



PCHC Spotlight

November 2008

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Help us Save the Trees!

We have noticed that many receipts are left in our receipt box. Beginning this month, we will only print receipts for cash payments. You may request a receipt as needed and we can email receipts to you. Please let Ms. Mia know if you need your receipts emailed to you. We can also email receipts at the end of the year!

November Is Thanksgiving Time!

With the current economic situation, we have a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving although all may not be well. We are certainly grateful for our students, parents, and teachers! The children will be able to share with their friends what they are thankful for this season – you may be surprised to hear what your child is thankful for!

To celebrate Thanksgiving, PCHC will host its **Annual Thanksgiving feast on November 21 at 11:30 am**. Parents are welcome to attend. PCHC will provide the meal and parents can donate desert. A parent sign up sheet will be placed up in each classroom in the next few weeks. Remember that we are closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Let's get serious about fighting the flu! Take the flu shot and remind your child to wash their hands regularly. Sick children must stay home for 24 hours if they have diarrhea, throw up, or have a fever of 100 degrees or more. If they have the flu, they should stay home until they are symptom free.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are on November 19 and 20 for children two through four. Please watch for the announcements and schedules from your child's teacher.

Thanks to those who participated in the **Claire's gourmet** fundraiser. **The Rodrigue family won the raffle and will receive \$100 off their tuition.** Thanks for selling so many items. We raised \$400, which will go towards defraying the cost of employees' professional development training. Our employees wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude for your support!

Holiday Pictures

Last year, the holiday pictures were very popular! Life Touch will be back to do holiday pictures to help relieve the stress that the holiday brings. The pictures will be taken on **November 17** and will be back before the Christmas holidays to enable you to distribute them to family and friends.

Our search for a new director continues and we will keep you posted when one is hired!

As always, we look forward to serving you and your children! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Ms. Florence
ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com

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

November Birthdays!

Congratulations to:

Kyle Fall – Nov 3

Josephine Levine (Jojo) – Nov 7

Justin Teal – Nov 7

Clementine Parker (Clemy) – Nov 22

Riley Eads – Nov 23

Ivan Marcic – Nov 24

Noah Herman – Nov 26

Anthony Marcic – Nov 26



Life Touch will be here to take holiday pictures on November 17, 2008 beginning at 7:45 am. Dress up the children and get their pictures taken for the holidays!

Classroom Updates

News from our Incredible Infants

We welcome Ms. Pamela to our infant environment as the lead teacher. Ms. Pamela is senior staff qualified and Infant and toddler certified. Ms. Pamela is excited to be a member of our team! Please make her feel welcome!

We will be sending permission slips home to do art projects with paint. We would like to have a total of six pictures to do a family collage for each baby. This month we will be working on hand-eye coordination and naptime routines. Please remember to label all your baby's belongings. Please either wear a bootie to enter the infant room or remove your shoes – we are trying to reduce the germs in the room. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Pam, Lead Infant Child Care Teacher and Ms. Betty, Infant Child care Teacher

News from our Terrific Toddlers

The toddler's theme for this month is called: Terrific Tools. We will explore things we use every day such as spoons, forks, hammers, and brooms. Our everyday chores such as vacuuming can be a learning opportunity for your child. We will also learn about Thanksgiving and will talk about and explore the kinds of tools the pilgrims used and the kind we use today. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Paula, Toddler Child Care

News from our Terrific Twos

This month we will focus on the unit "Family and Feelings". The children will learn about different types of families and why we celebrate special holidays together. The children will focus on the following concepts: each family is special; there are many types of families; our feelings are part of who we are. Don't forget our annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 21 at 11:30 am. Parents are invited! Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Robin, Twos Lead Child Care Teacher

News from our Cosmic Threes

The month of November will consist of fun, fun, fun! We will be kicking off our learning themes with my family, my home, communication, and feelings. The cosmic kids are having so much fun with learning sign language. Last month, we worked on exciting science projects from making our own play dough to learning what happens when colors are mixed together! We mixed red and blue and will be mixing many different colors in November. When you drop off or pick up, please take a moment to review your child's artwork displayed around our classroom and hallway and discuss his or her work with him or her. We continue to find new and different ways to learn colors, numbers, and shapes. We are also exploring new ideas regularly and adding new things to our centers. Remember that show and tell is every week on the same day for your child. See our parent board in our classroom for your child's schedule. Thank you for bringing in sheets and blankets! Happy Thanksgiving!

