

# The Park Ridge Reporter

January/February 2012

**We would like to wish all of our families a wonderful, happy and healthy 2012!**

The new security system is up and running at the center. At this time, all families should have received two badges per family, as per security, Please see Tracey if you have not yet received your badges, For security purposes, we ask that you use your badge whenever entering the building. Families should always be entering and exiting the building through the front entrance door only. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

## **Important Dates, Events and Reminders:**

2/14 Happy Valentine's Day...



And annual center wide pajama day!

4/3 & Center wide picture days  
4/4 Schedule will be posted

4/23- Scholastic Book Fair  
4/27

Due to the holidays we have decided to reschedule the Free Family Fun Activity Series...

### **FUN-ON-THE-GO with 5 \* 2 \* 1 \* O**

until April when we celebrate Month of the Young Child. Sign up sheets will be posted

Sponsored by: Be A Healthy Hero

All families are welcome and encouraged to attend! Learn some new ideas on encouraging healthy eating and choices in your home with your child(ren).

**The following topics will be offered...**

### **Session 1 - Move More**

Learn about the 5-2-1-0 campaign and try out movement activities that you can do with your

child(ren). Handouts will be distributed and each family gets a 5-2-1-0 magnet, beach ball Frisbee and wristband!

### **Session 2 – Eat Well**

Make a healthy snack that children can help make and enjoy. Each family gets a set of 5-2-1-0 measuring cups, spoons, a cutting board and a \$5 token for the Markers' Market plus, each child gets a tattoo, sticker or coloring book!



Did you know that one in five children is overweight or obese by age six? As a child care provider we have the powerful opportunity to instill healthy choices that could help prevent childhood obesity for your child(ren) from the start.

Let's Move! Child Care (LMCC) is a nationwide call-to-action that will help our center make positive health changes in children, early on, that could last a lifetime.

We are excited to share with our families that The Park Ridge Child Care Center has joined First Lady Michelle Obama and other Child Care Providers across the nation to fight to prevent childhood obesity!

Our goal by choosing to participate in Let's Move! Child Care is to recognize and meet a set of best practices related to the five LMCC goals. By working towards these five goals, we are helping to build an entire generation of healthy children!

### **The five goals are the following:**

- 1) **Physical Activity:** Provide 1-2 hours of physical activity throughout the day, including inside and outside play when possible.
- 2) **Screen Time:** No screen time for children under 2 years. Limit of 30 minutes of *quality* screen time for children 2 and older.  
Note: PRCCC does not offer any television time for any age child.
- 3) **Food:** Serve fruits and vegetables at every meal, eat meals family-style whenever possible

and don't serve fried foods.

Note: PRCCC is a CACFP program which means we must be in compliance with this goal.

- 4) **Beverages:** Provide access to water throughout the day and don't serve sugar-sweetened drinks. For children age 2 and older, serve low-fat (1%) or non-fat milk and no more than one 4-6-ounce serving of 100% juice per day (as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics).

Note: PRCCC only serves 100% juice no more than one time a day. However, in the near future we will be removing juice entirely from our menu, offering only water and milk throughout the day.

- 5) **Infant Feeding:** For mothers who want to continue breastfeeding, provide their milk to their infants and welcome them to breastfeed during the child care day. Support all new parents' decisions about infant feeding.  
Note: PRCCC is designated by the New York State Department of Health's Child and Adult Care Food Program as a Breast-Friendly Child Care Center.

We are up for the challenge and journey ahead as we help to foster and encourage healthy choices for the children in our care. We encourage and invite our families to please join in as we strive to fight against childhood obesity in the United States. We will be updating you on our progress as we move along in this process

Please visit [www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org](http://www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org) to learn more about



### NURSE NOTES...



**From the desk of our friendly and concerned RN,  
Barbara VanGennip...**

### **WINTER HEALTH TIPS**

The mention of winter evokes images of sparkling snowflakes and skaters gracefully gliding across the ice.

But winter can also be a time of illness and injury, if people fail to take adequate health and safety precautions.

### **Colds**

More than 100 viruses can cause colds, the world's most common illness, so few people escape being exposed to at least one of them. In the United States, most people average about three colds every year.

Once it enters the body through the nose or throat, the cold virus begins to multiply, causing any of a number of symptoms: sore throat, sneezing, runny nose, watery eyes, aches and pains, mild fever, nasal congestion and coughing. A cold usually lasts a week or two.

