

Childswork News

December 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 9th
Kids Night Out

December 12-16th
Enrichment programs
end.

December 19-23rd
No regular classes or
Explorers; Camps
available.

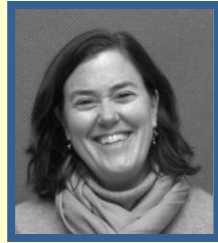
December 26th
All school closure.
No classes, Explorers, or
Camps.

December 27-30th
No regular classes or
Explorers; Camps
available.

January 2nd
All school closure.
No classes, Explorers or
Camps.

January 3rd
Class in session.
Enrichment programs
begin.

From the Executive Director



Dear Childswork Families and Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with family and friends. Thanksgiving is such a great opportunity to encourage children (and adults!) to reflect on what we are grateful for. At Childswork, we have so much to be grateful for. Our wonderful staff, our amazing families and your awesome children.

Something else we are grateful for this year are our new trees! Thanks to the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, and their Grey to Green Program, we now have five new trees planted in the woodchip area of the playground. They include: pink dogwood, ponderosa pine (native to the Willamette Valley), ginko, evergreen magnolia and a rocky mountain maple. If you haven't seen them, go take a walk through our little grove! These trees have already inspired discussions about different leaves, varied bark, changing seasons, fragrance, heavy equipment and the planting process. We have photos of the process and drawings from children outside our main office.

We are entering the season of giving, another incredibly important value to share with our children. This year Childswork will be sponsoring a mitten, hat and canned food drive which we are calling "**Warm Hands, Full Bellies.**" Please help us decorate our giving tree with mittens and hats and fill our bin with canned food to support needy children and families in our community. We will be collecting donations from Dec 1 until mid day on Dec 15th by the main entrance. That afternoon we will give our donation to St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent de Paul's mission is to help those in need, regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, gender, orientation, handicap or religion.

Finally, I would like to bring your attention to several easy ways of giving to Childswork that don't cost you a dime! The first one is **eScrip**. Please sign up and designate Childswork as your school. If you have any questions, please contact Marci in our main office. The second, new opportunity we have is to earn money through your purchases at **Amazon.com**. Every time you shop at Amazon, go to our website first and click on the Amazon button. This will connect you to their site. A percentage of your total sales will then be donated from Amazon back to Childswork. Watch for this link in the next week! The third opportunity we have is through the **Pottery Barn** Gear Up to Give Back program. Simply provide the Childswork Member ID (411080139311) and Password (WS9141039) each time you make a purchase in store or online and our school can earn up to 4% back on annual net sales.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support for our school.

Kim



From the Education Director

Homes and classrooms have settled into routines throughout the fall and are now headed into winter and the busy pace of holidays. Families are surrounded by media messages to buy, to give, to do more for the perfect holidays. With all the pressure, it can help to step back and remember that the greatest gift for children is time with you. During this time I am reminded daily by children to slow down, to savor the moment and to appreciate those around me. At Childswork, out of

respect for the many ways of celebrating, and the need for children's routines we do not formally celebrate the winter holidays. However, you may occasionally see activities that children initiate that express their family beliefs and celebrations.

I am privileged to work with a capable, committed and creative group of professionals at Childswork. Part of our commitment, as a staff, is to support our surrounding community. In early childhood, children may also benefit from the model we set of caring for others. We are fortunate to have families volunteer their time, attend parent-teacher conferences, trade childcare and support one another with kind words/deeds throughout the year.

Please see the main hallway Giving Tree for opportunities to reach out to our neighborhood community with donations of hats, mittens and canned food. Join us in providing for "Warm Hands, Full Bellies"

Thank you to everyone in the community for a wonderful fall!

Michele



Enrichment Updates for Winter Term

For those who have not yet signed up for Enrichment classes, we are accepting enrollment between now and Dec 9th. The Winter session begins Tuesday, Jan 3. The enrollment forms and a full description of the classes are available on our website at www.childswork.org. Enrollment forms and short descriptions are also available in the Main Office.

You are also welcome to sign up in advance for Spring session.

There are a couple of changes to our Enrichment program that we would like to bring to your attention:

In thinking about how to make Spanish Enrichment more affordable and the schedule accessible for more families, we have decided to change our Spanish Enrichment offering in the Winter and Spring terms of this year. We will be offering Spanish Enrichment on Mondays and/or Thursdays. If you are interested in two days a week, you are welcome to sign up for both days. If you are interested in just one day a week, you can sign up for either day.

In order to simplify billing, we will be charging the full cost of the Enrichment session in one invoice at the beginning of the term.

