



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS JANUARY 2022 254TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

Happy New Year! I wanted to start off my 2022 and my first newsletter as director with some gratitude. First off, I want to say thank you to Miss Kelly. She has done an incredible job the last two years while dealing with all the uncertainty and the ever-changing rules and regulations the pandemic has brought. I'm grateful for her kindness, dedication, and poise. I want to thank the staff. They have been extremely flexible and giving of their time, all while continuing to be devoted to the center and the children in their care. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with them again. And, I'd like to thank you, parents. We appreciate you putting your faith in us to care for your most precious gifts. Your continued support, understanding, and willingness to follow the rules and regulations (whether they're put in place by us or by the state) help us to make it through all of this together.

Speaking of togetherness, January is usually when we have one of our Parent/Teacher Meetings. This time, we will be conducting the meeting via Zoom- Thursday, January 13th from 6:00-6:30pm. I'm aware that I'm a brand new person to many of you, I am not however new to Circle of Friends. I first started working here in 2012 and this place has always been near and dear to my heart. While my degree is in Elementary Education, I have about 10 years of experience working in Early Childhood settings, 7 of which were spent here at Circle of Friends. I want to use this Parent/Teacher meeting as an opportunity to introduce myself to you and answer any questions you might have- and to get to know you as well! I hope to see many of you there!

PA Farm Show: As much as we'd love to continue this fun tradition, we will not be attending the PA Farm Show with our Pre-School and Pre-K classes this year. Whether you and your family plan to attend, or not, I wanted to share a great resource from PA's Promise for Children. They provide activities and resources relating to the Farm Show at this site: <https://papromiseforchildren.com/learning-at-the-pa-farm-show/>

Tuition Reminder: COF has increased our tuition rates, effective 1/3/22. Thank you to everyone who returned the updated agreement form. I will be reaching out to you if you have not returned a signed copy of your updated agreement form. I will be returning your agreement forms once we have updated all of our records.

Moving forward, I'm excited to get to know the families who are new to COF and to continue to develop my relationships with those of you who remember me from before. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns via Miss Kelly's email (kshipman@sumc.info) and I will let you know as soon as my email address has been updated. I look forward to serving our COF families in 2022!

Best Wishes,
Miss Courtney

MANNERS MATTER

01/03/22 - Hold the door open for people rather than letting it close on them.

01/10/22 - Do not lick your fingers.

01/17/22 - Never cut in line.

01/24/22 - Do not smack your lips and chew noisily.

THEMES:

- Farm Week
- Wonderful Winter
- My Five Senses
- Healthy Habits
- Groundhogs Day/Woodland Animals

Staff Birthday

Jan. 2nd - Miss Carol

Jan. 3rd - Miss Karen

Jan. 27th - Miss Debbie

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

January 3rd - New Tuition rates began

January 13th - Parent/Teacher meeting via Zoom 6:00-6:30pm

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS



We hope Santa was good to you and your family. Miss Jill and I are very grateful for everyone that made a donation to our room from the Angel Tree. It's very exciting to see the kids' faces when they notice a new toy on the floor! We love to see new skills develop as they try something different. All the babies had a great time playing with wrapping paper and boxes, Christmas theme toys, hats and headbands! It's such an exciting time in so many ways. Thank you to our staff that were able to include the parents in their children's fun. The kids all did a wonderful job!!

Kennedy is now in the Young Toddler room and Kayleigh will soon be our newest one year old. Mahina joined us mid December. She is almost 5 months old and has two older siblings. Welcome to our circle of friends! We will be doing a little more at circle time as the group gets older. More singing and finger plays as well as reading a few more books since some friends are starting to have favorites. We have gotten to the gym a few times and hope to make it more often. We should be able to do more art activities too. Don't be afraid to experiment and make messes at home. Children need to gain confidence in themselves and it's up to us to create situations where they can do so. Each new thing they learn is built upon something they have already mastered. Give them time to struggle and try on their own before you offer help. Break out of your comfort zone and have some fun with your child!

We usually recommend taking these young children to the Farm Show for all the wonderful sights and experiences but this year it's probably better if you wait. But just getting outside together can be fun too. Let's all have a happy and healthy new year!

