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# FCCC NEWSLETTER

Play to Learn, Learn to Love

DECEMBER 2014

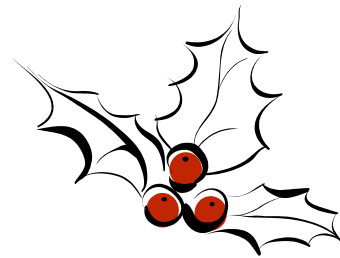
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## Director's News

December is traditionally a month of religious and cultural celebrations representative of our FCCC community and families. Classroom curriculums will reflect and celebrate this diversity through music, songs, storytelling, foods and art. Visits to the light show at Macy's and to Reading Terminal to see holiday trains and lights are common occurrences for classrooms of all ages. Let's not forget the giant menorah in Independence Hall. Teachers will let you

know in advance when they plan to visit these sights and there may be spontaneous trips as well. Please make sure that children arrive to school no later than 9:30am and please call if you will be arriving later. We don't want anyone to miss out or be disappointed arriving to empty classrooms. :(

I hope this season of giving, receiving and being thankful is rewarding to all. Along with all the celebration comes shopping, visits with loved ones and much over stimulation to our little ones



(adults too!) with all the festivities. Be mindful to stop and listen to your child when he or she is expressing fatigue or stress. Most things can wait. Young children have limited self-regulation skills and rely on grownups to help them identify their emotions and develop skills for coping. This is done by grownups showing empathy and being responsive to needs. Remaining calm, speaking in softer tones, explaining actions, giving ample

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## Care Bear News

Winter is coming!! Or is it already here? It's a new month and the Care Bears are ready to learn new things. They all are growing and developing so well. It truly amazes me to see how far they have all come. With the weather being so chilly, we are still asking parents to bring in weather permitting clothes. The children can still go outside to play in the courtyard, and we are still able to go for walks. We want to take advantage of the times that we can get out. With the holidays approaching, we will be able to go on walks to see all

of the different light shows and the holiday village. If you would like to join us for the light show visits, please let one of the staff members know. We will inform you ahead of time which days would be best for us to go.

As the children are growing their environment had to grow with them. Last month, we changed our room arrangement around and our Care Bears truly love it. What a difference a little change can make. Transition time is coming, and there is a letter placed in the children's mail slot.

Germs are everywhere and they will not go anywhere if we do not kill them properly. Thank you to all the parents who remember to wash their hands and their child/ren's hands upon drop off and pickup. It is very important that we remember to wash our hands before we enter the refrigerator as well. Again thank you for your cooperation.

Happy birthday!!

Nolan December 11th

Foster December 14th

Wish list. All size batteries. :)

## Bear Cub News

Happy Holidays !

The Bear Cubs' theme for December is "The Spirit of the Season". During the month of December, the Bear Cubs will be working on projects celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. We will make lots of decorations such as Christmas trees, or-



naments, stockings, wreaths, menorahs, dreidels, star of David, etc. We will read holiday books, listen to holiday music and there will be lots of singing and dancing. Aside from this, we will make special presents for mommy and daddy, and we will also go to see the light shows at Macy's and the Comcast Building.

The staff to say



Bear Cubs would like to thank you to all the parents for their contributions to our potluck in November.

Reminder: FCCC is closed the following days, December 24th, 25th and January 1st.

Have a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

## Cuddle Cub News

This is my wish for you:  
peace of mind, prosperity  
through the year, happiness  
that multiplies, health for  
you and yours, fun around  
every corner, energy to  
chase your dreams, joy to  
fill your holidays!

-- D.M. Dellinger

Tis' the season for togeth-  
erness and fun in Cuddle  
Cub land!

We will be taking walking  
trips to the Macy's light  
show, as well as the Comcast  
Center before the weather  
outside gets too frightful.  
If you thought our Fall-  
themed crafts were neat,  
you haven't seen anything  
yet! The Cuddle Cubs will be  
embarking on a slew of  
Christmas, Hanukkah and  
winter wonderland-themed  
craft and art projects. We  
will also be hard at work  
putting together a very

special holiday gift for all of  
our mommies and daddies.

The month of December is  
all about celebration, and we  
will be reading books, singing  
songs and participating in ac-  
tivities that pay homage to  
all of the many traditions of  
various cultures around the  
world.

If you have any special  
songs, games, traditions or  
books, please feel free to  
share them with us so that  
we can incorporate them into  
our daily activities through-  
out the month.

Birthdays:

Jace 12/18

Hazel 12/28

Teacher Shannon 12/28.

Happy birthday, Jace, Hazel  
and Shannon!

Reminders:

Please let us know what  
dates your child will be out  
during the holidays.

Please don't forget that the  
center-wide Holiday Potluck  
is December 18 in the Cher-  
ry Street room from 5-  
7:00pm.

