

WHITE BIRCH CENTER-WIDE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



A LOOK BACK

Last month White Birch began celebrating random national holidays. We encouraged family participation and were pleased with the results. On November 8th packets were sent home with families in observance of National Parents as Teachers Day and National STEM Day. Teachers were intentional in their preparation for this day and provided families with activities that would encourage quality learning experiences at home. Teachers at White Birch are more than happy to assist you and share ideas on how to create more activities to do with your child at home. Please feel free to reach out.

RETIREMENT PARTY

ELLIE PARKER



On Friday, December 20th White Birch will be saying goodbye to our Office Manager, Ellie Parker. She will be retiring and plans to travel with her husband. Ellie has been a part of the “family” for over five years and is known as the face of White Birch. While the children call her Miss Ellie, her coworkers often refer to her as “the mom”.

Please join us as we wish our friend and coworker a happy retirement. **We will be serving light refreshments in the Active Living area (downstairs) from 4-6 on December 18th.**



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Sign-ups for parent-teacher conferences have been up for several weeks, if you haven't had a chance to pick a day and time please contact your child's teacher so that we can do our best to accommodate your schedule.

ACADEMICS

Classroom Connections

Toddlers: Last month we focused on big body movements and sensory activities. This month we are going to continue with those same goals but with a little added holiday spirit. We will get to experience some gingerbread playdough, holiday themed crafts and lots of dancing to holiday music!

Tots: Over the past month we have seen some serious growth with letter recognition. We plan to continue working on letters to encourage continued growth and development. In addition to letters we will work with number recognition as well. The Tots have started to count independently, leading us to build on their interests and expose them to various activities such as; literacy experiences, creative expression, and discussions during our morning circle times, in order to scaffold their learning.

Preschool: Over the next thirty days or so we will be focusing on the writing and spelling of our own names. As we continue through our “letter of the week” curriculum, our skills will sharpen as we begin to recognize more letters and understand how they form words when put together.

Our class has put up a “SOCKS and FOUND” wall to help eliminate the number of socks without owners. Please take a look if you’re missing any.

PreK: Last month we conducted a study during our Community Helper weeks and identified what our classmates want to be when they grow up. Some would like to go into farming, while others are interested in occupations such as; veterinarian, dentists, and even race car drivers! This month we will focus on new sensory experiences. We will be bombarding the senses with pine playdough and lots of GOO!



A NOTE FROM EXTENDED EDUCATION

December 3rd is World Trick Shot Day. With inspiration from the Harlem Globetrotters we will be having a paper ball trick shot contest!

December 9th-13th is our annual gift making week. This week, the children will be making handmade gifts for their family and friends for the holiday season.

December 19th we are learning about Hanukkah and how to play Dreidel

Our winter vacation days will be filled with games and fun such as; BINGO, relay races, frozen bubbles, snow painting, and New Year's Eve games!

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

With the holidays fast approaching please invite us into your world of traditions. We would love to hear about how your family celebrates this time of year. Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher so that we may incorporate some of your holiday happenings around White Birch Center.

In keeping up with our random, national holidays.... we would love for you to share something decadent and delicious on Monday, December 16th in honor of National Chocolate Covered Anything Day! Perhaps your favorite yummy treat or a nostalgic recipe that brings you such joy!

As always, remember hats, mittens, and snow gear to ensure a fun winter ahead!

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT WHITE BIRCH CENTER

Our Active Living Program has put together a fantastic cookbook using some of their favorite recipes. They even had a little help from our Early Learning and Extended Education Programs. The cookbooks are available for sale at White Birch Center for just \$20. The books will also be featured at the Holiday Fair taking place at White Birch on Saturday December 7th from 10-2pm. They would make great Christmas gifts and all the proceeds go to help us continue our service as a strengthening families center.