



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

NOVEMBER 2022 264TH EDITION

From the Director . . .

I'd like to thank all of our families for donating items, volunteering to hand out treats, pulling wagons, and just coming to watch and enjoy our Halloween Parade! It was a beautiful afternoon and a lot of fun!

There's certainly a chill in the air for the start of November! With that said, I have a few cooler weather reminders...Please make sure vehicle engines are turned off when your car is unattended in our parking lot, this a regulation. Please make sure you are sending appropriate outerwear for your children each day. We know they shouldn't be buckled in the car wearing puffy coats, but you can start sending them along. Especially for our morning outside times, it is not very warm. Hats and gloves are also a good idea to start finding and sending in again. Additionally, please update your child's set of spare clothing that they keep in the classroom to ensure it's seasonably appropriate, and as usual, please make sure everything is LABELED.

Colder weather also brings more illnesses. As a reminder, we are following the guidelines sent out with our July update. Please remember: A normal temperature (without medication or a fever reducer) must be maintained for 48 hours. Children should not be sent to the program until he/she is **symptom free** for 48 hours.

Another thing to think about as it gets colder and winter approaches is to please refer to your handbook for our procedures on Snow & Emergency Days. Try to refrain from calling the office number to see if we are open. Use the extensions noted in the handbook which I've also included in this newsletter. We like to keep the office line open for emergencies.

SNOW AND EMERGENCY DAYS

- We operate as long as there is need for our service and we are able to adequately staff the center.
- If weather would warrant the delay of opening or closing of the center:
 1. We will have available to you, two voice mailboxes to call into. The messages will be posted by 6:00am and available for all to call. To use this option, all you need to do is call the number below, punch in the mailbox number and listen to the message. There is no need to listen for any prompts in between. As soon as the initial message begins - hit the extension number and listen. That's all there is to it! So please do not call your child's teacher at home.
 2. A delay in opening may occur to allow for the snowplows to open roads.
 3. If/When this occurs, the decision will be made by 6:00am and the delay will be until 9:00 or 10:00am. This means that regardless of your arrival time, the Center will not be open until the designated time. Your departure time will automatically move to 5:30pm, when the Center closes for the day.
 4. Early Dismissals: We will call everyone according to the Emergency Contact Information on file.

737-6621 ext. 25

737-6621 ext. 26

MANNERS MATTER

11/07/22 - Making eye contact during conversation

11/14/22 - When you first sit down for a meal, immediately place your napkin in your lap

11/21/22 - Never place your elbows on the table

11/28/22 - Do not chew with your mouth open

THEMES:

- Dinosaurs
- The First Thanksgiving (Luncheon on 11/16)
- We Give Thanks
- Get Ready for Christmas/Advent

Staff Birthday

Nov. 9th - Miss Kelly

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

November 16th- Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 24th - COF is CLOSED for Thanksgiving

November 25th - COF is CLOSED

December 12th - Tri-county Association for the Blind will be here for a FREE vision screening for all children age 2 and up.

December 14th - Christmas Pageant at 1pm

December 26th - Circle of Friends closed for the Christmas holiday

January 2nd - Circle of Friends closed for the New Year holiday

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS



Ahhh November...we can almost smell the turkey and pumpkin pie! It seems like the days go by so much faster as we enter the holiday season. There's so much that we want to do and having a little one can make it seem a bit harder to get it all done. Number 1, don't be afraid to ask for help. Number 2, make sure you and your infant get enough rest. Number 3, pass off the things you would love to do but just can't this year. Number 4, do not feel guilty about 1 thru 3! It's up to you to decide what's really important this season. Just try to take a few minutes each day to keep the house baby-proofed and be vigilant about what you and other people bring into the house. Especially pets. It's often best to keep visiting animals away from small children to be safe. Then just try to relax and enjoy all the special moments now that we can get together again!

We have been enjoying these days as the little ones explore and play near each other. This is a very curious group, and they stay very busy all day! A few more are starting to be interested when Miss Jill is reading to the group. Of course, they all enjoy chewing on the books! We have many musical electronic toys that play happy tunes the babies get excited about. Nothing but smiles as they "dance, dance, dance!" We haven't been able to set up a good time to go outside yet with all the different schedules the babies have, but we are still

working on it. We did get everyone to the gym to see the firemen and their gear for a few minutes between bottles. The older kids were fun to watch too!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! Cherish the time you spend with family and friends. Miss Jill and I are very thankful that you are sharing your precious children with us!!