We wish you and your family  
a happy  
and  
healthy  
holiday  
season!



## Puddle Jumper News

December is a celebration of lights. Throughout the month, the Puddle Jumpers will listen to stories, create artwork and make edible foods. They will look at how people celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. We'll take walks around town to look at different holiday displays. We'll walk to Reading Terminal, LOVE park, Penn Center, 1234 Market Street, The Gallery Mall and Macy's. Please be sure to dress your child warmly.

Our main activities for the month will include art, cooking, language and math.

## Triangle News

"The spirit of the season" is the theme for the month of December. Please feel free to share books, music, and traditions observed in your family throughout the holiday season .

We will learn about numerous celebrations this month such as Hanukkah , Christmas , and Kwanzaa. We will decorate our classroom with menorahs, Christmas trees, and Kinaras, as we learn the importance of each celebration. In addition, the pre-schoolers will visit Macy's to check out the annual light

**Art activities** will include making construction paper Hanukkah Menorahs, Kwanzaa Kinaras and Christmas trees, weaving mats, gluing and painting popsicle stick Star of Davids and making pine cone ornaments. We'll also use different color paints to create holiday scenes.

**Cooking activities** will include making potato latkes for Hanukkah, Christmas-theme cookies and homemade cinnamon apple sauce will be made to represent Christmas. Jollof Rice will be made for Kwanzaa. We will make other food and drinks, as well.

**Language arts** will include learning new songs that relate to the

show, as well as walk to the Comcast building and view the holiday show on the big screen.

We will also continue to focus on the alphabet, and strengthening our fine and gross motor skills, while engaging in a variety of structural activities.

FCCC will be holding a food drive for the month of December. We will be collecting non-perishable food items until December 31st to be donated to Philabundance. Your

upcoming holidays, listening to stories and recalling information and following multiple instructions. We will also look at the colors associated with each holiday.

**Math activities** will include counting candles on the Menorah and the Kinara, counting the number of days each holiday is celebrated, looking at some objects relating to each holiday and their shapes, sorting and grouping objects for each holiday and counting the number of colors relating to each holiday. We will also measure ingredients in the many food dishes we'll make.



generosity will be appreciated.

\*Reminder trips:

Click Clack Moo -12-3-14

Hansel & Gretel -12-12-14

\*BIRTHDAYS

Ameenah- 12/26

## Quad News

The holiday season is finally upon us and the Quads are already in the spirit! The theme for the month of December is Winter Celebrations! We will focus on learning about the meaning of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. For Hanukkah, we will have the opportunity to create dreidels, a menorah, and a hand print wreath. When it comes to Christmas, we will be able to make a Christmas tree, reindeer, and an angel. To incorporate Kwanzaa in the class, the Quads will create a kinara, colorful place mat, and decorations for the room. As winter approaches, we will be decorating the room with a variety of paper snowflakes, snowmen, and gingerbread men. In addition, the Quads will travel by foot around the neighborhood to check out the beautiful holiday displays. We will make our way to see the Light Show and walk through Dickens' Village at Macy's. Also, the Quads will stroll through Christmas Village at Love Park and capture the amazing film on the wall at the Comcast Center. We are looking forward to see-

ing the performance of "Click, Clack, Moo" at the Irvine Auditorium on December 3rd, along with "Hansel and Gretel" at the New Freedom Theatre on December 12th. This will be a lot of fun!

Goals for the month include:

- Letter Recognition (H-J)
- Practice writing letters H-J
- Sorting and Counting winter items
- Practice cutting
- Begin to add a variety of items
- Writing words relating to the various celebrations
- Practice reading sight words
- Practice number recognition up to 30.

Reminders: Please have your child bring in objects that focus on the letter of the week for Show and Tell.

(Dec. 3rd and 4th- Letter H, Dec. 10th and 11th- Letter I, Dec 17th and 18th- Letter J) The weeks of December 22nd and 29th will be a

review of the previous letters A-J.

-Thursday, December 18th is our Family Holiday Potluck.

- FCCC will be closed on December 24th and 25th.

-Please make sure that your child has weather appropriate clothing in his/her cubby.

-If you could please let us know ahead of time if your child will be out during the holiday season, it would be greatly appreciated. This is so we can properly staff classrooms.

WISHING EVERYONE HAS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY!



## What did I learn in school today?

The Quads created their own fruit or vegetable salad in honor of our November theme, Nutrition. We were able to cut out what fruits and/or vegetables we wanted using construction paper. Then, we wrote what some of the yummy food items were. We did an amazing job using our fine motor skills!





