



Busy Bees/Fireflies Monthly Newsletter
December, 2010



The Busy Bees and Fireflies

We all had a great time at the Thanksgiving party. The children sang very well and the food tasted delicious. Thank you for all of the ways that you helped make this event such a success.

In December, we're looking forward to another fun event. Please save the date for our annual Holiday Faire on December 4th. You may sign up in the office to reserve your spots with Santa Claus and to decorate a gingerbread house or two! We look forward to seeing you there!

The Busy Bees

Busy Bees Themes: Winter Activities, Conflict Negotiation, Music, Christmas

Busy Bees' Special Announcements

- We would like to gently remind all parents to pick up your children according to your scheduled contract times. Also, please make sure to help your children wash their hands each morning to prevent the spread of germs in the classroom.
- In addition, we will be holding Parent-Teacher conferences in December and will give you more details as the time gets closer.

Activity Highlight

A Snow Party

We will use ice to create snow. The children will get to taste and feel the ice and will also be able to put different colors of juice in it. They will then make

observations about how the different juices change the color of the ice. In addition, they will have the opportunity to create their very own snowmen using the ice.

When we're done making our snowmen, we will display them and compare their sizes. We will line them up from largest to smallest, and then from smallest to largest. We will also use a timer to test whose snow will melt the fastest, and whose snow man will last the longest. The Busy Bees will then say goodbye to their snowmen before they melt into puddles.

The Fireflies

Fireflies Themes: My Family and Relatives, Musical Instruments, Christmas, New Year

The Fireflies Gentle Reminder

- Parents, please help your children to wash their hands before coming into the classroom. Thank you.

Activity Highlight

Hand Print ChristmasTree

For Christmas, the Fireflies will be making a hand print Christmas tree using green paint and a variety of decorations. This project will help the children learn to work with others by sharing materials and thinking together about how to decorate a large Christmas tree. Also, the children will feel the different textures of the paint and brush as they paint their hands green. They will also work on shape recognition as they notice the shape of the Christmas tree and ornaments.

Mark your Calendars:

12/02 Library (Story)
12/04 Wah Mei Holiday Faire (Saturday 10-3)
12/07 Fireflies Field Trip to Zeum
12/09 Library (Preschool Storytime)
12/15 Fireflies Sharing Day
12/16 Library (Preschool Films)
12/16 Jasmin's Birthday (FF)
12/24 Christmas Holiday-School Closed
12/30 Library (Lee Weiss Singer and Guitarist)
12/30 Cot Cleaning (take blankets & sheets home)
12/31 New Year's Eve (School Closed)
***12/27-12/31 Winter Break for Half Day Students**

.....Chan Sin Saang, Ms. Queena, Ms. Esther, Ms. Betty, Tan Sin Saang

Director's Corner

Dear Parents,

Please join us for all the fun activities at **Holiday Faire** on December 4th. Santa Claus is waiting for your children. How about taking a family picture? Enjoy the gingerbread house decorating and delicious meals.

It's time for parent-teacher conferences. Our teachers would like to share with you about your children's growth and development in all developmental areas using the DRDP assessment tool. Please read the article below and be prepared.

Sincerely yours,

Diana Jung
Director

Are You Ready for Parent-Teacher Conference?

The goal of the conferences is to help your children have a wonderful school year. It's the time that you can sit down with the teachers and discuss your child's strengths and needs. Here are some tips on making the most of the conference.

1. **Be on time.** Conference time is short. Usually teachers schedule back to back meeting time with different parents. A delay of one meeting may affect all the rest.
2. **Prepare ahead of time** the questions you want to ask. Write down all the questions you have, in case you get sidetracked.
3. **Have positive attitude.** If some of the teachers' comments are not encouraging or not what you have expected, try to get more specific information and ask how all of us can do to make a plan for improvement.
4. **Tell the teachers** how the child feels about the school, the teachers, his/her classmates, what h/she has been telling you at home. Give the teachers positive feedback so as to encourage the teachers to do more of the same.
5. If you want to help the teacher better understand the child's behaviors, you may **share with them** some of the personal or family stress you have. Try not to give details, but only general information.
6. If **something is not clear** to you, ask the teachers to explain it again.
7. Ask teachers about **the overall development** of the child, his/her cognitive, language, fine motor, gross motor, social/emotional, self-help skills. Check the child's portfolio to see the child's progress and learning patterns.
8. Ask the teacher **what you can do at home** to complement or reinforce what is learned in the classroom.
9. If it will help, **takes notes** during the conference.
10. If you think you **need more time** or would like to schedule another meeting, don't hesitate to ask the teachers. We are always available.

Hope you have a great conference!