



PCHC Spotlight

December 2008

Happy Holidays!

We are thankful and grateful!

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Thanks to all those families who attended our Thanksgiving Feast! Thanks for your generosity and graciousness! The feast would not have been successful without you! A special thanks to Ms. Linda and Ms. Robin for cooking the turkeys! They were delicious!

Feed the Children Fund

As we continue in the holiday spirit, let us not forget to remind our children that the holiday season is about giving and not only about receiving! This holiday season, we will be sponsoring as many children as we can through the Feed the Children Foundation. You may sponsor a child for as little as \$10 per month or \$120 per year! If you would like to participate, please feel free to donate whatever amount you can to support the less fortunate children in this world. Please use the PCHC Feed the Children special envelopes and drop your donation in our safe. A one-time donation will be made to Feed the Children in January.

Welcome to Pat!

As you know by now, we are excited about our new Director, Pat Seiple! Please make her feel welcome as she settles into her new role, as part of the PCHC family!

2009 Rates

Our 2009 tuition rates will remain the same! In spite of the increases in operating cost and the requirement for us to hire more qualified employees, we have decided to maintain our current rates to support many of our parents who are experiencing financial pressures elsewhere. We encourage parents to please pay on time so that we can keep our operating costs low. Opportunities now exist to pay ahead of time with discounts available. Please check with the office for additional information.

Holiday Program

This year, the entire Center will host parents on December 19 at 4 pm for our holiday program. Come prepared to enjoy the many talents of our children from infants through school age. Bring your cameras and video cameras! It should be fun! Additional information will be sent home from each room in preparation for the holiday program. Stay tuned!

As always, we look forward to serving you and your children! Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous, happy, and safe Holiday Season!

Ms. Florence
ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com

Advance Tuition Payment

As of January 1, 2009, you may pay 6 months tuition and receive a 5% discount or 12 months tuition and receive 10% discount. Please see the office to arrange your discount.

PCHC accepts credit card payments for tuition. You may pay by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Credit card payments are processed on Mondays

Referral Program

Beginning in December 1, 2008, PCHC will offer a \$50 credit to current families who refer new families to the Center. Contact Ms. Pat for detailed information about the program

December Birthdays!

Congratulations to:

Viviana Smart – Dec 11
 Austin Riggs – Dec 12
 Derek Merton – Dec 13
 Sarah Underwood – Dec 15
 Kathryn Barrett – Dec 17
 Ethan Viers – Dec 19
 Rachel McDermott – Dec 23
 Ryleigh Yirka – Dec 24



Classroom Updates

News from our Incredible Infants

Winter is finally here! Thank you for sending in your permission slips for our art projects. Our infants are doing well and have adjusted very well to their environment. They are now sleeping in their cribs! They are also starting to get used to a nap schedule. We are working on tummy time with Skylar and Tatiana to help them gain motor development. Clementine is getting close to walking and will be graduating soon to the toddler room!

Our infants will be participating in the Center-wide holiday program! Stay tuned for additional information regarding their participation. The program date is December 19, 2008 at 4 pm. Happy Holidays!

Ms. Pam, Lead Infant Child Care Teacher

News from our Terrific Toddlers

As we move into winter and the Christmas season, it's an exciting time for the toddlers too! This month, we will be planning many projects for the holidays and will do things using our sensational senses! We will practice tasting, touching, and hearing different things. We look forward to a festive time as we learn different things through the month of December. As we will be participating in our holiday program, don't forget to bring family members and your video cameras on December 19 at 4 pm! Happy Holidays!

Ms. Paula, Toddler Child Care

News from our Terrific Twos

This month we will focus on the unit "Fun with our rhymes and stories". The children will learn about favorite stories, favorite rhymes, moon and stars, bedtime, colors and shapes, opposites, and puppets. Don't forget about our Holiday Program on Thursday, December 19 at 4:00 pm. Parents are invited! Happy Holidays!

Ms. Robin, Twos Lead Child Care Teacher and Ms. Betty, Child care Teacher

News from our Cosmic Threes

The Cosmic kids are having much fun with all of the activities that we are doing and learning and the weeks are moving very quickly. From our Saxon Curriculum, we will be working on the following themes in December: weather, the type of clothes we wear during different seasons, and day time and night time. We will continue to expand our thinking and learning abilities by practicing how to write the letters of the alphabet. This will consist of continuous practice. The Cosmic kids are doing an excellent job learning sign language and are having so much fun with it. We would appreciate it if you could bring in old newspapers so that we can expand our fine motor skills while we practice cutting with scissors. Happy Holidays and don't miss our exciting holiday program!