## Upcoming Events

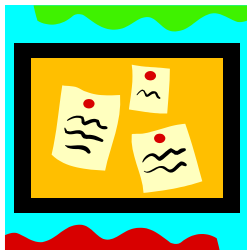
- ◇ **Preschool Theater Trips:** Click Clack Moo on 12/3 and Hansel & Gretel on 12/12.
- ◇ **PNO: Night at the Movies** on 12/12
- ◇ **Family Holiday Pot Luck:** on 12/18 from 5-7:00pm in the Cherry Street Room.
- ◇ **Food Drive:** through December 31st to be donated to Philabundance.



## School Closings:

- Wednesday, December 24 & Friday, December 25 for Christmas Holiday
- Thursday, January 1, for New Year's Day

## Announcements & Reminders



Every Wednesday is **pizza day**.

°Check children's mail slots

every day.

°Friends Child Care Center is on **Facebook**. Check us out for upcoming Fundraising Events.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Child-Care-Center/197767671575>

°**Resource Library: CHECK IT OUT**

Parents and teachers are welcome to borrow books from our resource library in the B space alcove. Please complete the borrower's

form and drop it in the right side slot. Please return borrowed materials in a timely fashion, so that others have an opportunity to borrow as well. Visit [www.librarything.com](http://www.librarything.com), Username: fccc, Password: 1501cherry for a list of books in our library.

°Remember to show **ID cards** upon entering the Friends Center Lobby or stop and sign in if you don't have your card. This is an important security measure for the safety of our children. Additional ID Cards are available in the FCCC Office.

°Additional **Parking Placards** are available in the FCCC Office, 2nd Floor of the C space.

Just a reminder: There is no parking on Cherry Street. Please do not use it for drop-off and pick up.

## Director's News (Continued)

transition time between activities and taking time out to cuddle and soothe children when needed, are just a few ways we can be supportive.

There was a great article in this month's Learning Is Everywhere newsletter titled *Curbing the Gimmes*. The writer provided readers with insightful information about how to make the holidays for children more balanced and less about materialism and more about family, beliefs and values. I encourage you to follow the link and read.

[http://  
papromiseforchildren.com/  
learning-is-everywhere-  
december/?  
utm\\_source=Learning+is+Ever  
ywhere%  
3A+December+2014&utm\\_ca  
mpaign=LIEC&utm\\_medium=e  
mail](http://papromiseforchildren.com/learning-is-everywhere-december/?utm_source=Learning+is+Everywhere%3A+December+2014&utm_campaign=LIEC&utm_medium=email)

As always, we invite you to contribute to classroom curriculums and share information, books, music and foods that are holiday traditions in your family. Come and be a "special guest" in your

child's classroom for storytelling, musical activities or cooking class. Please speak to your child's teacher to make arrangements.

According to DPW regulations, all children are to go out every day, weather permitting. The Environmental Rating Scale regulates that children are expected to go outside for 1 hour daily when the forecast temperature/wind chill are above 25 degrees, the forecast temperature/heat index is less than 90 degrees, there is no precipitation falling and there is no current air quality alert. Please, dress your child accordingly for the daily weather conditions. Hats, scarves, gloves, boots, and jackets/coats with working zippers or all buttons in place are needed for fall and winter play. Thank you for helping us to allow your child to enjoy the outdoor experience!

The December holiday potluck is scheduled for December

18, 2014 from 5-6:30pm. Come join us for this fun social event that brings families, teachers and Board members together in a festive atmosphere. Sign - Up sheets will be posted in classrooms by the end of the week. I hope to see you there!

The bake sale was a tremendous success, and we collected close to \$700 in sales! A huge thank you goes out to all who baked goods, table sat or made purchases throughout the week long event.

Happy Holidays!



Raechel



# Allergy Information & Health Policy

## Classroom Allergy Alerts:

### *NUT FREE CLASSROOMS:*

CARE BEARS, CUDDLE CUBS AND  
PUDDLE JUMPERS.

### *SEAFOOD FREE CLASSROOMS:* CUDDLE CUBS

»Please be sure to check the expiration dates on your child's epipens (and all other medications). All medications should move with a child into their new classroom when they transition.

»Please be sure to wash both you and your child's hands immediately upon arrival into your child's

classroom.

## Illness Policy:

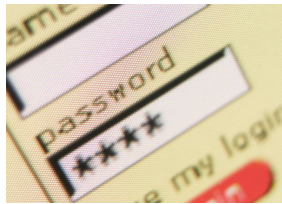
It is in the best interest of the children and staff that everyone participates in reducing the spread of illness and maintaining a healthy environment. FCCC bases its health and wellness policies in accordance with DPW Regulations and the American Academy of Pediatrics Caring for Our Children Performing Standards. Please call to inform us whenever your child will be absent due to illness. Your child may not be brought in for child care unless she/he is able to participate fully in all activities including outdoor play.

You will need a back-up plan you can use when your child is sick.

