



January & February Newsletter 2012

REMINDER/FYI:

I am trying to see if we can plan a little trip to **Imagine That** in *Florham Park* by early next month. More will follow... We appreciate your prompt & timely tuition payment even in the case that you may not receive your tuition statement. Your tuition amount remains the same unless your child's schedule changes. Your tuition contract is posted on our website for your reference as well as a copy of your signed Tuition Contract back in Sept. Please consider the convenience and flexibility of Tuition Express for EFT and credit card tuition payment options. As we get into the winter seasons and possible hazardous weather conditions, please plan ahead for back-up care should Little Stages have any emergency closings. Emergency closings/delayed opening would be posted on our website no later than 6am followed by a voicemail notice. Pls. subscribe to our website www.littlestages.com to receive all updates posted on our website directly to your registered email address & mobile devices.

WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE STAGES

FAMILY: *Ira Bay and Jackson Shook join us in the Toddler's classroom. Cameron Cunningham joins us in the Prek classroom.*

February Birthdays: Clyde Thomas turns 5 on February 11th, Wayland Burdick turns 2 on February 17th. *Little Stages Hugs and Kisses to each of you on your special day!*

HOLIDAY CLOSING:

January 16th (Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday). February 19th (President's Day)

THANK YOU:

Our teachers and I do thank you very much for the beautiful cards, thoughtful gifts for the holiday! It is a blessing to be surrounded by wonderful, caring and appreciative families such as yourselves. A personal thank you to each and everyone of you for all the yummy treats and the lovely holiday cards to our teachers. I do hope you all as our teachers have enjoyed the time off with our families this holiday season.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Your Child Care Expenses for 2012 will be distributed by next Monday. Little Stages' Federal Tax ID also located in all and every tuition statement for your references.



Imagine That School Trip

Date TBD

Please take some time and review our calendar for some fun upcoming events. For this month, we are planning a friendship gift exchange among our toddlers and preschoolers/pre-k as part of our lessons on giving to others. More details will follow on that one. We've done it in the past and it has been a success in helping the children exchange gifts (something from home that they don't mind parting with). Also, we normally have an "International Feast Day" to coincide with Chinese New Year and during this time we celebration you, our diverse families who are represented here at Little Stages". Of course this means, sharing your cultural heritage (tradition) with us anyway that you wish; whether you're from Brooklyn or the Far East. We'd love your assistance with bringing in food, music and stories from your culture to share with us all. What better way to teach tolerance and acceptance, but with all that we have in common (love of food, music and stories).

We are still reviewing sight words, sequencing and patterns with our pre-k group to help prepare them for our Starfall Reading Program. Meanwhile, you can visit this website at www.starfall.com to learn more about this wonderful reading program. We're hoping to be ready the beginning of March, but we'll keep you posted. Please start encouraging good work habits with school work by completing and returning their assignments on time. As incentives, we will reward with stickers every time that their folders are returned with their homework completed. We will continue our weekly visit to the library_(weather permitting beginning 01/24/12) along with *Professor Toto* and *Music with Ms. Denise*. The children do enjoy learning at their individual stages and it's always so rewarding to see their excitement once they've mastered something.

Leslie's Café has been a great addition to our program for the past couple of years now and we will continue to work with them and ensure a diverse menu (daily meals come with a fruit and vegetable). For 2012, their monthly rate will most likely increase slightly and I will send out a notice as soon as I receive their contract for the new year, container fees were paid already for the current school year. Due to some children with various allergies, we are limited to very few healthy snacks such as: Cheerios (Multigrain/Plain), Annie's bunny crackers (graham/cheese), gold fish, cheerios, baked veggie fries, raisins and a variety of healthy crackers. Pls. provide your child additional snacks if you think they will not want to eat what is being offered.

Happy New Year to you all. As we start this new year, let's always remember always of all that we're grateful for each and everyday. They are the very reasons why we keep on moving. We look forward to a wonderful school year with lots of warm hearted fun. As the great Chinese Taoist philosopher Lao Tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles, must begin with a single step" and so we start!