



### Upcoming Events

**Holiday Break**  
**December 23, 2016**  
**through**  
**January 8, 2017**

### Kid Quotes

Giada: "My dad doesn't have a belly button."

Paige: "Where did it go?"

Giada: "I think the gunny wolf got it."

Alexander: "Impossible means you probably can't do it. Highly impossible means you can never ever, ever do it."

### Letter From the Teachers,

Greetings Families,

The buzz of preschool activity seems to start as soon as kids enter the coat room each morning. December at preschool has filled the classroom with baking (bread and gingerbread); writing and constructing cards; creating a small gift; setting track for the train; and cutting snowflakes. Building a variety of structures, holding tea parties for lost kittens, and taking boat rides while reading books, have been some of the action in the climbing room. Outdoors, we've all enjoyed the new play medium of snow. It is all good!

Since beginning this position in the late fall, it genuinely has been a pleasure becoming part of this learning community. The culture and history of the preschool is so rich with the best of early childhood education and practices, that is lovely to be part of this methodology. During these weeks, your children have changed for me, from at first being just names and faces, to now knowing them a bit more and delighting in their individual character. I'm looking forward to more learning adventures with them in the new year.

Speaking for all of us, we wish you a holiday season filled with just the right mix of creating family memories, and your own moments of rest and refreshment.

Linda Trousil

#### LOOKING BACK

Pie Sale, Snow, Gingerbread

#### LOOKING FORWARD

Winter Break, Snow, Fire Station Visit

## COATROOM CHAOS

Our recent and very welcome spell of cold weather has resulted in lots of fun on the play yard and lots of chaos in the coatroom. A roomful of excited kids getting ready to go outside is never going to be calm and quiet but over the years we've learned a few tips to make it a bit more bearable.

—Get yourself ready first. Once you've waded into that pile of kids, coats, boots, hats and mittens, it's going to be awhile before you can come up for air.

\_\_Stay calm even though the room is not calm. Talk quietly to one child at a time.

\_\_When children approach you for help, ask them what parts of getting ready they can do themselves and ask them to do them. Remind them of order of operations: snow pants before boots, coat before mittens, etc.

\_\_Once a child is dressed and ready, he/she should sit on the bench. As soon as four or five children are ready, lead them outside.

\_\_If any particular child is having a hard time or being uncooperative, ask a teacher to work with them.

\_\_Please talk to your child in the morning about the gear you expect them to wear and show them where all the pieces are. We don't have time to root through backpacks looking for hats and mittens. Unpack them and show your child where you're putting them.

\_\_Practice putting outside gear on at home with your child. Reinforce the idea that even though it's tempting to be silly in the coatroom, they'll have more time to play outside if they get their gear on as quickly as possible.

\_\_Label everything.

\_\_We have hats, mittens, coats, boots and rain gear available to borrow. It's best to select it in the morning and make sure your child understands they won't be wearing their own gear when they go outside.

\_\_Some children are completely overstimulated in the coatroom. If possible, collect their gear and take them to a quieter place to get ready.

—Be aware of numbers and adult/child ratios. If you're in the classroom with one or two children who are lingering over snack, it's a good bet that the other adults are overwhelmed.

Following the practices above helps but will not eliminate the chaos. Transitions are hard for young children and group transitions are even more difficult. And before you ask, yes, we've tried limiting the number of kids in the coatroom at one time. Unfortunately it just relocates the chaos to the classroom and the hallway where it is even more difficult to keep in check. We're open to ideas, tips, or tricks you may want to share. In general though, it seems best to accept that it's going to be challenging, stay calm, and get children dressed and outside as quickly as possible.

Many Thanks,

Your Teachers

## Fun With Music!

In case you're looking to have a little fun with music, your child might enjoy this interactive song, which Sandy Fortier (Nora's mom) sang with the Tuesday/Thursday class:

A YouTube version is available at: <http://freesongsforkids.com/videos/stand-sit-down-action-song>

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### STAND UP, SIT DOWN

There once was a troll  
Who guarded a bridge  
wouldn't let you pass  
Until you did what he said  
And His special request  
went something like this  
Stand up, Turn around and sit down

Stand up  
Sit Down  
Stand up  
Turn around  
And now  
Sit down  
Stand up  
Turn around  
Sit Down

Repeats and gets faster...

THANK YOU \* DANKE \* GRACIAS \*  
MERCI \* GUNALCHEESH \* TAKK \*  
SALAMAT \* KOSZONOM

### *Many thanks this month to:*

Naomi Travis (Chloe's mom), for a great job on the pie sale.

Our community of pie makers. You made it our most successful pie sale yet.

Fred Meyer for pie box donation.

Foodland IGA for hosting our pie sale.

Sion Songer (Rilyn's mom) for turning the climbing room into a kid-friendly hair salon.

Traci Goetz, Rachel Brown, Naomi Travis, and Erin Bogert for gingerbread dough in each class.

Danielle Lillard (Cordy's mom), Erin Bogert (Sigrid's mom), and DeAnna Ewing (Penelope's mom) for their work on the December movie.

Everyone who baked treats for the December movie.

Colette Costa for allowing us to show our movie at The Goldtown.

Rhonda Gardinier, (alumni teacher) for setting up a photo booth and taking photos.