The best way to treat a cold is to take a mild pain reliever, avoid unnecessary activity, get as much bed rest as possible and drink plenty of fluids, especially fruit juices. Over-the-counter cough and cold remedies may relieve some of the symptoms, but they will not prevent, cure or even shorten the course of the illness.

While there is no vaccine to protect you from catching a cold, there are ways to lessen your chances of coming down with the illness. Keep up your natural resistance through good nutrition and getting enough sleep and exercise. Turn your thermostat down and keep the humidity up in your home. Dry air dries out the mucous membranes in your nose and throat and causes them to crack, creating a place where cold viruses can enter your body. Avoid direct contact with those who have colds and wash your hands frequently.

### **Influenza**

A contagious respiratory infection, influenza is not a serious health threat for most people. However, for the elderly or those who have a chronic health problem, influenza can result in serious complications, such as pneumonia.

Symptoms of the flu usually develop suddenly, about three days after being exposed to the virus. They include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, and soreness and aching in the back, arms and legs. Although these are similar to those caused by cold viruses, flu symptoms tend to be more severe and to last longer. Abdominal cramps, vomiting or diarrhea symptoms of what is commonly called stomach or

intestinal flu do not accompany influenza.

The flu is highly contagious and, if it occurs in your family or community, there is no practical way to avoid exposure to the virus. Bed rest, a mild pain reliever and lots of fluids are the best treatment. (**Caution:** Unless advised by a physician, a child or teenager with a flu-like illness should not take aspirin. Its use in the presence of a flu infection is linked with an increased risk of Reye syndrome. Instead use another mild pain reliever that does not contain aspirin.) Antibiotics are not effective against flu viruses.

Flu vaccines, while not always effective in preventing the illness, do reduce the severity of the symptoms and protect against complications that could develop. The shots are strongly recommended for persons 65 years of age and older and those who suffer from such chronic health problems as heart disease, respiratory problems, renal disease, diabetes, anemia or any disease that weakens the body's immune system. Infants, children and young people up to 18 years of age who are receiving long-term treatment with aspirin should also get a flu shot. Persons allergic to eggs or who have a high fever, however, should avoid or postpone getting a flu shot.

Because influenza vaccine is only effective for one year and viruses vary from year to year, it is necessary to get a flu shot every year. In Illinois, the flu season usually begins in November and lasts until around the middle of April. If you plan to get a flu shot do so early since it takes about two weeks to develop full immunity. However, even a shot in January may protect against a late winter outbreak.

#### **Hypothermia**

Hypothermia a drop in body temperature to 95 degrees or less can be fatal if not detected promptly and treated properly. In the United States, about 700 deaths occur each year from hypothermia.

While hypothermia can happen to anyone, the elderly run the highest risk because their bodies often do not adjust to changes in temperature quickly and they may be unaware that they are gradually getting colder. The condition usually develops over a period of time, anywhere from a few days to several weeks, and even mildly cool indoor temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees can trigger it. If you have elderly relatives or friends who

live alone, encourage them to set their thermostats above 65 degrees to avoid hypothermia.

When the body temperature drops, the blood vessels near the surface of the body narrow to reduce heat loss. Muscles begin to tighten to make heat. If the body temperature continues to drop, the person will begin to shiver. The shivering continues until the temperature drops to about 90 degrees. Temperatures below 90 degrees create a life-threatening situation.

Signs of hypothermia include forgetfulness, drowsiness, slurred speech, and change in appearance (e.g., puffy face), weak pulse, slow heartbeat, and very slow and shallow breathing. If the body temperature drops to or below 86 degrees, a person may slip into a coma or have a death-like appearance.

If you notice these symptoms in a person, take his or her temperature. If it is 95 degrees or below, call a doctor or ambulance or take the victim directly to a hospital. To prevent further heat loss, wrap the patient in a warm blanket. A hot water bottle or electric heating pad (set on low) can be applied to the person's stomach. If the victim is alert, give small quantities of warm food or drink.

There are several things you should not do to a hypothermia victim. Do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not give a hot shower or bath, since it could cause shock. Generally, do not try to treat hypothermia at home. The condition should be treated in a hospital.