Ms. Kim, Threes Lead Child Care Teacher and Ms. Cathy, Threes Child Care Teacher

News from our Fabulous Fours

We welcome Ms. Alicia to our classroom – she is a wonderful asset. She brings with her lots of experience working with preschoolers and school age children. Please make her feel welcome. During the month of December, the fabulous fours will continue to work on our letters and numbers. We will be discovering how different cultures celebrate the holidays around the world. We will focus on time, weather, and seasons. The fabulous fours will learn what kinds of clothes are worn during different seasons and which animals sleep during the winter months. We will be very active during art time this month making lots of keepsakes to keep for years to come. Have a wonderful holiday season and don't miss our holiday program on December 19 at 4 pm.

Ms. Randi, Fours Lead Child Care Teacher, and Ms. Alicia, Child Care Teacher's Assistant.

News from our Sensational School Agers

Brrrrr ... Hello Winter!!

We are snuggling down in the Schoolage room with lots of in-house activities and fun! Many of the children were excited about their report cards and many have improved since last year! We continue to work with each child to ensure consistency and focus in their school work. Thanks to those who participated in the turkey time project. It was fun to see how talented both children and their parents are!

December is always a fun month at the Homework Center with lots of holiday projects. During the holiday break, the students will participate in holiday crafts, holiday bingo, and holiday trivia. Most importantly, they will be building edible ginger bread houses!! As Ms. Mac will be away the week of Christmas, Ms. Erin will be back over the holidays! We will be participating in the holiday program on Dec 19 at 4 pm. Don't forget to bring your video cameras for a fun-filled afternoon. Stay tuned for information about our holiday party!

Anne Arundel County Schools are closed the following days for the holidays: December 24-Jan 5. The additional charge for before and after students is \$12 and for those in before OR after care is \$22. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Ms. Mac, Lead School age Child Care Teacher



PARENT EDUCATION TIDBITS

I PLAY ... I LEARN! CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH PLAY

The holidays signify lots of things for children – among the top of the list are play, fun, toys, food, and family. However, throughout the year, when children come home parents often hear: “all we did was play today”. A child’s play is his/her work. Play is an important opportunity for your child to learn many skills needed for success in school and life, including math and reading readiness, problem solving, eye-hand coordination, physical development, large and small muscle development and self-esteem. Here are some examples of how play teaches your child several important skills:

When your child is...	He/she is learning...
Stringing beads, inserting pegs, cutting paper with scissors, pounding a nail...	Small muscle development which will help when using a pencil, paint brush or knife and fork.
Building with big blocks and little blocks ...	Size proportion (big/little) for capital letters, lower case letters for reading readiness and shape and size classification.
Matching puzzles, catching a ball or drawing a picture ...	Eye-hand coordination which will help him/her to write and use buttons and zippers.
Jumping, dancing, climbing, bouncing balls ...	To develop large muscles for good physical development and feeling good about oneself.
Making sounds with different musical instruments ...	To recognize different sounds to “sound out” letters and words for reading.
Counting the number of tables in relation to the number of chairs ...	One-to-one correspondence for math readiness.
Using different shaped objects ...	To recognize shapes for forming and reading “letters”.
Involved in a cooking project with a recipe chart	Math readiness and reading readiness skills.
Siting in circle time, finding his/her coat to go home or finding a book ...	To follow instructions and directions needed to function in a classroom.
Waiting for a turn, choosing an activity or sharing a toy or book ...	Problem solving skills.

Play is ... interesting, creative, active, interactive, role-playing, experimental, stimulating, problem-solving, exercise, challenging, relaxing, fun, learning, interaction, sharing, imaginative, discovering, hands-on, exploratory, manipulation!

Let your child play!

References: Anne Arundel County, Child Care Information and Referral
Florence Freeman, MBA

Upcoming Events

Here are some important deadlines and dates to remember:

Holiday Program (infants through school age)	Dec 19 at 4:00 pm
Public School Christmas/Winter break School age children can attend PCHC	Dec 24-Jan 2
PCHC closes at 3 pm	Dec 24
PCHC closed on Christmas Day	Dec 25
PCHC Closed at 3 pm	Dec 31
Tuition due weekly	Mondays
Late fee applied weekly	Wednesday Morning

Administration

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