

Friends Child Care Center

January 2012



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Dear Parents,

"Tis the season to be S.A.D.??? Absolutely not! Shorter days, longer nights and colder weather don't have to turn your family into couch potatoes during the winter months; nor does it have to overtake you with colds, flu and viruses. Respiratory ailments, especially viruses like the flu are prevalent because people tend to stay indoors more and thus are exposed to more airborne germs. What can remedy all of this? Conscientious efforts to get outdoors for play and recreation along with frequent hand washing and healthy eating will help to keep you and your children happy and healthy during the winter months. Sunlight and exercise are great mood lifters so when things get a little tense, grab the coats, hats, gloves and scarves and take a family walk, visit the neighborhood park/playground and have some fun in the great outdoors! Please also keep in mind that at school, children will go outdoors almost every day as long as there is no precipitation, the air quality is good and the temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold. In the winter months, please make sure your infant through preschool age child(ren) has appropriate clothing for outdoor play. Hats, gloves/mittens and heavy coats are necessary. If you are willing to donate spare mittens/gloves or hats, we would appreciate them greatly.

FCCC is well on its way to earning STAR 3 in the Keystone STARS program and making significant strides in United Ways Success by 6 Program! We underwent our 1st Environmental Rating Scale assessment by a team from Saint Josephs University. The observation visit ran about 4 hours as 1 of 3 assessors was assigned to 1 preschool and 2 infant/toddler classrooms, The center's overall score was 4.18 out of 7.0 which is very good for a first run! The second assessment will take place once we are at the end of our SB6 contract and/or Todd Hopkins (STARS specialist) feels we are ready for STAR 3 designation. Areas rated included:

Space & Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Language & Reasoning & Activities, Interaction, Program Structure and Parents & Staff.

A grant from the United Way in the amount of \$10,000 was approved and will be used for purchasing furnishings, learning materials and equipment. Teachers have been working with Peg SZCZURECK (SB6 mentor) on room arrangement and learning centers. Many of you may have noticed changes in the arrangement of classroom furnishings or the addition of new centers or materials made accessible to your children. Feel free to question your teachers about SuccessBy6 and program or environmental changes. We would love to hear your feedback as we reach higher levels of continuous quality improvement.



We are preparing to do a small transition for a few children at the end of this month. Our preschool is rather full (all smiles) so we will seek to meet the needs of children who are developmentally prepared and waiting to move; as well as the needs of families waiting for additional days. We don't anticipate bringing in any new families at this time with the exception of the Care Bear classroom. If your child will be moving up at the end of this month, your classroom teacher will verbally inform you of the anticipated transition (if they have not done so already) and a transition letter with the details will be provided from me as follow up.

The Joe Corbi's Pizza fundraiser begins today at our school. Each year, we successfully raise somewhere in the area of \$1500-\$2000 in this event. These funds help support ongoing programs and events throughout the year including dance, music and Spanish classes (which will resume this month) and other social activities like the holiday potluck we all enjoyed so much in December. We value your support and participation,

Rachel O'Neal Coats

FCCC Director

Dear Parents,

A simple, yet heartfelt "thank you" for the kind, considerate way you always remember us during the holiday season. The opportunity to be part of your children's lives is both a rewarding and inspiring job. The generosity of your holiday gift along with the faith you share in our abilities, touches us deeply. Again, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. Best wishes for 2012.

Sincerely,

Teachers of Friends Child Care Center

Care Bears



Happy New Year!!! The Care Bears would like to wish you a happy and prosperous new year. We are getting ready for a lot of new things. There will be some more room arrangement changes made over the next couple weeks that will address the changing developmental needs of our group. We flipped the placement of cribs and play space so that our growing group of babies who are now able to move independently around the room (scooting/crawling) will have more toys and activities accessible in a larger space. In addition, primary caregivers will be sharing weekly activity plans with you that address your child's developmental needs.

We would like to thank the families that were able to make it to our annual potluck, it truly was a success. We would also like to thank our parents and Alice Ryan for our Christmas bonus this year. We are truly grateful!!

Markita, Toni, Bobbie, Robin, Kyra & Nathalie

Bear Cubs



The Bear Cubs theme for January is It's Cold Outside & Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will work on projects dealing with the cold weather. Snow, ice, cold air, wind and what kind of clothes we should wear outside. The Bear Cubs will also discover that snow is cold, ice is cold, water turns into ice and ice turns into water. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, we will practice being nice to our friends, sharing, taking turns and using gentle hands when we are touching our friends.

The Bear Cub staff would like to thank all of the parents for their generous holiday gift. It was greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy New Year!

Michelle, Linda & Erika



Happy New Year! As we wave goodbye to 2011 we look ahead to a fantastic new year in the Cuddle Cubs classroom. First, we would like to take a moment to thank all of the parents for their generosity, kindness and spirit, not solely during the holiday season but throughout the entire year. The Cuddle Cub teachers appreciate your thoughtfulness, gifts, time and good nature wholeheartedly.

