

# Small Talk

Volume 15, Issue 5

## Director's Corner



It is such a fun time of year preparing for Christmas and all the activities

those preparations include. The children are hard at work making surprises for their parents and enjoying all the special activities this season brings. I know it is hard to believe, but we are already preparing pre-registration documents for next fall. We are using an online registration form which will be available on our website on January 1 and will need to be completed and submitted by January 31 to take advantage of the current family discount and guaranteed placement offer. Also, if you have a younger child that you would like to register for preschool next year, they are eligible for the discount on the registration fee as well. After January 31, we will open the registration process to all families, so thank you in advance for your recommendations to your friends and neighbors.



## WE'RE RESTRUCTURING FOR 2018-2019

Over the past several years, we have noticed a trend that our enrollment numbers have been exploding in the <2 year age groups while our pre-k enrollment has been chronically under capacity. In order to move children off of waiting lists and respond to the changing needs of our community, we are restructuring our classrooms for next school year. We will be going from 7 classrooms to 8 classrooms. They will be structured along the following age divisions based upon your child's age on September 30, 2018.

Infants <12 months

Young toddlers: 1 year olds

Older toddlers: 2-3 year olds

Pre-Kindergarten: 4-5 year olds

In short, we are eliminating one of our Pre-K rooms, so all children who are kindergarten eligible for 2019-2020 will be placed in the White Room.

This will free up classroom space to be utilized by a younger age group.

Registration for 2018-2019 will go live January 1 and you will see the above changes reflected on the new form. Also new for next year is the choice of a 9 or 12 month school year. For those of you who require year round childcare, this will eliminate the need for filling out monthly summer and camp registration forms.

We are excited about the upcoming changes and hope that it positions our school to be more responsive to the needs of our community. If you have specific questions about how the upcoming changes might impact your child, please do not hesitate to ask.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 BJ & Cody Musical Show 11:30	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 WINTER BREAK	19 WINTER BREAK	20 WINTER BREAK	21 WINTER BREAK	22 WINTER BREAK	23
24	25 	26 WINTER BREAK	27 WINTER BREAK	28 WINTER BREAK	29 WINTER BREAK	30

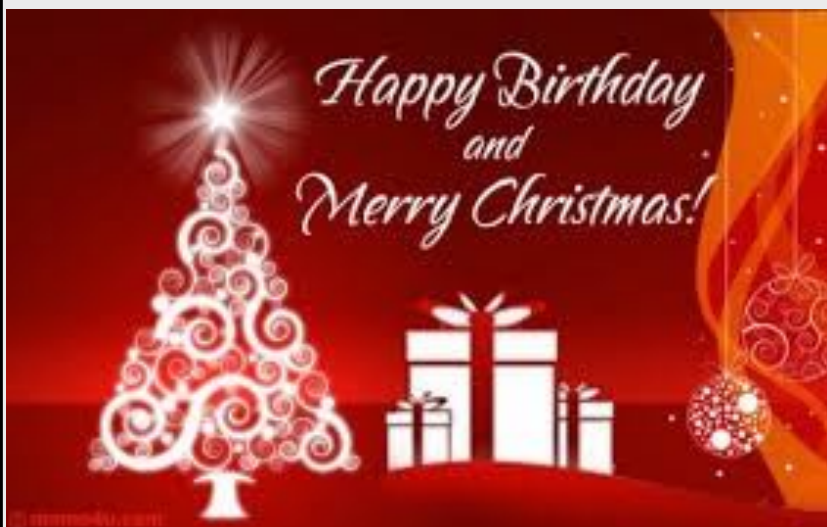


\* Though regular school is closed December 18 - January 1, we are open for a Winter Camp Monday December 18 through Wednesday December 20. A few spots are still open, so let us know if you're interested! <http://humcpreschool.com/winter-break-child-care.html>

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 WINTER BREAK	2 CLASSES RESUME	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 SCHOOL CLOSED MLK, Jr. DAY	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Visit from Pocohontas Park Staff	25	26	27
28	29	30 Visit from the Tooth Fairy	31			



## Dec. & Jan. Birthdays

12/5 Morgan W.  
 12/9 Ms. Manisha  
 12/11 Ms. Robin  
 12/13 Ella M.  
 12/14 Elliot M.  
 12/16 Ryan B.  
 1/14 Max R.  
 1/19 Frederica Y.  
 1/21 Bower H.