#### **Frostbite**

The parts of the body most affected by frostbite are exposed areas of the face (cheeks, nose, chin, and forehead), the ears, wrists, hands and feet. Frostbitten skin is whitish and stiff and feels numb rather than painful. When spending time outdoors during cold weather, be alert for signs of frostbite and, if you notice any, take immediate action.

To treat frostbite, warm the affected part of the body gradually. Wrap the area in blankets, sweaters, coats, etc. If no warm wrappings are available, place frostbitten hands under the armpits or use your body to cover the affected area. Seek medical attention immediately.

Do not rub frostbitten areas; the friction can damage the tissue. Do not apply snow to frostbitten areas. Because

its temperature is below freezing, snow will aggravate the condition.

Stay healthy!

Barbara VanGennip, RN

Direct line: 723-7308

### **Cuddle Bugs:**

What really goes on in an infant room during the day? One would answer correctly if they said that babies are fed and changed and they are loved and cared for. An equally correct response would be that on any day the babies are learning about themselves and the world around them. We strive to provide a stimulating environment that offers age appropriate centers and activities that support learning through play. A typical day in the Cuddle Bugs room is very busy. With a closer look, one might see any or all of the following examples of children at play happening:

-We place **Reagan** on an activity mat so she can stretch, kick and squirm. She is adjusting to the feel of her arms and legs stretching as far as they will go! She also squeals in delight when she catches a glimpse of herself in a strategically placed mirror near her on the floor. All the while, she is learning about herself and the world around her.

-**Nathan and Sammy** made up their own game of toss and chase. At this young age, they engage in cooperative play with one friend throwing a ball and between the two of them they figure out what has happened to it. They are learning about friendship, exploration and discovery.

-**Robert** is very inquisitive about how things work. He has a high interest in the cause and effect toys we have to offer. He is pleased with the sights and sounds he is able to create while successfully satisfying his curiosity.

- **Lia** is branching out while testing and adjusting her sense of balance. She reaches for a favorite toy that is just out of reach and catches herself before she topples over. She makes an adjustment and tries again until she accomplishes her goal. Toy in hand, she smiles at her success unaware of the ongoing decision making process she has been developing through play.

-**Nicholas** has been developing his large muscles by practicing his standing and climbing. Obstacle courses and low climbers help him develop confidence in his balance and set the stage for him to cruise around the room in preparation for his debut as a walker. Play is never 'just play' but instead an important part of a baby's learning process. Our days are filled with opportunities to play, to learn, to be babies.

\* During the months of January and February we will plan activities around the themes of winter, snow, self and Valentine's Day.

\*We want to wish a warm welcome to our new Cuddle Bug staff person Maricar. We are happy you are here!



### **Happy First Birthday Nicholas!**

Debbie, Paula and Maricar

### **Tiny Turtles:**

Happy New Year!

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your family over the past months. It is a pleasure watching how quickly the babies grow and change. Close bonds have been formed between children and staff, and new skills are developing each day. It's truly amazing to look back after even this short time and see how much they have developed.

Here are some favorite activities your child has discovered...

**Adeline**-Loves practicing to sit up and reaching and playing with toys!

**Jacob**-Looking at himself in the mirror while sitting in the Bumbo Chair!

**James**-Finger painting, the messier the better!

**Ryan**-Looking at colorful pictures in books!

**Gretta**- Crawling all over the room and pulling up on things. So Strong!

**Jordan**-Bouncing in the saucer with his feet in a

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sensory bin filled with flour!

Please check lesson plans posted outside of our room for more fun and interesting activities. We would like to welcome baby Caroline to our Tiny Turtle Room! We are pleased to have a new friend

Michelle, Alicia, and Nichole

### **Friendly Fish:**

We hope you had a great holiday and a happy new year! The first few months in our room have been very exciting and we have been settling into a nice routine.

Our friends have been adjusting nicely to their new environment and are being given many opportunities to do so. We play with noisy puzzles, read books, and sing songs all to develop our emergent language as we move through our one year old curriculum. Our toddlers also experience sensory play throughout the day which may include water, sand, rice, oatmeal, cornmeal and many other textures that the children love to explore!

We have been continuing with process art and it is being displayed throughout the room as well as on the bulletin board near the main office for the month of January. An explanation can be seen next to each piece of art explaining the materials used to create the art. As we move through the rest of the year we will be continuing to focus on developing the children's small and large motor development through the use of play based centers.

