

# CHICKADEE CLASS NEWSLETTER

## November 2011



Dear Parents,

Two months have whizzed by and the Chickadee class is working hard on social skills, listening and following directions. We met our goal this month of having a successful field trip! Socially, the teachers are working with the children during play and modeling positive behaviors, such as sharing toys, using words rather than hitting hands to solve a problem, putting toys away and helping a friend. Most children are readily separating from their parents at drop off time, yeah!

While social skill-building takes precedence to academics in the early months of preschool, the Chickadees have been busy learning. To date, we have initiated the concepts of "letter of the week"; monthly numbers, shapes and colors and the daily classroom jobs. The Chickadees learn colors and numbers in Spanish as well. When the "letter of the week" is introduced, letters are also taught in sign language. We look at a calendar in terms of one week, seven days. Additionally name recognition is worked on at snack, lunch time and job assignments. Independence is strongly promoted through self help skills; pouring from pitchers, independent toileting, putting on jackets & shoes, and cleaning up after ourselves at snack and lunch.

Fire Safety Week was an important and interesting topic for our class. The Delafield firefighters visit inspired the children, so interest was very high. Keep working with your child on safety rules we practiced at school: never play with matches; stop, drop and roll; fall and crawl under the smoke; and don't hide, go outside. Teach your child about a family meeting spot for emergencies and dialing "9-1-1" is a challenge at this age and will require parent support to reinforce this at home, if this is your desire for your child.

The Chickadees also explored the season of autumn & had great fun observing nature's changes on our "boardwalk" hikes. We also got messy cleaning out pumpkins, sampled pumpkin seeds, baked with pumpkin and played in our classroom farmer's market. The children taste tested apples & apple products and created apple art. Fall leaves were raked, nuts were collected and Halloween decorations were designed as the end of the month gave way to our Fall Fun Parties.

Our Ebert's Pumpkin Patch field trip and Fall Fun parties were very successful this month. We thank all the parents, and volunteers, who assisted with these events. The many donations to our party were very generous and we thank all those families contributing to the cause.

### CONFERENCES

Chickadee parent/teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. During these conferences we will share a brief report indicating how your child is adjusting to the group setting at school. Please remember, parents can request a conference any time a need or concern arises by contacting one of the Chickadee teachers. Please watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway above the red shelf. We will have class as usual on these days.

### NOVEMBER TOPIC & ACTIVITIES

Shape: Square

Number: 3 & 4

Color: Brown

Letters: E, F, G & H



November is a perfect time to bring up the subject of food with the coming of the Thanksgiving holiday. This month and part of December will be devoted to learning about the different food groups and possibly discovering new foods we like! It will truly be a sensory experience!

**If you or a relative have a favorite food they like to prepare and would want to share the experience with the Chickadees, please let a teacher know ASAP.** For the week of November 14, we will talk about the letter "G" for giving. Everyday this week we will collect food items for the Hartland Food Pantry. This will give the children a great lesson in giving.

## November Dates to Remember

**Nov. 1 & 2**



**Family Turkey Feather Project:** Watch for a tag board feather shape in your child's cubby. Each family is asked to decorate the "feather" in any way they would like. Be "cre8ive" and use this as fun family time! Your child will have an opportunity to talk about their feather with the class, as we assemble a beautiful "tom turkey" for our classroom bulletin board. Feathers are due on or before Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, Nov. 10**

**"Pancakes with Pops!" 6:15-7:30p.m.**

On Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> we will host our "Pancakes with Pops" night. This special event begins at 6:15 pm, until 7:30 pm. Please watch for an invitation to be placed in your Chickadee's cubby, and return the RSVP slip to a Chickadee teacher by Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> so we can have a count of how many will be attending. This is a fun night filled with a special story, art project, and of course lots of pancakes! We hope to see you there.

**Friday, Nov. 11**

**Family Turkey Feather Project Due!**

**Nov. 21 – 23**

**Thanksgiving – Days of Long, Long Ago...**

The Chickadees will investigate Thanksgiving from long, long ago. Through storytelling, pictures and drama we will try to recreate history. If you have any items to share of Native American history & colonial times or wooden toys, please let a teacher know. We'll be cooking each day this week with foods that are traditionally served at this holiday.



**Nov. 24 & 25**

**Wee Know Closed. *Happy Thanksgiving!***

**Nov. 29 & Dec. 2**

**Parent/Teacher Conferences - class as usual on these days**

### SHOW 'N SHARE

The Chickadee Class will begin a show and share time beginning in November. Our snack friend can bring something special to show at circle time from home. It must fit in his/her cubby or backpack. After sharing it with our circle friends it must stay in the cubby until it is time to go home. We don't want broken or injured "treasures" to be sent home!

### DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Cool weather is here! Jackets and/or heavy sweaters are necessary, especially at our 9:00 am. outside time. Hats and mittens are recommended, as well. Mittens are easier and preferred. When the snow flies, boots and snow pants will be required. The red shelf in the main hallway (by the entrance) will serve as our class boot storage. **Remember to label all clothing and both boots!!** Please check your child's extra clothing in their white cubby baskets. It should be changed to warmer clothes and include underwear, pants, shirt, socks and extra shoes (if possible).



### NOVEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Alex- 11/3

*At this time of thanksgiving, we are ever thankful to our Chickadee families for sharing your children with us and supporting our classroom efforts!*



Thank you,  
The Chickadee Teachers  
*Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Semler & Ms. Rikki*

*"For children, play is as natural as breathing-and as necessary."  
Mimi Brodsky Chenfield,  
U.S. early childhood educator and author*