*Dear Preschool Families,*

*In the spirit of Christmas, we would like to continue a tradition that Mrs. Glynn in the White Room began last year; The Giving Tree. We will set up an empty Christmas tree outside the preschool office. We are asking for donations of children's scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves. Any child who brings in a donation will get to place the items on the tree. We believe the children will enjoy watching the tree become filled and it will spark classroom conversations about the importance of giving. On Wednesday, December 13 we will box up the donations and give them to the children of Elijah House Academy.*

*Thank you in advance for your generous participation!*

*Merry Christmas!*

*The Preschool Staff*







# THE YELLOW ROOM



Aptly named, the Yellow Room friends have been busy as bees so far this year! Having a small class size allows us to explore, create, and learn in a more individualized way. With extra activities and holidays interjected into the fall season, we've had to be a bit flexible with our schedule, but have continued to prioritize learning through play, both indoors and out, as intended. We have been lucky with the weather through these fall months and have taken advantage of the large playground at the preschool. Our group has formed a strong bond with each other and work cohesively in class, both in group time and in free center time, where the children are

learning to make their own good choices.

Ms. Kim continues to share her love of children's literature and her gift for teaching early literacy skills with our students. She carefully selects books to use at circle time that not only work with our themes but are engaging, beautiful, and smart. When you are reading to your children at night, try a trick we use in circle. When the story is about to reveal an exciting part, ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?" You will be amazed at the creative responses they give. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Studies show that by asking open ended questions during shared reading time, you will increase your child's comprehension and his/her ability to use expressive language. Another quick thing you can do with your child that will pay off in the future is playing rhyming games and practicing old fashioned nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes have made a comeback in early childhood education. In addition to rhyming practice, children will learn to tell and retell these little stories in their own words. In the classroom, we utilize tools and curriculum from Handwriting without Tears (HWT) to give the children a variety of experiences to explore the sounds and shapes of letters. Students use wooden curved and straight letter pieces in group time to build letters and trace them with our fingers.



## The Yellow Room, continued...



We use chalkboards and play dough to write and build letters, numbers, and shapes. We have seen a few “eureka!” moments and can’t wait to see more in the coming months as we continue to learn. Yellow Room parents will start to see more HWT exercises coming home that practice and polish these early literacy skills.

Ms. Sarah has been having fun of her own with the children in the area of arts and crafts. Parents may have seen a simple

firetruck with a wooden ladder, muddy tractor tracks during farm week, or a colorful magazine collage of a hodgepodge of letters of all different sizes and fonts come home in our yellow folders.



Did you know that theme related artwork that the children produce in their preschool classroom has a multitude of purposeful K-readiness value in the processes by which it was made? There are some hidden skills behind those simple cut, color, and paste activities that students repeat and repeat for practice. There’s a feeling of ownership and pride that develops from the moment children sit down with supplies and materials to create their artwork, to the act of displaying their masterpieces in the classroom or on the refrigerator at home. The correlation between the art and theme-related lesson sparks a reminder of learning in group time.





Often, Ms. Sarah will sit with each child and guide or suggest things they might do with their materials. Here, they are not only following directions, but practicing directional cues, such as, "can you paint a star over the tree?" or "are the



