

# THE MIGHTY OAK NEWSLETTER

## December/January 2010



*''Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns grow''*

### NEW SNOW CLOSING POLICY

We have created a new snow policy effective immediately so there will be less confusion as to whether or not Little Acorns will be opened or closed. We no longer follow the federal government. We have emailed this new policy and passed it out as a hard copy so please read it carefully and if you have any questions please see the office.

### CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Little Acorns has a new and improved website with lots of wonderful information, including important forms you can download such as our medication order form and vacation forms. Please check out our website at [www.littleacornselc.com](http://www.littleacornselc.com).

### WE GO OUTSIDE

We love to go outside and so do the children. We even take them out in the snow. Please pack snow pants, boots, gloves, hats, etc. to play in the snow on snowy days. We do not go outside if the temperature, adjusted for wind chill, is below 30 degrees. So please, dress your children appropriately for outdoors, and please label everything with their names on them. Thank you.

### THANKS FOR ALL THE GREAT GIFTS

Many of our families were very generous with gifts to the staff for the holidays. We thank you very much for the great gifts and for the underlying sentiment of appreciation for our work.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 1: CENTER CLOSED
- Jan. 18: CENTER CLOSED
- Jan. 25: MCPS CLOSED
- Feb. 16: CENTER CLOSED
- Feb. 26: MCPS Half-Day

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES IN FEBRUARY

Parent-teacher conferences are important tools of communication between the center and the home. We will be freeing our lead teachers of regular classroom duties in order to schedule conferencing for each of our groups in February. Conferences will be 20 minutes long, and times will be available in both the morning and afternoon. Look for sign-up sheets in a few weeks, and please fit us into your busy schedules. As always if you need to meet with your child's teacher at any time through out the year you can schedule a time to do so.



**KATE IS REALLY ENJOYING THE SNOW**



### LITTLEST ACORNS NEWS

The Littlest Acorns have lots of exciting news to report! First, we would like to welcome Noah to our group of wonderful babies. He is such a little cutie. We are enjoying getting to know him. Jack has graduated to the Sprouts class! We miss him so much, but we enjoy seeing him play with all his new buddies. Emma has learned to say a few new words, and her favorite word to say is, "Emma". She will be moving to the Sprouts class as well. Sam is always on the go, but he loves to snuggle up and read a book with one of us. He has already started to take some steps! Zac loves to sing songs and play the musical instruments. His favorite game is "Pat-a-Cake". Lauren is sitting up well and loves to stand. She also enjoys smiling at herself in the mirror. We often find Logan crawling into any little hiding place he can find. He is traveling all over the room! The babies are hoping for good weather so we can get outdoors for a little bit. Please make sure we have the children's hats, coats, gloves, and extra clothing.

--Stephanie, Mrs. Rahman & Courtney



### SPROUTS GROUP NEWS

December has gone by very fast and the Sprouts have blossomed so much as we are focusing on each developmental stage. One of the most exciting activities the toddlers have enjoyed is the Obstacle Course! They have been crawling in the tunnel, walking on the balance beam, going on the slide, and walking up and down the steps. Wyatt has shown us

that he enjoys every kind of sport. He likes hockey, basketball, football, you name it! Lila Anne really enjoys looking at books. Lila Segal and Jacqueline, our little mother and teacher, have been great helpers. They help us care for the younger and older ones. Mackenly always welcomes the Sprouts and parents in the classroom with a big smile. Jack, our newest Sprout, is excited to be united with the others and enjoys exploring the classroom. As we are finishing up with our theme, "Things that Go", the toddlers have been more attentive to the sounds outside. We have been observing airplanes, trucks, buses and cars. The Sprouts enjoy displaying the "Wheels on the Bus" on the flannel board and singing through out the day. The colors which we have been working on are Red, Orange, Brown and Blue. The shapes include Circle, Triangle, Square and Star. A special thank you to those who brought the plastic bags. Please remember to check to see if your child has enough extra clothes because they like to be very hands on with everything and they are becoming more independent as they eat!

--Debie, Norma & Jannelle



**EMMA LOVES THIS PROJECT**



**OAK TREE GROUP NEWS**

The Oak Trees would like to thank those who donated to St. Jude's. Your generosity raised \$600.00! We would also like to thank our parent volunteers for helping out at our Winter Party. The kids just love it when you can make it to our celebrations. I have begun adding Sight Words to our Word Wall. So far, we have words that begin with the letters A, B and C. Each week we will add new words to one or two more letters on the wall, as well as reviewing the previous words to keep up with repetition. The students are getting good at recognizing the words on the wall! For extra practice at home, we can email the Sight Words to you if you would like. Just let us know. We have continued working on our writing and everyone is improving each week! We are up to letter "I" and more of the students are able to write the words to the corresponding letter.

A few reminders: Please make sure you have your child here no later than 9:30 am so that we may all begin our great lesson for the day; keep a hat, gloves/mittens and a set of extra clothing in your child's cubby. Also, make sure everything still fits because they are growing little oak trees.

--Nicole & Sujata

**SEEDLINGS GROUP NEWS**



We would like to thank all of the parents who came out and helped at the Winter Party! The children and the teachers all enjoyed your presence. We would like to welcome our newcomers, Carolina Sapriza, Wyatt Roth and Sam Jacobs.

We are continuing to develop our fine motor skills by working on the following: cutting with scissors, using the glue, painting and tearing materials. We are sending a special thank you to Max Weitner's Family, who shared their holiday celebration activity with our class to participate in.

--Ericka, Haoua & Tamisha



**SAPLING GROUP NEWS**

December went fast, but it was fun for the Saplings. We are enjoying the cold weather and all of the fun activities. The first week, we studied snow and the color "white". We played with real snow outside and made snow balls! We also decorated wooden pen holders for our parents. Our winter party was a hit! The children did wonderfully. Thank you to all the parents for the awesome parties, games, and goodies. The children had lots of fun.

In January we will make some winter crafts and playing games. We will also start working on the letters **M-O**, numbers **12-14**, along with shapes, rhyming, opposites, and lots more. We're looking forward to another busy month of fun and learning. In addition to the above lessons, the children have been practicing using scissors and learning to trace different lines and circles.

Remember to bring in the appropriate gear for outdoor play. We will go outside when it is cold out, even if it is just for a little while. Please label all of your child's clothing, hats, and gloves. Thanks for helping us keep it all together. Enjoy your precious ones, and have a wonderful New Year!

-- Arifa, Michelle & Marie-Therese



**MIGHTY OAKS GROUP NEWS**

The Mighty Oaks had a great December! Each student painted their own birdhouses, made greeting cards, and made a snowman for the bulletin board! Our class projects included cooking where we made chocolate mousse, a birthday cake for Sam and a cheesecake. The Mighty Oaks love to cook. We look forward to doing many more fun learning activities in the New Year!

--Arlene



Sameer is practicing his writing

