them to Tree House Hollow.

Please be sure your child has extra clothes here each day. If a bag comes home with dirty, damp clothes we will need replacements. If you've borrowed our clothes, please return. As the weather is wet and muddy we will probably be using the extra clothes even more. If you have any clothes you can donate to our stash that would be wonderful.



Rainy Season is here. Remember Rain Gear!! We often go out in the rain or go for a rain walk.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, December 12 Bring Food and Toys to Fire Department

No School December 24 until January 4h

School Begins January 7th 2008



It's so wonderful to feel supported by you. As we continue to work together, your children will continue to blossom.

Some of you have fallen into a rhythm of a regular "job" and I want to thank you for that now:

Michael Ost- Webmaster
Robert Rainwater and Maben Smith-Building Maintenance,
Ryn Longmaid -trash expeditor and recycler,
Eutilia Onofre-cleaning the school each day,
Kelly Silverstein, Weekly Laundry,
Natalie Miller, Fundraiser and new Board Member,
Linda Ruder, Correspondence Coordinator,
Louie Ferrera, fix-it man,
Carol Brennan, Sign and Label Laminator,
Dee Lester, Shopper,
Aline Unzelman, morning snack helper

And Thanks to

Luke Unzelman for bringing the hay and the climbing structure.
Norma Walls -gardening
Miriam Volat- Party helper
Arnon Weissman, fixing the shelf and cleaning the mitt,,
Sasha and Adam Schaible for wood chips,
Michael Ost for wood chips,
Wyndham for Sanding the Tree House,
Lane Tirtgen and Graham Lankford for ladder building,
Denise McCullough, book repair and translator and Earthquake kit coordinator
Justin Thorn and Cary Bush for another batch of woodchips

Special Thanks to Marty Peinkofer for Building the Tree House with Glenn and Ignacio!

And thank you for ordering the Montessori items. We made over \$75.00 for the school! Thanks to Lisa (Max's Mom) for organizing that.

There is still time to order gifts for the holiday season by logging on to www.forsmallhands.com

Family Meetings

Last month we began having "family meetings" at school. We gather at circle time and light a candle as we begin. We will try to have a family meeting with the children at least every other week.

The three reasons for meetings, which we recite before each meeting, are:

To give appreciations and compliments

To help each other solve problems

To plan and have fun

At our last meeting India brought to the agenda that she wanted to have a morning circle again. We originally stopped having a morning circle because so many children were arriving early and getting involved in play and we didn't want to interrupt it. But after a discussion and vote we are reinstating the morning circle. Please come a few minutes earlier than nine so we can begin the circle at 9:00. The family meeting book is on the sign in/out table if you'd care to read it.