

Early Childhood Center Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

December 2023



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians:

December is a month to give thanks, spread joy, and embrace love from family and friends. This has been a rewarding and growth mindset year. As we end 2023, I would like to thank you for your commitment to the Early Childhood Center and our mission to provide a quality educational environment for all children. The success we have experienced since the opening of the school year is due to great parents/guardians and families like you. Our students and staff have accomplished a lot during the first few months of school. Professional development helped teachers build a supportive environment where children can effectively engage in a wide range of rigorous, content-rich activities. While the youngest learners of Dolton West proved that they are resilient, and eager to begin their educational journey. As you know, our Winter Break extends from Monday December 25th through January 5th. This is a wonderful time of year, but as adults scurry around preparing for the excitement of the holidays, children can feel the stress and exhaustion brought on by this busyness. The holidays are good times for story telling around the dinner table or routines like bedtime reading that cultivate connections between home and school expectations. Preschoolers do best with regular schedules, and I encourage you to prepare for their return to school on Monday, January 8th, 2023, by instilling in them an understanding about the importance of being rested and ready to learn. Please be safe as you travel this month. I wish you a safe, restful winter break and a very happy new year!

Your partner in education,

Angel Powell-Muldrow

Principal
Early Childhood Center at Harriet Tubman School

Calendar of Events

Friday 12/8/23

Students Dismissed @ 12 p.m.

HALF DAY (SIP Day)

Thursday 12/14/23

Preschool Screenings @ ECC

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

NO School

Christmas / Winter Break

Mon DEC 25, 2023 - Fri JAN 5, 2024

Tuesday 12/19/23

Board Meeting

@ 6:00 p.m.



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Mrs. Falls & Mrs. Usher – Room 101 (Butterflies)

New Study: Lights

We are going to be exploring different ways to use lights.

We are adding lights to our family tree.



A friendly reminder:

It's time to change our clothing in our lockers to keep up with the changing weather. Please add a full set of extra clothing that fit. We are planning to do a lot of messy, fun work!



Ms. Rountree & Ms. Lechuga - Room 104 (Shining Stars)

It is hard to believe that the year is almost over. We are going to start a new study in December about lights. We will include in our study math, literacy, social emotional development, and more. Remember to practice letters and numbers daily. Also talk with your child about how they are feeling. Thanks, parents, for all that you do we could not do it without you, especially now.

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Ms. McGrew & Mrs. Nelson-Brown – Room 106 (Crayon's)

Support Student Learning @ Home

As a parent, you can do your part at home to reinforce this important family-school partnership. To help prepare your children for school readiness to stay on track and expand their learning opportunities:

- Talk each day with your child about their day
- Promote literacy by reading to your child daily
- Participate in decisions that affect your child's education
- Limit and monitor screen time (TV, Video Games, Devices)
- Tap into community resources (ex: the library, museum, zoo)
- Express high expectations and standards for your child's learning
- Set up a daily family routine (ex healthy eating & sleeping habits)
- Attend parent-teacher conferences, Open House, and other events

Engaged parents are a key factor in helping students and schools succeed. With families, schools and communities working together as partners, student achievement is enhanced, and children are better prepared to do well in school.



Ms. Ruffin & Mrs. Thomas – Room 107 (Busy Bees)

This month we will investigate Lights. We will explore what we know/what we want to learn about lights, what objects make lights, how do we use lights, what happens when we block light, and much more! In addition to the theme/study, we will begin/continue to work on writing our names, identifying letters Oo-Rr, letter sounds, identifying numerals 1-20, one-to-one correspondence, rhyming words, syllables, simple adding/subtraction and 2 and 3D shapes and their attributes. Parents, please ensure you are checking Class Dojo daily for important information and special activities.



Ms. Neely & Ms. McClain – Room 109 (Garden Room)

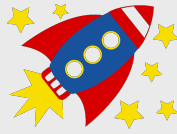
Hi Garden Room parents! We have been having lots of fun learning about different breads/foods. But for the month of December, we will be studying lights. During this study we will be talking about different lights and much much more.

Please make sure you are checking the students' communication folders and that you send them back every day. Also, parents please make sure you check Class Dojo daily for important information and activities going on in the classroom.

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Mrs. Wordlaw, Mrs. Donegan, Mrs. Collier –Room 112 (Rockets)

Lights Study – Shadow Play

Light is all around us and makes our lives brighter and easier each day. Children engage with light from a variety of sources and different ways. Through our study of lights students will engage in hands on investigation on various light sources and learn how light shines in hopes of expanding their knowledge on lights.

As part of this study, we will play several light games. One is shadow play. During this activity students will get a chance to create structures and puppets by using different kinds of light sources along with creating opportunities for our scholars to tell stories with shadow puppets. Teaching about shadows is a fun science activity for this young scholar.