MISS PENNY AND MISS AMY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Hello young toddler families,

Happy New Year! How strange is it that its 2022 already. Can't believe we have made it this far. We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season.

Thank you to all the Angels that got our class gifts from the tree. We truly appreciate the thoughtfulness of all of you.

The month of January always seems so long and dark, but we will try to make it as bright and exciting as possible. We will be talking about farm animals, healthy habits, how wonderful winter can be along with our 5 senses. 5 senses is always a fun week filled with exciting experiments and yummy treats.

As a constant reminder... please always check your child's blue folder/backpack for important papers and announcements as well as looking at their daily sheets for needed items and personal notes.

Please remember to LABEL EVERYTHING that comes into the center. Just because you have something like a cup or utensils in your child's labeled lunch box doesn't mean it will go back to the right kiddo. There was an unfortunate situation in December when Miss Amy and Miss Penny ended up needing off on the same day, and as much as we try to avoid that happening when it does we have to depend on 2 substitutes to run the room, and there were a lot of mix-ups due to lack of labeling.

We also insist that the kids in our room wear SNEAKERS every day. We understand that boots and saddle shoes are very cute especially in the winter months, however they are a hazard and against our policies here. Please be sure to have a pair of sneakers on or available to your child each and every day.

During the winter months we recommend parents bring in an extra bag with winter weather gear-hat, mittens, heavy coat, snow pants, and snow boots-to keep on your child's hook. We do go outside as long as the temperature is above 29 even in the snow.

We have 2 birthdays in the month of January. Isabella and Hannah both share a birthday on January 31st. If you see either of them in passing be sure to wish them a happy 2nd birthday.

Speaking of turning 2...as you all should be aware, given the emails from our director, we are requiring all children from 2 years of age and older to wear masks. We are asking all of our parents to practice at home with your child so that they are ready. This can be having their favorite animal wear one or even just wearing one around the house to make sure they know how to keep it over both their nose and mouth. Also, please send in at least one extra in their bags as they do get very wet from noses and drool throughout the day and we like to change them when they get soiled.

Our Star of the Month for January is Declan. Declan is quite the character in class. He enjoys singing and dancing alongside his friends. Declan is one of our biggest class clowns and is great at bringing a smile to everyone's face. He has an older sister in Miss Cathy's Pre-K class named Naomi. Make sure to say hi to Declan this month.

Thank you for all your trust,

Miss Penny and Miss Amy

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

White

Diamond

Give full name

Throwing a ball

Putting pegs in pegboard

Verbalizing emotions

Follow simple directions

Praising God



Happy new year everyone, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are excited for the year ahead!! All the kids enjoyed our visit with Santa, some had tears and kept their distance but still loved seeing him! We want to thank everyone who purchased a gift from our angel tree, the kids liked opening up all the gifts and playing with everything. All the toys are a big hit in our room for sure, Thanks again!!

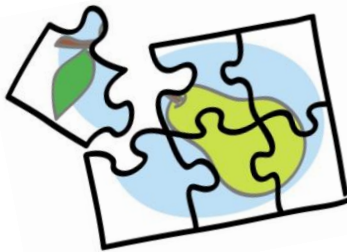
This month we'll get back in the swing of things with our normal classroom routine. Our themes this month will keep us busy for sure. We will talk a little about farm animals in our first week then hopefully for the next week when we talk about Wonderful winter we may actually have some snow..doubtful but

we'll see! Then we will learn about our five senses, learn healthy eating habits and our last week we will learn about woodland animals.

Our friend of the month is Anders. Anders told us that his favorite color is green and that his favorite animal is a giraffe. When Anders is at school he told us he likes to sing The Bear went over the mountain and he likes when we get dinosaurs out to play with. He told us that when he's at home he likes to eat apples, ice cream, PBJ and watch Mickey Mouse Clubhouse!

Please be sure to go through all your child's items and LABEL everything. We have subs coming in from time to time so it would be helpful to all of us if you could make sure EVERYTHING is LABELED!! As always if you need to talk to either of us with questions or concerns feel free to leave us a note in your child's folder.

Have a great month!!



MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL

Focuses

Mental – Letters J, K and L / color blue / number 5 / rectangle shape

Physical- Jumping several times in a row / stringing beads

Emotional- Dealing with anger and frustration

Social- Taking turns during activities

Spiritual- Jesus' birth / Blessings and visitors / Jesus at the Temple / John

Happy January! I hope that everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season, and that you are enjoying the new year!

With the beginning of 2022, we will be getting back to our normal Friday show and tell routine. This month we will be resuming the alphabet with the letter Jj. We will also be introduced to the letters Kk and Ll. Please remember to take a few moments to help your child pick out a show and tell item each week to bring in. Discussing the items that the children bring in from home is a large part of our lesson, when it comes to the introduction of letters. For those of you who have been helping their child choose show and tell items, THANK YOU!

Now that winter is fully upon us, we are probably expecting some snowy days. Please remember to always have your child prepared to go outside and play on snowy days. On those days your child should have the following items with them. A warm coat, hat, and gloves, a pair of snow boots, a change of socks, either snow pants or extra pants and underwear that they can change into after playing, and a separate bag (other than their backpack) to put their wet items in. Please also make sure that your child has a dry pair of shoes to wear when we are inside.

While you are preparing to play in the snow outside at home, please encourage your child to put on and take off their own items for the snow. This way they are also practicing for classroom dressing. The faster they can ready to go outside, the more time they will have playing!

For those of you who might not have noticed, we already have several friends in our class who are zipping their own jackets!!!!!!!!!! Please always encourage your child to dress and undress themselves. This includes zipping, buttoning and snapping!

Thank you to everyone who shared holiday themed DVDs with us this month. Everyone is invited to continue to bring in DVDs to share, throughout the rest of the year. A reminder that the DVD must be rated G, or be preschool appropriate. Thank you!

Our January star of the month is Brynlee! Brynlee's favorite colors are pink and purple. She enjoys eating carrots! Brynlee likes to sing the song about the school bus, and read books about dogs! Her favorite activity is playing with her twin brother Caleb!

Our class would like to welcome Miss Courtney and say thank you to Miss Kelly for all that she has done for us!

Have a great month! Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Happy New Year from the Prek room! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

Thank you so much for the lovely cards and thoughtful gifts! Your kindness, during a very busy time of year, is appreciated.

We have a January birthday! Alex turns 5 on the 13th. Happy birthday, friend!

We're getting closer to kindergarten! We continue to prepare by focusing on self-help skills, to promote independence and self-confidence. I'm sure you already know that your child has strong opinions! Let's give him or her a chance to express their feelings in a positive, constructive way. Give your child plenty of opportunities to make choices and decisions, such as which shirt to wear to school (offer a choice between three that you feel are appropriate). Have them select a piece of fruit for their lunchbox; give them the opportunity, every so often, to choose which vegetable the family will enjoy at dinner. When I was growing up, my family rotated, by age, who would choose the restaurant for Sunday dinner (my sister always picked Friendly's!). Decision-making is a Pennsylvania Learning Standard for Early Childhood.



A few reminders regarding lunches: first, please be sure that your child has everything they need, including a napkin, appropriate utensils, and a drink or cup for water. Please be mindful of portion sizes; some children are bringing far more food than they can eat! Generally, children this age only want to eat a half-size portion of a sandwich and smaller pieces of fruit, perhaps served with something crunchy, like carrot sticks or crackers, and a little treat such as a couple of Hershey kisses or a cookie. Warm-ups from dinner the night before are also great, because you already know your child likes it! Right now, there's a lot of food being thrown away in our room. I'd like that to change!

Sadly, COVID cases continue to rise. Please know that we are trying to do everything we can to keep our staff, children, and families safe. A reminder that children should be wearing a clean, well-fitting mask to school each day, with two or three extras sealed in a Ziploc bag in their backpack. This is especially important during cold and flu season; it's kind of yucky to wear a mask all day that you've sneezed into, because you don't have any extras!

Everyone, have a terrific January. It's not my favorite time of year, too dark, iffy weather, the letdown after the joy of Christmas. Yet, fun winter holidays (Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, Super bowl Sunday if by some miracle my team makes it that far) are just around the corner and spring will be here before we know it. A lot to look forward to!

Until next time, Miss Cathy