**We would like to wish a Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to:**



**Madison    January 6th**  
**Clare        February 4<sup>th</sup>**

We are off to a great new year!

Ashley and Jean

### **Ladybugs:**

Winter is here! You will notice our room and activities

changing from fall to winter. Thank you to the parents for bringing in winter clothing! Our friends love to go outside, especially in the snow.

With the winter holidays over you will notice our activities transitioning as well. We started off January with activities to ring in the new year. Children enjoyed making celebratory hats and ringing bells for the countdown. January will finish with fun activities to learn about shapes. Exposing them to the different shapes will help them with the language and being able to recognize shapes when they get older. We have enjoyed walking on the shapes we made on the floor, which helps develop our large motor skills. We've also enjoyed creating all our shape art, such as a giant caterpillar we made out of finger painted circles. The finger painting helps young toddlers develop small motor skills.

In February, we will have activities that expose them to colors and we will celebrate Valentines Day. A few of the things children will enjoy include playing with colored ice and watching it melt and mixing in water. This is a great sensory and small motor activity. They also will work together to make a rainbow mural, developing cooperative learning skills. Children at a young age learn how to express emotion. Valentines Day is great to work on the emotion of love. We will be making projects for our parents that show our love towards them, and activities that build love and friendship for each other. We look forward to all the fun that January and February will bring, and showing our appreciation to each of our families.

A special thank you to the families during the transition to our new teacher and assistant in the room! We truly love our ladybug family!

We hoped you enjoyed the holidays! We look forward to spending a new year with all of our children and families.

April, Esther and Amber

### **Little Wonders:**

Happy New Year! Hope all of our Little Wonder families had a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. As you all know, this was an exciting holiday season

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for my family! I am thrilled to announce that Mikayla Elizabeth joined us on December 2<sup>nd</sup> weighing 8 lbs 5 oz. Mikayla and her brothers are adjusting beautifully!

At this time, we would like to thank Amanda and Rosemary for all of help and love she gave to the children in our room! We would also like to thank Lisa who has been helping us out on a per diem basis while we actively search for a Monday through Friday 3 to 6 closer for the room. Unfortunately due to Lisa's school schedule, she is not available to work everyday in the room. We appreciate and thank the team for doing such a beautiful job in Janice's absence and for making the transition a smooth one for our children and families.

Please remember to send in appropriate clothing for outdoor play everyday. This must include snow pants, mittens, hats, and boot etc. Everything must be labeled. Weather permitting we venture outside everyday!

Dramatic play is a **very** important part in your toddler's development. Toddlers need dramatic play areas and props to allow them to express a range of emotion that they may feel, both positive and not-so positive. They sometimes need practice acting out anger or fear, as well as empathy and curiosity. Toddlers practice the roles they see adults using in the real world and they begin to separate what is real from what isn't and learn to begin how to switch from fantasy to reality.

As teachers and caregivers, we help facilitate and enhance the dramatic play experience. We spend time observing as they play and watch for emerging interests. We change props and themes to help refresh play ideas. On one of the days, we may have the baby dolls dressed at the table in highchairs eating, and may offer small bins with washcloths for "tub time." The next day, we may have aprons and dresses displayed with hats and purses for the children. Some of our dramatic play possibilities include farm play with animals and a barn, doll house with little people and furniture, hair center with rollers, combs and shampoo bottles, doctor kits and puppets.

Some of our favorite dramatic play activities are:

**-Luke and Ahmed** have fun making the cars go vroom!

**-Sienna** loves to dress up with clothes and carry the

purses around.

**-Ellie** enjoys cooking in the kitchen and dressing up with Sienna.

**-Alessia** cooks delicious food in the kitchen.

**-Samantha** has fun with the farm animals and the sounds they make.

**-Avabella** wraps the babies in blankets and reads them stories.

**-Makenna** has a great time going shopping with the purses on her arm.

**-Norah** loves to care for and comfort her babies.

**-Gabby** has fun dressing up and wearing her hats around the room and takes good care of her babies.

**-Rylie** cooks in the kitchen and also has a great time with the farm and the animals.

Little Wonders staff,

Janice, Amanda, Lisa and Rosemary

### **Little Pups:**

Happy New Year from all of us in Little Pups! Last month we welcomed our new friend Kennedi to our classroom! We are so happy she is here!

With the expectation that snow will be here soon, we would like to send out a reminder to bring in snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens each day!