January is going to be a busy month for the Cuddle Cubs, although we hope that it isn't too frigid to spend some quality time outside, we will be embarking on many themed arts and craft projects. Did you know that January is national hobby month, hot tea month, national oatmeal month and national soup month? In honor of these unique celebrations, we will be coming up with some very crafty projects to celebrate, so make some room on that ol' refrigerator door for fun new works of Cuddle Cub art.

Weather permitting we will also take our monthly walks to the Library and Love Park.

Warm birthday wishes go out to Benjamin on January 1!

It's going to be a great month and an even better year. Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012!



The Puddle Jumpers' theme for January is "People and Animals in Winter". We will look at how people and animals such as bears, squirrels, birds, pets and some farm animals get food and stay warm in the winter. We will explore the concepts of migration and hibernation.

Activities for the month will include Art, Language, Science, Math and Cooking.

Art activities will include painting snow scene, making tracks, ripping paper to create a snow storm, cutting out snowflakes,

Language activities will include the using the flannel board to dress people for the cold weather and telling "cold" stories, talking about the weather, discussing ways people and animals stay warm when it's cold.

Science activities will include burying and sorting nuts (cut outs of different nuts), exploring the Arctic, making snowballs and snow people and observing a melting snowball and looking for tracks (animal or people) in the snow.

Math activities will include sorting and grouping by size and shape, looking at temperature by the numbers and measuring snow fall.

Cooking activities will include making warm cocoa, s'mores, chicken noodle soup, hot dogs and beans, tomato soup and grilled cheese, baking an apple pie and a 'blonde' brownie and pretending to toast marshmallows.

On Tuesday January 31, 2012, we will have a camp day. Please have your child bring in camping supplies (sleeping bag, flashlight and a pretend flask (non-spill sip cup or water bottle). The

We will also take short walks and play outdoors when it's not too cold or wet. Please be sure your child is appropriately dressed. They should have winter coats, boots, mittens or gloves, hats and scarves.

We would like to thank all of the parents for their thoughtful gifts and kind words of appreciation. It meant a lot all of us. We appreciate the help and support you give in helping us with the growth and development your children.



Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. The Quad's and Triangles are geared up for our theme, "Getting a Fresh Start." We will be focusing on creative winter projects as well. In addition, we will continue to work on our letter of the week and number recognition. The Triangles and Quad's will practice writing small words, and enter into the beginning stages of reading. Also, you can expect to see us doing science experiments involving snow and ice. Show and Tell will still occur each week. We are excited to reunite with our fourth grade Book Buddies at Friends Select this month.

The Preschool staff would like to thank all of the families who contributed towards our holiday gift. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

All of us are geared up for 2012, and excited to see all of the awesome things that are in store for the Triangles and Quads!

Susan, Missy, Teresa, Bjay, Shadae & Jamal



Friends Childcare Center

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Phone:

Office	(215) 241-7011 7108
Care Bears	(215) 241-7013
Bear Cubs	(215) 241-7012
Cuddle Cubs	(215) 241-7027
Puddle Jumpers	(215) 241-7007
Triangles	(215) 241-7012
Quads	(215) 241-7012

E-mail:

fccdirector@friendschildcare.org
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www.friendschildcare.org

Our Happy Family:

Markita, Bobbie, Kyra, Nathalie, Toni
Michelle, Linda, Erika
Shannon, Barbara, Laura, Lea, Vickie
Cordella, Erica, Grace, Meghan
Teresa, Susan, Missy, Bjay, Shadae, Jamal
Raechel, Susan, Eileen
Subs: Robin Bell, Gail Centola, Lameika Headen



Reminders & Announcements

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- ❖ Every Wednesday is pizza day.
- ❖ Check children's mail slots every day.
- ❖ FCCC Website is www.friendschildcare.org, Username: FCCCparent, Password: letmein
Please visit our website to download forms, check upcoming calendar events and look at archived & current newsletters.
- ❖ Friends Child Care Center is now on Facebook. Check us out for upcoming Fundraising Events.
❖ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Child-Care-Center/197767671575>
- ❖ Resource Library: CHECK IT OUT at www.librarything.com, Username: FCCC, Password: 1501Cherry
- ❖ The Following Classrooms are Nut-Free Zones: PUDDLE JUMPERS, TRIANGLES & QUADS.
- ❖ The CARE BEAR Room is a Shell Fish/Fish Free Zone.
- ❖ Holiday Closings: January 16, 2012 for MLK Day.
- ❖ Joe Corbi's Fundraiser: Begins January 3, 2012; Orders due January 23, 2012; Delivery on Feb. 3, 2012.
- ❖ PNO: February 17th. 'It's a Pajama Jam'
- ❖ Remember to show ID cards upon entrance to the building or stop and sign in if you don't have your card. This is an important security measure for the safety of our children.
- ❖ Parking on Cherry is permitted for vehicles that display placards with flashers on. Please do not park on the corner to allow room for vehicles to turn safely.



Upcoming PNOs:

4/20 'Things are Springing up all over...'

6/15 'Movie Night'

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO FRIENDS CHILD CARE CENTER!

