

THE MIGHTY OAK NEWSLETTER

December/January 2012



''Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns grow''

SNOW CLOSING POLICY

Our snow policy is located on our website. We do not follow MCPS or the Federal Government. We follow the MCPS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. We have create a sheet that explains what will happen if it snows. Please read over the policy and if you have any questions please let us know.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Little Acorns has a great website with lots of wonderful information, including important forms you can download such as our medication order form and vacation forms. We have also added staff bios. Please check out our website at 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 26: CENTER CLOSED
- Jan. 2: CENTER CLOSED
- Jan. 13: PAJAMA DAY
- Jan. 16: CENTER CLOSED
- Jan. 23: MCPS CLOSED
- Feb. 20: CENTER CLOSED

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 throughout the year you can schedule a time to do so.



Lila Loves To Help Us Cook



Yes mommy, I am having so much fun at Little Acorns!



LITTLEST ACORNS NEWS

Winter greetings from the baby room! We have been staying warm and snuggly with the babies. As always, there are many new and exciting changes happening. Emily is graduating to the Sprouts group. Although we are sad to see her go, she has been having a great time with her new classmates. We would like to welcome our new friend Kailey to our room. We are very excited to get to know her! Alec is scooting all over the place. He makes his way around the room very quickly and it's fun to watch. Juliet is getting so close to crawling. She is working hard every day and she will be crawling around the room in no time. Evelyn is sitting up perfectly and practices her tummy time every day. She loves to stand with help from her teachers. Sophia is rolling everywhere! She loves to kick her legs, she is starting to sit up too! Zach has been working hard on tummy time and sitting up. All the babies have been enjoying stories and songs and even going outside when its not too cold. So please remember the warm coats, hats, and mittens!

--Stephanie, Courtney & Amber



SPROUTS GROUP NEWS

Thanks to all of our parents for your help and generosity in making our Thanksgiving Feast a great success. The Sprouts really enjoyed it! December's theme is Transportation, the Sprouts are loving this theme. The Sprouts got to learn some new songs and real hands on experience on the different kinds of transportation that are displayed in the classroom. One of their favorite songs is "The Wheels on the Bus". January's theme is "snow and

winter.” We will be singing about winter and snow, reading books and doing art projects around the theme.

Our Sprouts are developing so quickly. Samantha is always moving her body to the sound of music, she loves to do her art projects, and loves to read. Liam loves to play with legos, read books, enjoys art projects, and loves to build towers with blocks. Alix loves to read books, helps to clean up toys and enjoys art projects. George loves to play outside with the balls, bikes and enjoys reading, Colten loves to play in the sand box, play on the bikes and enjoys playing on the rocking boat. We have a new friend, Samara who is adjusting very well to the routine. Please remember to bring the appropriate clothing and snow attire for going outside.

--Ms. Rahman, Norma & Jannelle

SEEDLINGS GROUP NEWS



Winter is around the corner and the cold days are already here. Seedlings have been working on learning and recognizing our numbers, letters, shapes and colors. We have a fabulous circle time that includes songs in Spanish and English. We identify our letters, colors, shapes and numbers each day for the entire week. The children are really getting good at counting in Spanish. All the children participate nicely and love to hear the song that has their name in it. Seedlings have been very interested in cooking lately. We have started incorporating a cooking/tasting project each week. They love to pour in the “ingredients” and of course to taste the final project. When we can we are actually making the afternoon snack for that day. This activity is so great because not only is it full of fun and tastes great but it helps them with math concepts, science concepts and fine motor skills. In December we welcomed Charlotte H. and as we move into January we will welcome George T. from the sprouts and Ashley K.

--Ericka, Dora & Tamisha



SAPLING GROUP NEWS

December came upon us fast and along with it some weird weather. We have been working with small groups in the saplings and helping our friends to interact nicely with one another. Our circle time routine has become a great language arts routine for the children. They all participate in some way, whether it is with the calendar, the weather reporter or just by having their name sung in the hello song. They all seem to be increasing their attention span and enjoying fun songs and stories that tie into our weekly letter and number theme.

Cooking, cooking, cooking. This is one of our Saplings favorite activities. We have and will continue to explore different science activities through cooking projects and other fun science experiments. We are hopeful that we see some snow soon so we can experiment with the cold white fluffy stuff.

In January we will make some winter crafts and play more sharing and friendship games. We will also start working on the letters **O-R**, numbers **13-15**, 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.

-- Michelle, Noha & Marie-Therese



COLTEN LOVES TO READ



OAK TREE GROUP NEWS

The Oak Trees day starts with circle time fun. We read a story to the children are asked many open ended questions to get their brains some morning exercise. We also sing some songs in English and then French and do some stretching exercises. Once we are finished with our calendar we pick a child “weather man/woman ____ (fill in child’s name)” to help us determine the weather outside. We then dress our little weather guy Joe in the appropriate clothing for the outside weather. The children love to be the weather man/woman. The children have been working hard on their writing. One of the main focuses we have been working on is getting each child to hold the pencil correctly. They are all very proud of their progress. Come see our writing wall!! We have been building on our language skills by having the children tell short stories to the group or to a friend. They are not shy!! They love to tell the group something fun, interesting or new they have discovered.

As most of you have probably noticed the children LOVE to use the iron beads. This has become a huge favorite of the class. The children are developing such amazing fine motor skills. Another class favorite has been cooking. Thanksgiving got us in the cooking spirit and we have continued as we saw how much the children enjoyed it. Measuring, pouring, stirring, smelling and even tasting has been great science, math and sensory work.

As we move into the New Year we are so excited to welcome Miss Nicole back to our class. We have missed her very much and look very forward to her instruction and to meet her new baby too!!

--Haoua, Michelle & Marie-Therese



MIGHTY OAKS GROUP NEWS

The Mighty Oaks have been very busy helping the younger children with projects and playing games with them. They really enjoy reading stories to the Oak Trees class. The Mighty Oaks love to cook. We look forward to doing many more fun learning activities in the New Year!

--Katie & Marina