



December 2018 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a restful and happy Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe we are already in full swing of the Holiday Season. Thursday, December 6th, we will have a lovely and spiritual celebration for Hanukkah. On Tuesday, December 18th, we will have our Christmas Assembly. Children are so interested in learning the stories, singing songs, cooking, and tasting special treats surrounding the holidays. Parents are invited to join us in doing a craft project, reading a

Mark your
calendars:



December 6

Hanukkah Celebration

December 7

Parent Breakfast

December 18

Christmas Assembly

holiday story, and/or preparing and decorating “Christmas cookies”. If you are interested in helping, please talk with your child’s teacher. Also, in January, we will be updating our student directory; please advise the office if you have had any changes in your address, phone, or email listings. It is also a good time to check your Honeywell alert system account contact information to confirm all phone numbers are current to receive emergency closing announcements due to winter weather. Thank you.

Happy Holidays!

Theresa

December 24-31

Winter Break

Childcare Provided

December 24-25

School Closed

Christmas Holiday

January 1, 2019

School Closed

New Year's Holiday

January 2, 2019

Montessori Classes Resume

Parent Breakfast - Rescheduled

December 7, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Our next parent breakfast is scheduled for Friday December 7, with Mary Meadows, new Head of Andrews Academy, and Sandy Weinmann, Director of Curriculum. They will present "Guidelines for Choosing an Elementary School". If you are interested in joining us for a delicious breakfast and an interesting discussion, please register at the sign-in desk.





Holiday Celebrations

Our Hanukkah celebration is scheduled for December 6 at 10:00 a.m. and our Christmas Assembly is on December 18 at 10:00 a.m. These celebrations are done primarily by and for the children in our Hope community. Unfortunately, we cannot provide seating for our entire school, but we have a few seats available if you would like to join us. Each program lasts approximately 30 - 45 minutes. During December, we welcome volunteers to make potato latkes and/or help decorate Christmas cookies in your child's classroom. We have also had parents volunteer to make a special craft with their child's class. If you are interested, please speak with your child's teacher.

Holiday Giving at Hope

Each holiday Hope reaches out to those less fortunate. For our Christmas project again this year, we would like to support a local charity, Angels' Arms, www.angelsarms.org. Although in existence only since 2000, Angels' Arms has changed the lives of over 300 children, including over 90 sibling groups, by providing them with a loving home and allowing them to thrive in a happy, functional family setting. In their ten homes, Angels' Arms provides much more than a "roof" for their foster parents and children. Their foster families receive numerous services and resources, from monthly special activities and meals, to clothing, lessons and assistance with health issues. In short, they give children a chance to be children.

Angels' Arms has provided us with a list of specific items requested by their foster

families to help brighten the holidays for the children in their care. In December, we will display our Hope Giving Tree with ornaments designating a specific gift item for a child or a gift card. Anyone wishing to participate in giving can select an ornament from the tree and deliver the wrapped item by close of business on December 14. Each gift should include two removable tags...one with the recipient's name and the other with what the gift is. There will be a basket in the lobby for the donations. What better way for our Hope children to learn that charity begins in your own backyard!



Winter Break, December 24-31, 2017

Over the years, our experience is that many families travel during the Christmas/New Year holidays, some use the opportunity to stay home with their families, and some of us continue working. Many of our teachers also use this time to travel, so I would like to ask for your assistance in helping us staff properly for the holidays. **This year since Christmas Day falls on a Tuesday, we are also closed on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, as well as December 25** in observance of Christmas and on January 1 in observance of the New Year's holidays. The new school year will begin on Tuesday, January 2. **Attached is a form for you to let us know on which days your child will attend. Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it to the office to help us staff properly and allow our staff to plan their holidays.** If your child is coming each day...simply check that box, or you may select the individual days that she/he will attend. If you are unsure, please select that day so we can staff properly. Thank you for your help. We appreciate it.

Holiday Planning Form



MANY THANKS ...

To Mark Robinson for entertaining us with an educational and fun Halloween celebration.

To all who contributed to our Diwali celebration...a special thank you to Padma Gumidelli for organizing and decorating; Debjani Das for helping prepare a delicious authentic meal; Pournima Navalkele (Nandini, Rm 3) for helping tell the story; Divya Parikh (Meera, Rm 5) for entertaining us with her flute; Padma's daughter Aanya who demonstrated her beautiful and graceful traditional dance; Nitika Kaswan (Kunal, Rm 5), Manju Ramchandani (Misha, Room 1, Gia, Room 3), and Pournima Navalkele (Nandini, Room 3) for welcoming us with beautiful decorations and colorful Rangoli; and to all the other parents that joined us for our celebration.

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