

News you can use!

DECEMBER 2016

Important Dates for All!

December 1 - Tuition Due

December 3rd Caroling Party – meet at Open Door at 2:00 or Three Links Lobby at 2:25

January 16th - NO SCHOOL, MLK Day cleaning day at Open Door 9:00am

3 day class

Break begins Wednesday, December 14th- January 2nd NO SCHOOL
Jan 3rd- School resumes

2 day class

Break begins Friday, December 16th- January 4th NO SCHOOL
January 5th – School resumes

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year is flying by and we are having so much fun with your children. Thank you for sharing them with us. As the New Year begins and everyone reacquaints themselves with the routine, it's a perfect time to add new afternoon options for your child. In addition, we have openings in both our two and three day sessions. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me at Open Door at 507-645-8532.

Barb Howe

CAROLING PARTY

On Saturday, December 3rd, we will meet at Open Door at 2:00. We will walk over together to Three Links Care Center to sing to the residents beginning at 2:30. (If it is cold and you would like to meet us there be sure to arrive prior to 2:30 as we plan to begin singing at 2:30.) Following our holiday sing, we will head back to Open Door for a

holiday party. We ask that each family bring a treat to share. Open Door will provide the juice. Hope to see you and your entire family there!

JANUARY AT THE NORTHFIELD COOP

Thanks to your votes, Open Door has been chosen as the Round Up Partner for the month of January. This means that your total purchase can be rounded up with the extra money going to Open Door. For example, if your bill is \$9.97 you can pay \$10.00 (or more) and any additional money will go directly to Open Door. We are thrilled to have been chosen for this honor based on your votes and support. We hope that you will visit Just Food Coops several times in January and Round Up for Open Door. Many thanks!

BAKED GOODS UPDATE

To everyone who supported Open Door in our efforts with the Butter Braids fundraiser. Your hard work and donations raised \$1,820.00 for our ODP. A special thanks to the families of Caden Peterson, Clara Chavis, Maccoy Young, and Penelope Stavenau, who sold over 50 Butterbraids and earned a \$40.00 Visa gift Card from Butterbraids. Way to go! Thanks to all for your support.

AMAZON FUNDRAISER

When shopping at Amazon.com be sure to include the Open Door Link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-6053204>.

A percentage of your purchase will be donated to Open Door. As you finish up (begin?) your holiday shopping we hope you will include this information which will help support Open Door. Please be sure to mention the link to your friends and family.

NEW DROP-OFF PROCEDURE IN JANUARY

We wanted to let you know that we will be implementing a new drop-off procedure that will be starting after the holiday break. This information is attached. We ask that you carefully review the information and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

ADDITIONAL AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Beginning in January, you will have an option of having your child attend Open Door for one additional afternoon in both the 3 day and 2 day session. Options will be either Tuesday or Wednesday for the 3 day session and on Thursday for the 2 day session. These offerings will be based on need and if there is not enough interest, we will not offer them at this time. Information was sent home earlier, **we ask that you return this form by the deadlines listed on the informational sheet.**

TUITION AND BILLING

Please be sure to identify your child's name and class on your envelope or check when submitting your tuition to the Open Door treasurer. If you are unable to make a tuition payment on time, please contact Heidi Grant at ___ to make arrangements and avoid the late fee.

TOILETING

Please be sure to have your child go to the bathroom before heading out the door for school each morning! Thanks!

SPARE CLOTHING?

We are in need of some size 5 clothing – sweatpants/simple t-shirt to have available for both girls and boys. Should you have any to spare we are interested. Thanks.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

As you know, we believe in outdoor play! When the temperature is above 0 degrees, we stay outside, at least for a short time. If it's 0 or below, or if it's extremely icy, we start inside. Please remember to send children in warm clothing, including snow pants, hats, mittens, and boots. Remember also to include slippers or shoes for your child to wear once he/she enters the classroom. PLEASE label ALL items of outerwear AND slippers. Your child will be placing their snow pants/footwear/show and tell in their backpack or bag when going home, please send one that is large enough for them to complete this task easily.