MISS AMY AND MISS KELLY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Happy November!

October may have been busy, but these next two months are going to be just as busy! In November we will be learning about dinosaurs, the first Thanksgiving and giving thanks, and getting ready for Christmas/Advent. This month also has three birthdays from our classroom! Both Ronan and Luna will be turning two at the end of the month and Miss Kelly will be celebrating hers at the beginning of the month, but we won't say what age she'll be turning.

Miss Kelly is going to use her birthday month as an excuse to talk about a few things with the parents (because nobody can get mad at the birthday girl, right??). The first thing we would like to talk about is lunchtime. We have ten kiddos in our classroom. Ten kids to get fed, changed, and ready for nap in a little more than thirty minutes. Plus clean the eating area and set up mats before nap time and breaks begin. When you add it up, it gives us about 3-4 minutes of time per kid (individually). So we are asking you to think when you're packing lunches (or just about our room in general), "what if there were ten?". "WITWT" to make things simpler.

For example: if you don't bring in a cup or fill your child's cup for lunch, that is something extra we have to do at that time. Now, Miss Kelly and Miss Amy, is that really that big of a deal?? Well.... WITWT? Say you bring in a full slice of pizza and your one year old is having a difficult time eating it whole so we have to cut it up. We are more than happy to, but WITWT. Those "3-4 minutes per kid" that we have really starts to slip away.

Here are some things to do that will really help us at lunchtime:

- Bring and fill cups
- Precut any food that needs to be cut

-Put heat ups in separate microwaveable container (again, we don't have time to remove heat up from a container with fruit, etc)
-And, just to be nice to the teachers, if the food is like glitter (gets everywhere and is hard to clean) please think twice before bringing it in :)

Additionally, we would just like to reiterate what Miss Courtney mentioned at the beginning of the newsletter. We are currently following our health and safety plan (if you need another copy, please let Miss Courtney know.) The updated plan from July trumps the prior version of our handbook. That means we are currently following the 48 hour stay home period and not 24. If your child is home with a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, etc, they need to be symptom free for 48 hours. They cannot come back to the center until it's been 48 hours since their symptoms ended, not since their symptoms began. Also, as it states in both the handbook and the health and safety plan, but the director and staff have the right to send a child home based on our discretion. Your kid may just be teething or they just might have a cough, but if they are getting to the point where they are just miserable and it disrupts the class then it becomes hazardous to the rest of the kiddos. WITWT?? There are only so many laps between Miss Amy and Miss Kelly and we can only do so much to comfort all the kiddos and continue with our lessons for the day. We understand everyone has an off day, but we just ask that you think of our room and of the center as a whole.

Hopefully we didn't scare you too much! I know the spooky season is over and we have moved on to the season of thanks. So in that respect, we do what to thank all of you for what you have done so far and for being so understanding with our little notes we have sent so far. At the end of the day, we all just want what's best for our kiddos. We are so thankful to have them in our care.

Now on to Star of the Month! This month's Star is Ronan! What can we say about our dear friend, Ronan..... Some might describe him as "King of the Castle". He definitely knows how to turn his charm on when making poor decisions. As Miss Amy would say as a non parental unit, "I'm such a sucker", though Miss Kelly, as the parent, wonders why... As we're writing this, Ronan is currently scooting across the lunch table. He thinks we don't see his every move. (Haha) He's so silly and cute. How could anyone stay mad at that face?! He loves greeting everyone when he walks into the room with his sweet hugs and kisses that could turn any bad day into something good; even if he's the one making it that way

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either Miss Amy or Miss Kelly. Thank you!

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Brown

Rectangle

Understand the concept of one

Putting on a coat

Hold crayon with thumb and forefinger

Saying sorry when they hurt others

Know the difference between boy and girl and knowing what they are

What we thank God for



Gobble, Gobble..Happy Thanksgiving to all!! Crazy to think we're gearing up for the holiday season but, here we are. We had a super fun October with all the activities. Our class really enjoyed the visit from the firetruck and liked getting to see the firefighter get dressed in their gear up close! Our fall fun day was a good time too. We had a great time on the hayride that Mr.Baer was able to give us in his trailer, lots of giggling along the way! A big THANK YOU to all our parents for donating candy to our Halloween parade and coming out to spend time with your kiddos. It really means a lot to them and our staff that we're able to do activities and without parent help we wouldn't be able to so, thanks again!!