Please be alert for pre-illness symptoms such as lethargy, glassy eyes, diarrhea, fever, etc., and keep your child home if she/he seems to be coming down with something.

When a child has been diagnosed with an infectious (contagious) illness, FCCC issues an Infectious Disease alert via email to the affected classroom. If multiple cases occur throughout the Center, a center-wide notification will go out via email. The identity of the child will not be given and personal information will be kept confidential.

## FCCC Website Information



Be sure to visit our website at [www.friendschildcare.org](http://www.friendschildcare.org) to download forms, check out calendar events, and visit the classroom portal to see what is happening in your child's classroom. Parent Password is 'letmein.'

Thank you for helping to make FCCC the best it can be.

## Meet Our Staff

### Care Bears Teachers:

Markita, Toni, Erica, Kyra,  
Nathalie, Robin

### Bear Cub Teachers:

Michelle, Linda

### Cuddle Cub Teachers:

Shannon, Barbara, Lea, Vickie,  
Laura

### Puddle Jumper Teachers:

Cordella, Jeanette,



Zakayah, April

### Preschool Teachers:

Teresa, Susan, Missy, Bjay, Kiyana,  
Laura

### Floater:

Andrea Thomas

### Subs:

Gail Centola

### Administration:

Raechel, Susan, Eileen



## Fundraising at FCCC

Throughout the year, parents will be asked to support fundraising through volunteerism and participation. There are many ways in which you can be supportive.

Provide baked goods for bake sales.

Actively seek donations and company sponsorship for annual auction event.

Volunteer to be a fundraising

cheerleader for your child's classroom.

Seek to meet minimum family participation levels for small fundraisers held throughout the year.

Fundraising Events:

PNO; Bake Sales; Annual Fund Appeal, etc.

If you have any suggestions on



Fundraising ideas, please don't hesitate to let us know. Also, if you are interested in volunteering on the Fundraising Committee, please notify the office. We would love your help!

T-shirts are now available in the FCCC Office for \$12.00/each.

## Parents Night Out (PNO)

FCCC holds a semi-monthly PNO (Parents Night Out) for Parents to have a night for romance, fun or just a little time to get things done.

We provide the baby sitting service in a familiar and comfortable environment with staff that the children know, and you get to have worry-free fun with your significant other

or a fun time with friends.

Each bi-month has a theme and special activities planned for the children, along with a nutritional dinner.

This is a fundraiser for FCCC. All proceeds go to support our Child Care Center and its programs.

Upcoming PNOs:

**December 12—'Night at the Movies'**

February 13—'Pajama Jam'

April 17—'Sports Expo'

June 19—'Dress Up Surprise'



## Bake Sales

FCCC runs semi-annual bake sale fundraisers throughout the year to help offset programming costs. We look to our families to volunteer to help with these events.

Upcoming 2013-2014 Bakes Sale Schedule: weeks of

**January 12-16**

March 16-20

May 11-15

Families are asked to sign up to bake goods to be sold in the Friends Center Lobby to building tenants and visitors.

Bakes sales run from 8:00am-3:00pm daily. Please provide a list of ingredients in order to maintain safe options for all those with food allergies.

Parents are also needed to help table-

sit during these bake sales.

We appreciate your support.





# Friends CHILD CARE CENTER

*Play to learn, learn to love*

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215)241-7011 (tel)  
(215)864-6973 (fax)  
[www.friendschildcare.org](http://www.friendschildcare.org)



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## FRIENDS CHILD CARE CENTER

Office	(215) 241-7011	<a href="mailto:fcccoffice@friendschildcare.org">fcccoffice@friendschildcare.org</a>
Director	(215) 241-7108	<a href="mailto:fcccdirector@friendschildcare.org">fcccdirector@friendschildcare.org</a>
Finance	(215) 241-7011	<a href="mailto:fcccfinance@friendschildcare.org">fcccfinance@friendschildcare.org</a>
Care Bears	(215) 241-7013	<a href="mailto:carebears@friendschildcare.org">carebears@friendschildcare.org</a>
Bear Cubs	(215) 241-7012	<a href="mailto:bearcubs@friendschildcare.org">bearcubs@friendschildcare.org</a>
Cuddle Cubs	(215) 241-7027	<a href="mailto:cuddlecubs@friendschildcare.org">cuddlecubs@friendschildcare.org</a>
Puddle Jumpers	(215) 241-7007	<a href="mailto:puddlejumper@friendschildcare.org">puddlejumper@friendschildcare.org</a>
Triangles	(215) 241-7012	<a href="mailto:triangles@friendschildcare.org">triangles@friendschildcare.org</a>
Quads	(215) 241-7012	<a href="mailto:quads@friendschildcare.org">quads@friendschildcare.org</a>