AND SPEAKING OF SLIPPERS...

Not all shoes slip on as easily as Cinderella's slippers did! If your little prince or princess is having a tough time getting their indoor shoes on and off, you may wish to consider sending slippers instead. They glide on easily and the children have more time to play happily ever after!

SNOW DAY INFORMATION

Please remember we will follow the Northfield Public School closing procedures. In the event of a late start, the AM classes will not be in session. As we hope to offer afternoon sessions beginning in January, be aware the PM class will take place unless the public schools are later cancelled for the entire day.

ABSENCES

As stated in the handbook, we ask that you call the school to notify teachers of a child's illness and absence for any reason. The teachers do not consider this an imposition and want to be notified of all absences. Parents must inform staff within 24 hours when their child is diagnosed with a contagious disease such as chicken-pox, strep throat, or pink eye. Your child's temperature should be normal for at least 24 hours before he or she returns to school. The number to call is 507-645-8532.

GET THE NEWS YOU NEED!

As you enter the door near the playground, you will see a bulletin board with pertinent messages, copies of our newsletters and our snack schedules. In addition, daily notices are often placed above the take home box. Please take time to read these messages.

“Like” us on Facebook and check the website regularly for other updates and information. We send out emails with important updates. If you are not receiving them be sure to let your child’s teacher know.

LOOKING FOR A HOLIDAY ACTIVITY?

WINDMILL ANIMAL RESCUE

Do you know about the Windmill Animal Rescue? It’s a non-profit shelter located in New Market:

350 Main Street
Elko New Market, MN 55054
Phone: 952-461-2765

Hours are: M, T, TH, F 10 - 6pm
Wed 12 – 6pm
Sat 9 – 1 pm

You can volunteer to help feed and water the animals, clean cages, do laundry or just spend time with the animals. There are bearded dragons, hermit crab, fish, an African tail gecko, ferrets, rats, rabbits, cats...a veritable menagerie! Be sure to call Toni in advance to make arrangements.

You can visit the website:
www.windmillanimalrescue.com

READING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Listed below are three articles/ websites discussing the importance of reading. I hope that you will find this information useful and most of all that you will continue reading to your child every day.

#1. Reading aloud helps **children** acquire early language skills. Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important activity leading to language development. Among other things, reading aloud builds word-sound awareness in **children**, a potent predictor of reading success.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.reachoutandread.org/why-we-work/importance-of-reading-aloud/>" Importance of Reading Aloud | Reach Out and Read

www.reachoutandread.org/why-we-work/importance-of-reading-aloud/

#2. **10 Reasons Why Reading Is Important**

www.earlymoments.com/promoting-literacy-and-a-love-of-reading/why-reading-to-children-is-important

#3. Reading to your children is a special opportunity for all; one that I hope is happening

nightly at your home. The Star Tribune published an editorial about the importance of reading for all – but especially addressed concerns for boys. The following excerpt is from July 14, 2008 but still holds true today:

In addition to publishing more books that address boys' genuine interest and getting them into their hands, another significant change needs to occur. Men must step up. Almost all the people telling boys about the importance of reading are female. More mothers read to their children than do fathers. More women visit libraries and buy books at bookstores. Boys hear they should read from female teachers and librarians.

Most boys struggling to become men are not hearing from men that reading is important. Fathers, uncles, grandfathers, coaches, male teachers, librarians, principals, and business and community leaders need to let boys know that reading is directly connected to their future.

What job choices will be available in 10 to 20 years for men who are poor readers? What will those jobs pay? We all have an investment in everybody in our society – female and male – having the skills to engage in a global economy increasingly dependent on communication. Boys and reading is a subject so important that we need everybody involved. (John Coy, Minneapolis, is a writer of picture books and young adult novels.)

Over this holiday break I hope you will make a point to read and share that important time with your child.

By the way, we welcome parents into our classroom to read. We would be particularly pleased to have some Dads come in and read to the class. Just let us know when you can come. You can choose a favorite or we'd be happy to provide a book to read!