We have been busy with our new curriculum themes of the week. January themes to look forward to are Snowmen, Polar Bears, Penguins, and Healthy Foods. We plan many fun, hands-on activities to go along with our themes, books, projects and crafts, dramatic play, language and music, as well as large and small motor activities.

We have been inviting the toddlers to join us in a small circle time every morning. Circle time is a chance when we all come together and read a story, put up our "who's here" buses, and sing some songs. The toddlers are really enjoying our circle time and the routines they have been learning! Circle time is a highly anticipated time now in Little Pups!

**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday**



**Derek H. 1/18**  
**Derek K. 1/19**

Enjoy,  
Maria and Jennifer

**All Stars:**

Welcome Giovanni to the All Star room. We would also like to welcome Ebony, our newest member of the All Star teaching team. We are glad you are here with us. The Rochester weather is very unpredictable, but the children need to be prepared every day with the correct clothing for the season. For the winter season your child needs a winter coat, winter boots, snow pants, gloves and a hat. We still go out and enjoy the winter weather. Hopefully we get more snow so we can make snowmen and go sledding.

Three year olds love to get messy and explore different textures. It is important to let them get messy and try new things. It helps with their development....

- Fine motor skills-Help improve coordination skills.
- Creativity-The children can use the materials as they see fit and are able to enjoy the process without worrying about an end product.
- Self-Esteem-The children build self-confidence as they create, play, and explore.

You and your child can explore together at home. There are many household items that you can use for art and sensory play. For sensory bins you can use rice, pasta (cooked or uncooked), beans, oatmeal, flour, and much more! For art projects you can paint with old tooth brushes, sponges or make collages out of anything your child finds through out the house.

**How to make Kool-Aid Paint:**

-1/4 cup glue  
-1 pkg of Kool-Aid any flavor  
Mix together using a paint brush and let the painting begin!

Try this recipe at home with your child.

**January themes-** Winter Wonderland, Dinosaurs, Wacky Week, Fairy Tale & Nursery Rhymes, and Dental/Teeth.

**February themes-** Valentines, Community Helpers, Five senses, and Dr. Seuss.  
All Star Team,  
Emily, Tricia, and Ebony

**Playful Pandas:**

“The weather out there is frightful.” The children in the Playful Panda Room are enjoying the snow. Please remember to send in boots, hats, gloves etc.everyday! Weather permitting; we go outside daily to get some fresh air and to run around! When we get more snow we will even go sledding!

In the fabulous month of February, we will be discussing: shadows, 5 Senses, our bodies, and Valentine’s Day. We also will be having a Valentine exchange and party. I will be sending home a note, about Valentine’s Day at a later date. We will also begin our “Star of the Week” activity in February. A letter about this activity will be sent out soon.

Thank you for all your holiday wishes and gifts. It was extremely thoughtful and greatly appreciated!

**Look who’s turning 4...!!**



**Olivia 1/22**  
**Brody 1/22**  
**Emilee 1/24**  
**Eli 2/17**  
**Joshua 2/17**

Happy winter!  
Liz, MaryEllen and Andrea

**Lucky Ducks:**

We are excited to be starting a New Year with you, here in the Lucky Duck room. The year 2012 will bring many new adventures and learning. We are still hoping

for snow and can't wait to try sledding down our side yard hill and making snowmen. Please make sure that your child has his or her snow pants, boots, gloves and hat on standby so when it does snow we will be ready to go play in it!

In the month of January we will be doing a new activity called "*Star of the Week*". Each child will get a chance to bring the "all about me" box home and fill it with pictures from when they were small, important or special objects they can show to the class, and much more. This fun activity helps to show case each child and show how special they each are. Typically, the children are chosen alphabetically and you will know when it's your child's turn by looking at our class calendar. During this time we stop doing show and share as a whole class and after everyone has had a turn at being the star of the week then show and share starts again. More information will go home at a later date. If you have any questions feel free to ask.

The children have been excelling in mathematics so far this year. We have mostly mastered counting using one-to-one correspondence, recognizing the numerals 0-10 (and then some), and rote counting to 20! Starting this month we will be branching off into different areas of math; for example, we will be starting the concept of adding and subtracting using math manipulatives. We will also begin to use words like more than, less than, and equal to and we will be using all different kinds of measuring tools.

