



News you can use!

DECEMBER 2019

Important Dates for All!

December 1 Tuition Due

December 7 Caroling Party – meet at Open Door at 1:30 or Three Links, sing to begin at 2:00

Break begins Thursday, December 20- January 8 NO SCHOOL

January 9 School resumes

January 24 Cleaning Day, No School

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 have children new to the program join in the fun. We have openings in our two day session. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me at Open Door at 507-645-8532 x1 (this goes directly to my cell).

Barb Howe

CAROLING PARTY

On Saturday, December 7, we will meet at Open Door at 1:30. We will walk over together to Three Links Care Center to sing to the residents beginning at 2:00. (If it is cold and you would like to meet us there be sure to arrive by 1:55 as we plan to begin singing at 2:00.) 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/cider. Hope to see you and your entire family there!

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.

TUITION AND BILLING

If you are unable to make a tuition payment on time, please contact Barb Howe at barb@opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org or 507-645-8532 x1 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!

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, we will not be in session.

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?

IN NEW MARKET

Windmill Animal Rescue –www.windmillanimalrescue.com

IN ST PAUL

Bell Museum
Children's Museum
Train Museum

IN NORTHFIELD

Sliding down Old Main Hill
Visiting and/or attending story time at the Library
If You Give A Mouse A Cookie Book reading December 10 6-7
Jingle Jam – December 19 6-7

READING OVER THE HOLIDAYS (and always!)

“People would stand in line for days and pay hundreds of dollars if there were a pill that could do everything for a child that reading aloud does. It expands their interest in books, vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, and attention span. Simply put, it’s a free ‘oral vaccine’ for literacy.” —Jim Trelease, *The Read-Aloud Handbook*

Here are some interesting articles to read:

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/the-benefits-of-reading-out-loud-to-your-kids/>

<http://www.best-books-for-kids.com/benefits-of-reading.html>

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. Dads, Moms, Grandmas. Grandpas, a special friend of your child... Just let us know when you can come. You can choose a favorite or we’d be happy to provide a book to read!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!