

St. Joseph Montessori School

## Children's House Newsletter

December 2011

*PEACE. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work,  
It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.*

*~Unknown*

*Celebrate Peace and Joy* 

Dear Parents,

With Thanksgiving behind us, we turn our attention to the events during the month of December. This is a month packed full of activity and "great expectations."

Our classroom can be a place of peace and composure during this hectic time, not only for us, but most importantly for the children. At school we try to keep routines as normal as possible to help the children get through the holiday excitement. For the next few weeks, let us try and remember the importance of the season, practice patience, relax and try not to overdo, take time to reflect on the meaning of the season and view the holiday through the eyes of our children.

The positive aspects of this month include feelings of warmth and closeness, but we also must deal with the pressures and added responsibilities of holiday activities. We encourage you to find some quiet time and focus on current wonders of Nature, explore the constellations and stars you see in the December sky. Visit the local food bank and share with those in need, giving children the chance to let their empathy for others blossom.

This month we introduce the children to the holiday traditions from around the world. We will explore various Christmas traditions as well as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

On December 2, we shared the first of our "Special Lunches." The children practiced their grace, courtesy and practical life skills. There are two more to go, one in the spring and the annual end of the year Children's House picnic. If you have not paid your \$15.00 please do so as soon as possible. The checks should be made payable to your **CHILD'S CLASSROOM TEACHER.**

We hope you were able to attend this year's Winter Festival. Thank you for volunteering your time to help make Winter Festival a success.

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Weather permitting; we will continue to take the children outside to play during the winter months. Weather permitting means the temperature and wind chill is at least 20 degrees. Snow does not keep us in unless it is too wet. Help your child to remember to bring all the proper clothes to school: boots, hat, mittens and coat. Labeling their items is TREMENDOUS HELP, especially if an item gets lost. Also check your child's extra clothes to see the clothing is appropriate for the cold weather. If an item fails to make it home, check with your teacher and/or the Lost & Found in the main building.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sunday, December 4 – Winter Festival (Noon-5pm)
- Wednesday, December 14 - Cookies and Carols (7-7:45pm)
- Friday, December 16 – Last Day of School **NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
- Monday, December 19-Jan 2 – Christmas Break **NO SCHOOL/EXTENDED DAY**
- Tuesday, January 3 – Classes resume

MAY YOUR HEARTS AND FAMILIES BE CONTINUOUSLY BLESSED WITH THE LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND HAPPINESS OF THE SEASON NOW AND ALWAYS.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Children's House Teachers and Staff*