It is almost that time of year for parent-teacher conferences. A sign-up sheet will soon go up for you to pick a time for your child's conference. If your child attends UPK then it is not necessary for you to sign up for a conference with me. If you have any questions or concerns about this please feel free to ask!

The themes for January are: transportation, the winter season, Mother Goose, and dinosaurs.

The themes for February are: mixed up silly week, healthy teeth, emotions, pets, and Dr. Seuss

Please feel free to bring in any Dr. Seuss books that you may have at home to share with the class that week!

## Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Gabriella on January 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Audriana on January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Happy New Year!  
Jamie, Wendy, and Morgan

### Busy Bees:



*Please join us in congratulating Maria and Tom on the arrival of their new daughter*

***Ella Rae***

*Born: January 25, 2012*

*7.9 lbs*

*19.5 inches*

*Both mom and baby are doing beautifully!*

Please welcome Rosemary to the Busy Bees room. She will be helping out in the room during my maternity leave. We are excited to have her join our team! Thank you!

We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season! Now it is time to settle in for the rest of winter. Please remember hats, mittens/gloves, boots, and snow pants every day (and to label!). We go outside every day. It is also important that each article of clothing be labeled as many children have similar or identical items.

Many children in the Busy Bee room are preparing for kindergarten next year and some for pre-kindergarten. Others may be trying to decide whether or not to send their child on to kindergarten or to keep them in pre-kindergarten a year longer. I have been receiving many questions about age appropriate skills and have gathered some information I hope you all will find useful.

Young children change so fast. Tasks that could not be completed one week may be mastered by the following week. Each child has an individual learning style and each child will learn at a different pace. Try and think about your child's skills in relation to their actual age.

A four year old has only been growing and learning for 48 months and will have different skills than a 5 year old child who has been growing and learning for 60 months.

Some children learn best through visual activities such as recognizing and reading letters and numbers. Other children benefit most through auditory tasks such as listening to stories/music or verbal instructions. Finally, some children learn best through activities that include the manipulation of objects as in drawing or building known as kinesthetic learners. Just because your child is most interested in one type of activity it does not mean that he/she will be unable to strengthen skills in other areas. For example, if your child seems to prefer visual activities, you can integrate auditory and kinesthetic stimulus by providing them with a copy of the book to hold and look at during reading time. The same strategy can be applied to all other areas of learning.

Learning and skill development are also a matter of interest. If you find, for example, that your child is not writing his/her name or drawing, it could be that they are simply not interested in the activity. To spark interest keep the activity simple and open ended. Instead of asking your child to draw a specific picture or to write their name, provide them with finger paints and plain paper. Allow them to make swirls and dabs. Let your child be in control of how the activity progresses and when it ends.

At this point in the year, we would like to see everyone dressing and undressing themselves. This includes zipping/buttoning coats, removing boots, putting on mittens/gloves as well as dressing and undressing at home. Your child should be independent in the bathroom, or close to it. These skills are a must in kindergarten.

If you have any questions please feel free to see Debby or myself. I look forward to seeing you all at conferences this month!

Busy Bees,  
Maria, Debby, Jenna and Rosemary

### **School Age:**

Thank you for your participation in our fall festivities especially when the entire center took part in the Fall Festival! We hope you enjoyed the craft that was available to work on. Now that the winter holidays have arrived we are beginning to work on crafts focused on the winter celebrations and season.

With the mention of winter, please know that we will still take the children out EVERY day after school, on snow days (as long as the temperature is within reason) and on days off from school. With that said, please make sure you send your child with appropriate snow clothes every day. We have a bin kept right outside our classroom near the trays where the boots are kept all winter. Feel free to have your child leave their snow pants right in that box. Each child will have a cubby to store their hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves. They will also need a change of sneakers as we have them change out of their boots upon coming off the bus/coming in from outside. Please remember to label everything!!!

We'd like to welcome Jasmine to our classroom. She will be working in the School Age room from 3-6 pm every afternoon. Jasmine has been working with the students since December and comes to us with her teaching certification from North Carolina. Make sure to introduce yourself if you have not already met her!

We would like to congratulate Jeff and his wife on the adoption of their newborn son last month! Jeff will now be working per diem at the center with the arrival of their new son!

From all of us in the school age classroom we hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday! We look forward to working with your children in this new year.

Nikki, Maria and Jasmine

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



**Sophia on 1/26**