Here are some examples of light activities you can do with your child:

Visit Menards or Home Depot Lighting area – Look, compare, discuss.

Make you child the house electrician by assigning them the task of turning out the lights in a room when not needed or leaving the house.

Have a puppet show in the dark with a flashlight and allow your child to tell the story.



Mrs. Miles & Ms. Porter – Room 113 (The Bears)

Goals and objectives for this month include:

- This month theme will be lights.
- The monthly field trip will be an experience with lights.
- Students are always excited about field trips and riding the school bus.
- Students enjoy the weekly activities in the flying classroom.
- Students have begun to familiarize themselves with other staff members in the building.
- Students begin to learn more about themselves, recognizing their names in print and words that begin with the same letter as their name.
- Students will create artwork to display on our classroom door.
- Students demonstrate good behavior when walking in hallway.



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Mrs. Roudez & Ms. Franklin – Room 114 (The Aquarium Room)

Hello Families:

For the month of December our study will be lights. We will talk about different types of lights, light bulbs and where we see lights every day. Our WOW experience will, Lights Around the World at The Museum of Science and Industry.



Mrs. Hogan & Ms. Goldman – Room 115 (Cool Cats)

Happy Fall Pre-K Parents!

Hello Pre-k Parents, The holidays are finally upon us! Our trip to the museum of science and industry is coming up soon! We are excited to see all the beautiful Christmas trees and lights at this time of year! Please remember reading to your child is the most important thing you can help them to do! Thanks for your support!

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District 148 –Early Learning Satellite Site

Ms. Carter & Mrs. Brown – Cuddle Care (Pre-K Expansion)

Cuddle Care Butterflies will focus on Feelings: Worried with Lights being our Study. The children will learn identify & understanding ones' own and others feelings, taking others perspectives showing care and concern for others and calming down strong feelings.



District 148 –Early Learning Satellite Site

Mrs. Williams-Sargent & Ms. Liggett – Under Carrey's Care (Pre-K Expansion)

Dear Families,

We've noticed that the children's favorite meals often include bread or foods like bread (e.g. pizza, pretzels). The children are curious about the types of bread they eat, how it is made, the shapes it comes in, and how we eat it. We think a study of bread will be a great opportunity for children to explore their interests.

As we study bread, we will learn concepts and skills related to physical development, literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also develop thinking skills as we observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

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Screening Corner

Thanks to all the families for your support! We are constantly growing and that would not be possible without you. **Screenings will take place Thursday December 14, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** If you are interested in preschool for children ages 3-5, please contact our school at (708) 849-9848. Thank you for your cooperation.

Why do we screen?

Developmental screening is designed to identify problems or delays during normal childhood development. When properly applied, screening tests for developmental or behavioral problems in preschool children allow improved outcomes due to early implementation of treatment.



Curriculum Coordinator – Ms. Walton (Townsend)

Pyramid Tip

Making Life Easier: Surviving and Enjoying the Holidays

While the holiday season is filled with enjoyable activities, events and traditions, it can also be a hectic and stressful time. Travel, shopping, loud music, bright lights, unfamiliar food, and busy schedules can turn typical routines upside down! The disruption to routine can be particularly difficult for children who depend on routine and predictability to engage in appropriate behavior. The following tips will help ensure that the holiday season is enjoyable for you and your child.

1. **Prepare** your child for changes in routines and schedule.
2. **Involve** your child in some of the holiday preparations.
3. **Keep** aspects of your **typical routine** whenever possible.
4. **Give clear directions.**
 - Use positive words.
 - Provide transition warnings. Use 'Wait Time.'
 - Provide limited choices.
 - Tell your child how to behave.
 - Provide frequent and specific praise for acceptable behavior.
5. **Empathize** with your child's feelings.
6. **Inform** family and friends of helpful strategies.
7. Be attentive to your child's diet.
8. **Holiday Travel – Plan ahead**
 - Pack a bag of favorite items to take with you.
 - Call airlines, airport ahead about accommodations.
 - Visit the airport or bus depot in advance.
 - Create a personal story.
9. **Celebrate** the successes along the way

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Parent Coordinator – Ms. Haggie & Parent Educator – Ms. Bishop



Greetings Families,

As we move into the last month of the year that also means the weather is changing. Please dress your children accordingly for the weather every day. We still will go outside and monthly field trips so the children can explore different activities. Also, labeling your child belongings will also help the teacher as well. We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming cafes and parent engagement activities. If there is anything that your child or families need, please don't hesitate to reach out to the parent educators.

Administrative Assistants – Mrs. Harris & Ms. Robinson

Please keep your contact information updated. The contact information you gave during registration is what the district and school sites have on file for your student. These are the phone number(s) that will be called to notify parents/guardians of school-hour and non-school-hour emergencies, weather-related announcements and school closings, absence notifications, school/district announcements, reminders and much more.