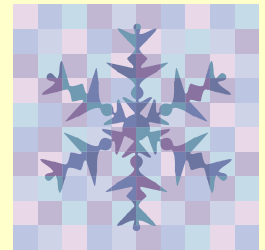
The cancellation policy now requires a two-week notice to be released from payment obligation. This is so that we can maintain correct staffing levels.

There is still space available for Winter session!

Please contact Laurie at laurie@childswork.org for more information.

Explorers Field Journal

Winter break is coming soon. We are offering camps and Explorers, and there is still space available. The first week is "Winter Wonderland". We'll be exploring winter as we are experiencing it. Will we need ice, water or windy day activities? Will we be cutting snow flakes or rain drop painting? Maybe all of these!!



The second week is Mix and Mess. Activities will be hands on fun sensory activities: finger painting, clay work, experimenting with different kinds of play dough and clay. Please Dress for Mess!!

Season's Greetings to all our wonderful families!

Laurie

Family Connections

November brought such a positive connection between families and classroom teachers through conferences. Topics that emerged were families' hopes and goals for the year, how children are settling into a group, children's developmental levels, setting boundaries and how those limits help children feel safe and secure. We would love to support parents in this most important work and will have occasional articles in the main hallway.

If interested in joining a parent book or article group, please email michele@childswork.org.

Annual Auction Update

Thanks to the parents who are helping with preparations for our annual auction. But "many hands make light work" so please consider joining us in this important fundraising effort to support our teachers & children.

Pick up a Packet & help with Procurement!

Neighborhood packets are now available in the office for check out. The packets provide geographical lists of businesses identified for procurement opportunities. Grab a packet, contact businesses in your neighborhood & help us gather up some great auction items!

Attend the Monthly Auction Meeting

Monday Dec 5th @ 7pm
Katie Shrall's Home
6373 SE Yamhill St.

-OR-

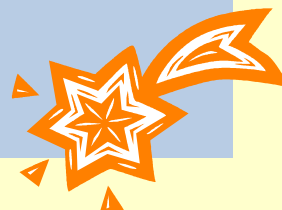
Wednesday Dec 15th @ 9am
Childswork - basement family lounge

Please RSVP to auction@childswork.org

Thanks for helping us make the 2012 auction a success!

Hopes and Wishes

- Beads
- Large pieces of cardboard or light wood (such as balsa wood)
- Warm hands, full bellies



Classroom Reflections

Spanish Noticias

A Day in Spanish Enrichment Class



El Dia: Lunes, Novembre 28

Conversaciones (Conversations):

We heard today about how the Spanish arrived in Mexico and treated the Aztecs very badly. We also examined the Mexican flag and located the eagle, cactus, and snake on it. The people of Mexico remember today how Mexico City began. Kate brought in a wonderful libro (book) to share about Mexico. It had a lot of history in it.

Canciones (Songs):

Que Bonita Bandera (What a Beautiful Flag), Ahora Vamos, Pulgarito color song, Weather song

Juegos (Games):

We continued to paint the serpientes (snakes) y cactus and put arena (sand) on cardboard to make the floor of the desierto (desert).

Cuento (Story):

Un Gato y un Perro (A Cat and a Dog)

Parent's Perspective

We have a nightly routine in our house on Childswork days. Before I turn out my son Jasper's light at bedtime I ask him who he played with that day. "Did you play with...Megan? Did you play with...Elliott?" We start with the teachers and the kids he knows well, we move onto the children in his class whose names I remember, and we always end with a name or two that he offers up that are new to me. I love the funny stories that come up as he tells me about his day. There's so much joy on his face as he tells me about his world.

Each day at Childswork is so rich. He learns, has fun, and laughs. He tells me about painting, building cities, dancing (he also shows off his dance moves, hilarious), and just plays. I live vicariously through him as he enjoys a day free from stress and deadlines. But most importantly, he enjoys the people that make up his community.

I'm fortunate to still be in contact with a couple of the friends I made when I was Jasper's age. Technology and social networking has made it easier for us to stay in contact with old friends; even those of us who are transplants in the Northwest. It's amazing to think about the bonds that our children are making today at Childswork can still be in place 30 and 40 years from now.

So I look forward to more nights of "did you play with this friend, and did you play with that friend?" Who knows how many of these friends will stay in his life for years. If we're lucky then he'll always keep a piece of the Childswork community with him.

Do you have a Childswork experience you would like to share, or simply your thoughts as a parent? If so, please send submissions for the Parent's Perspective column to Marci at marci@childswork.org.