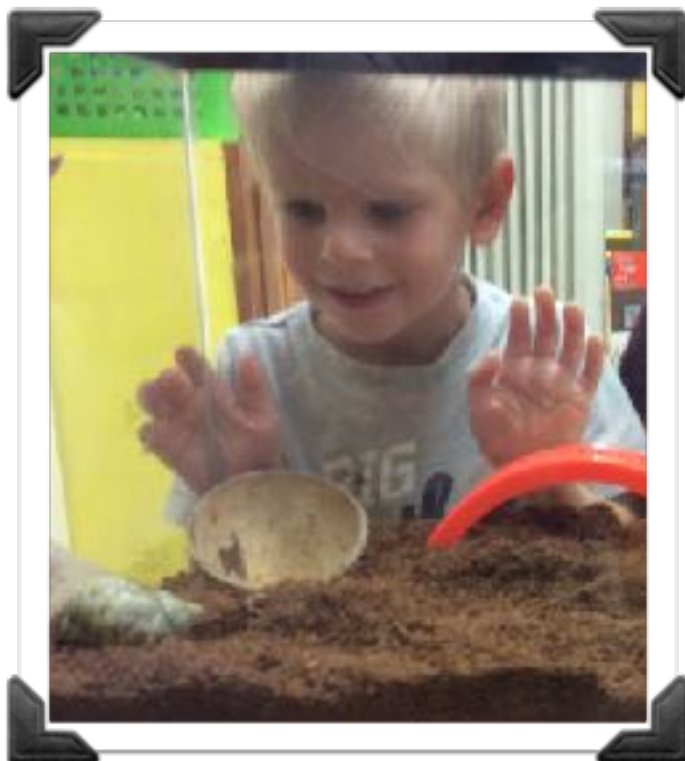
wheels at the top of the firetruck, or the bottom?" Fine motor skills are being tuned each time your child creates a craft. Scissor skills are so important and often require a lot of practice. Using varied media (thin or thick paint, glue, collage materials of varied textures, different sized brushes or drawing materials, etc.) inspires a new way of gripping or hand use. The children are often practicing naming shapes and colors or counting while working on their art. After the holidays, we will incorporate more math and patterning into our projects.

Early literacy activities and arts and crafts are only a couple of exciting ways students learn in the Yellow Room this year. These "bees" will keep on buzzing through Winter and Spring, and Ms. Kim and Ms. Sarah can't wait to see what they'll do next!



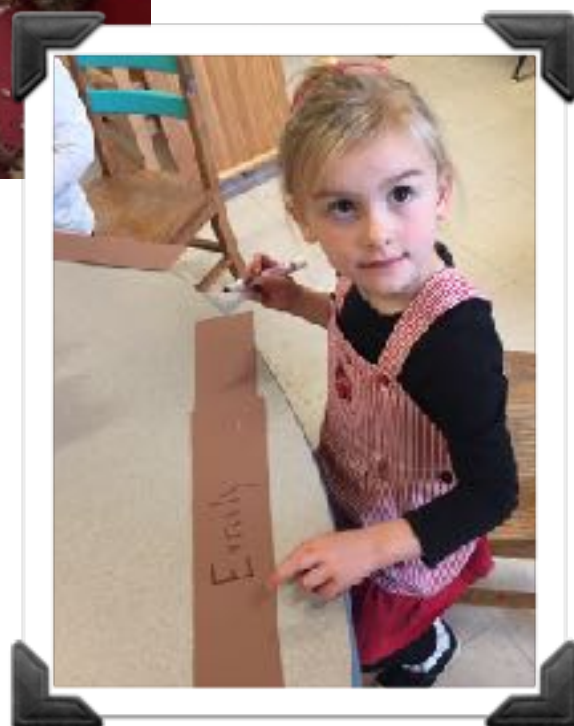


AT THE YELLOW ROOM



EXPLORE

Create





# December 2017

## Let's Sing Focus: Music

Music is the universal expression of moods and feelings. It provides an avenue to demonstrate energy through finger plays, dancing, and playing instruments. Young children are natural performers. They enjoy sharing music with other children and adults.

Young children benefit from the use of music in daily activities as it boosts memory and encourages engagement. Music participation supports active learning skills.



### Happening this Month

### Putting it Into Practice

#### Infants

Sing songs about daily routines as you feed or change babies,

#### Toddlers

Sing row , row, row your boat with various speeds and you row with your arms

#### Preschoolers

Allow children to paint to music or play freeze while playing an instrument



*Our Preschool and Child's Morning Out Programs are designed by our Preschool Committee to meet the unique needs of our parents and children. We offer a caring and positive atmosphere where the children can play and learn. In the preschool classes, we bridge the gap from home to school and we guide children to a continued good self-image while building social and academic skills in a school set- ting.*

*Our mission at Huguenot UMC Preschool is to prepare your child for a lifetime of successful learning. Our developmentally appropriate program supports your child's growth in a safe, nurturing, family- oriented environment.*

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