Contact information for OFFICE STAFF

CALL: (708) 849-9848 | **FAX:** (708) 201-6233 | **EMAIL:** harrisa@district148.net



Call **Alltown Bus Company at (708) 333-7663** with any **BUS Related Issues**

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Support Programs – Therapy Team:

- Occupational Therapy, OT

-Speech Therapy, ST

-Physical Therapy, PT

Activities to Encourage Speech and Language Development

There are many ways you can help your child learn to understand and use words. See a speech-language pathologist if you have concerns.

- Pay attention when your child talks to you & Get your child's attention before you talk. Pause after speaking. This gives your child a chance to respond.
- Speak clearly to your child. Model good speech.
- Repeat what your child says to show that you understand.
- Cut out pictures of favorite or familiar things. Put them into categories, like things to ride on, things to eat, and things to play with.
- Help your child understand and ask questions. Play the yes-no game. Ask questions such as, "Are you Marty?" and "Can a pig fly?" Have your child make up questions and try to fool you.
- Help your child learn new words. Name body parts, and talk about what you do with them. "This is my nose. I can smell flowers, brownies, and soap."
- Sing simple songs and say nursery rhymes. This helps your child learn the rhythm of speech.
- Praise your child when they tell you something. Show that you understand their words.
- Keep helping your child learn new words. Say a new word, and tell them what it means, or use it in a way that helps him understand.
- Talk about where things are, using words like "first," "middle," and "last" or "right" and "left." Talk about opposites like "up" and "down" or "on" and "off."
- Have your child guess what you describe. Say, "We use it to sweep the floor," and have them find the broom. Say, "It is cold, sweet, and good for dessert. I like strawberry" so they can guess "ice cream."
- Help your child follow two- and three-step directions. Use words like, "Go to your room, and bring me your book."
- Ask your child to give directions. Follow their directions as they tell you how to build a tower of blocks.
- Use everyday tasks to learn language. For example, talk about the foods on a menu, where to put things.
- Go grocery shopping together. Talk about what you will buy, how many things you need, and what you will make. Talk about sizes, shapes, and weight.

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Resource Teachers – Mrs. Slager & Mrs. Wasik

Time has flown by and it's already December! This month we are studying music and lights. Take some time to enjoy the holiday music and lights you might hear and see with your child. Here is the third of several guidelines to help support your child at home:

Keep in mind that this month the children will be away from school for a few weeks so your child's routine will change. Changes in routines can leave children, as well as adults, feeling anxious. Some tips on how to manage changes to your child's routine include:

1. Keep daily routines consistent (eat dinner, take bath, brush teeth, read story, go to sleep)
2. Let your child know what the day will look like and what he/she will be doing- this will help to ease frustration and anxiety because of the change in routine. If possible, make visual schedules to help children learn and complete new tasks.
- 3). You can provide the schedule to your child in smaller steps- such as saying, "First we take a bath and then storytime." You can also use pictures to help with changes in routines.
- 4) Relax and "go with the flow." Enjoy some family down time over the holidays.

Happy New Year! Looking forward to seeing everyone in 2024!



MTSS Facilitator – Mrs. Freeman



What are the Benefits of MTSS?

- Improved education for ALL students.
- Provides at-risk students with support earlier rather than later.
- Progress monitoring data yields relevant, easily understood information.
- Facilitates collaboration among educators and families.



Parents Make the Difference!!!!

Working together, parents and teachers can work together to ensure student success.

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Nurse's Corner – Ms. Forte

It's hard to believe it's almost Christmas break which also means colder weather! Unfortunately, with colder weather comes coughs, colds, runny noses, and fevers. Please keep children at home if they are sick and not feeling well, your child may be carrying something very contagious.

Remember the 24 Hour Rule of Thumb

Students may return to school after the following:

- **24 hours** without a temperature/fever (>100 degrees Fahrenheit) **and without** taking fever reducing medications such as Tylenol or Advil/Motrin.
- **24 hours** without nausea, vomiting, diarrhea (**and** tolerating a normal diet).
- **24 hours** of receiving medication for treatment of illness/infection (such as antibiotics, eye ointments).

If your child still seems tired, pale, with little appetite, not tolerating solid foods, and generally "not him/herself", **PLEASE DO NOT** send them to school. Some viral illnesses may take longer before your child is well enough to return to school. If you send your child to school to "see how they feel in a little while", **you are potentially exposing other students, and our staff, to a communicable illness.** This ripple effect exposes classmates and then their siblings and family members to the illness.

Also, please remember our **All** medications **brought to the nurse** by a **parent or guardian**, this also includes cough drops.

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY WINTER BREAK!