This month we will be talking a lot about what we are thankful for and what we thank God for. We are planning on having a thankful luncheon on November 16th. Just a little heads up, we are going to start singing Christmas songs this month so we apologize if your kiddos serenade you in the car in the next few weeks!!!! We joke that we should have started singing them in September but, we're going to pray for the best!!

Our friend of the month is Caleb. Caleb told us his favorite color is red, he likes giraffes and he likes to sing Twinkle little star at circle time. Caleb told us how much he likes to watch Paw Patrol, Cars the movie and his favorite toy to play with at home is his Lightening McQueen car. Caleb shared with us that he likes to eat fish sticks, noodles and goldfish!

Just a few reminders- please be sure to continue to LABEL everything that is brought in to the center. Lots of new jackets, gloves and hats are coming in and sometimes we have no idea what belongs to each child if it's not labeled. We are also asking you to go through your child's backpack and take out what they do not need here at the center. It can be difficult to look for gloves, hats, thinner or thicker jackets if the backpack is full. Plus we are having trouble fitting lunch bags in to backpacks as well. Thank you for helping us out with this!

We hope you all have a blessed month and look forward to the holiday season!

MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL

Focuses

Mental- G,H,and I/ color brown/number 3/square shape

Physical- Running, while avoiding objects/pasting

Emotional- Asking for and accepting help, when it is needed.

Social- Participating in group activities.

Spiritual- Hannah and Samuel/David/Thankfulness



Hello and happy November! I hope that everyone had a fun Halloween!

It's hard to believe that we have, once again, approached the holiday season. As of the writing of this newsletter, we are planning on beginning to practice for our holiday pageant the week of Thanksgiving.

With practice for our holiday show going on, we will not be doing show and tell from Thanksgiving through January. We will be doing the letters G, H, and I this month, and then continuing with the letter J, in the new year.

We will be enjoying some fun Thanksgiving activities including our Center Thanksgiving luncheon, for the children. The luncheon is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th. Please keep an eye out, on your child's fridge calendar, for any changes that may occur with the luncheon plans

A reminder that pajama day is scheduled for Friday, November 4th. Everyone is invited to wear their pajamas and bring along a bedtime story book to share. Please wear sneakers with your pajamas.

This month's star is Evelyn! Evelyn's favorite color is purple and she likes to eat pasta! Her favorite song is the A,B,Cs and she likes to read Winnie the Pooh books. Evelyn's favorite activity is playing outside with her daddy!

Have a great month and a happy Thanksgiving!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Autumn greetings from the Prekindergarten room!

We have been checking "Signs of Fall" off our list at a rapid pace (we also have a chart of how well the Phillies are doing; hopefully they're still going strong as you read this!). Mr. Baer treated us to a hayride, which was fun for all, and we thank him for that. The children, as you can imagine, are most excited for the holidays on our list: Halloween and Thanksgiving. We are busy learning about these special days and enjoying holiday stories and crafts.

We continue to get ready for kindergarten. We want our children to be independent as they head off to "big school". Food containers and packaging can be challenging! "Squeezy" yogurts, factory-sealed fruit and pudding cups, and juice pouches are difficult for many young children to open. Some storage containers and ziplock bags can also be troublesome. Working with these items can be practiced at home, as well as at school. Remember, here at C of F your child is one of ten, with me to help out. Next year your child may be in a cafeteria with dozens of other children and limited adult assistance. The goal is that our children can handle lunchtime on their own with confidence! We cheer and clap in our classroom when someone figures out how to open or close a tricky container for the first time!

We are planning to present our Nativity play as part of the Christmas program in December. We will begin rehearsing in late November. The play includes several traditional Christmas carols; Shelli and I apologize if you get tired of hearing your child sing them over and over at home!

I hope you are enjoying fall as much as we are in our classroom! Get outside with your child and go for a nature walk, toss a football, or find some remaining pretty leaves and make a Leaf Man or one of his animal friends (ask your child, or check out the book by Lois Ehlert at your library)! Have a wonderful, blessed Thanksgiving.

Until next time, Miss Cathy