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

News from our Fabulous Fours

The fabulous fours will be working on theme 3 of our Saxon Learning Curriculum – Fun with families and friends. We will find out if all families are alike, what families need, how to communicate with friends and family, and how to express our feelings. In the month of November, we will also continue our harvest theme by making several projects to share with our family and friends. We are always learning new letters, numbers, and colors, so look forward to our worksheets that we bring home to share our knowledge. We are learning so much as each week passes. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Randy, Fours Lead Child Care Teacher, and Ms. Brianna, Child Care Teacher's Assistant.

News from our Sensational School Agers

At the Homework Center, our students are refocused and on task. We've developed a system that allows all the children to do homework, have a snack, and have fun in a timely fashion. Most of the children are now settled in our routine and are doing well. If you have any concerns or requests, please do not hesitate to contact us. Ms. Christy and I would like to welcome Derek to our room.

Anne Arundel County Schools are closed the following days in November: November 4 (election day). The additional charge for before and after students is \$12 and for those in before OR after care is \$22. Schools are closed the week of November 24-28. The additional charge for that week is \$175.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Ms. Mac, Lead School age Child Care Teacher and Ms. Chrissy, School age Child Care Teacher's Assistant



PARENT EDUCATION TIDBITS

As the holidays approach, families become very busy with planning, shopping, visiting, and entertaining. This is a time when children get excited and are usually more mischievous than usual, especially since their routines may have changed. The following guidance techniques can help you guide them through out this busy period and beyond.

Guidance Skills

Guidance consists of direct and indirect actions used by an adult to help children develop appropriate behavior patterns. Effective guidance should maintain children's self-esteem and produce a desired change in behavior. Self-control is the long-term goal of guidance. That is, the children should learn to direct their own behavior without outside control. Another goal of guidance is to promote prosocial behaviors among children. Prosocial behaviors are acts of kindness that benefit others such as accepting others' feelings, verbally and physically comforting others, helping others, cooperating with others in play and clean up time, sharing toys and materials, sharing affection, and showing concern.

Child guidance may be direct or indirect. Indirect guidance involves outside factors that influence behavior. Direct guidance involves nonverbal (physical) and verbal actions.

Direct Guidance Principles:

- ❑ Use simple language
- ❑ Speak in a relaxed voice
- ❑ Be positive
- ❑ Offer choices with care
- ❑ Encourage independence and cooperation
- ❑ Be firm
- ❑ Be consistent
- ❑ Provide time for change
- ❑ Consider feelings
- ❑ Intervene when necessary

Techniques for Effective Guidance

There are specific techniques that can be useful in guiding children's behavior. These techniques include the following:

- ❑ Positive Reinforcement – rewarding behaviors you want the child to repeat
- ❑ Using Consequences – a result that follows an action or behavior
- ❑ Warning – When children fail to follow a limit, you must remind them that they are misbehaving
- ❑ Time out – moving the child away from others for a short period of time
- ❑ I-messages – tells the child how you feel about their behavior
- ❑ Effective praise - acknowledges the child's actions or progress
- ❑ Suggesting – placing thoughts for consideration into the child's mind
- ❑ Prompting – use prompting for transitions or to stop an unacceptable behavior or start an acceptable one
- ❑ Persuading – encourage children to behave in a certain way by appealing to their basic wants and needs
- ❑ Redirecting – divert or turn children's attention to a substitute activity
- ❑ Modeling – children learn by imitating others – set an example by modeling prosocial behavior
- ❑ Listening – involves giving children your full attention
- ❑ Ignoring – avoid giving the child attention if his or her inappropriate behavior is not dangerous
- ❑ Encouraging – helps children believe in themselves by recognizing their efforts and improvements.

Reference: Working with Young Children, Judy Herr

Upcoming Events

Here are some important deadlines and dates to remember:

Presidential Election –Vote today!	Nov 4
PCHC Closes at 6 pm	Nov 4
Public School Closed	Nov 4
Schoolagers can attend	
Pumpkin Patch at PCHC	Nov 5
Tuition due weekly	Mondays
Late fee applied weekly	Wednesday Morning
Sign up for Guest Reader Program	Now
Parent Teacher Conferences	Nov 19 – 20
(twos through fours)	
PCHC Thanksgiving Feast	Nov 21
Parents welcome @ 11:30 am	
Public School Closed	
Schoolagers can attend	Nov 24-28
PCHC Closed For Thanksgiving	Nov 27-28

Administration

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