

"Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict -- alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence." - Dorothy Thompson



Dear Parents,

Primary 2
December 14, 2011

Our Bring a Book for a Friend project was a huge success. In this wonderful season of giving, it was nice to see the joy the children experienced in sharing books with others who may not have any. Thank you for your support.

Our P2 Winter Party will be December 16th. If you are not driving your child directly to the park, please be at school no later than 9:00am. We plan to leave at 9:15 to meet everyone else at the park. Our party will be at McGough Nature Park, also known as "the turtle park" for its abundant aquatic turtle population. The park is located at 11901 146th Street North off of Walsingham Road. We will be returning to school around noon for **half day dismissal**. Please contact the office for Day Camp availability.

The cold winter weather is sneaky here in Florida. Sometimes it starts out warm, and becomes cold later. Please bring in long pants for your child to leave in their extra clothes box at school. If you would like to leave an extra jacket at school for 'sneaky weather', your child can leave one in their cubby.

Help! The winter weather means lots of coats, jackets, mittens and sweatshirts at school! Please remember to **put your child's name in all items**. We have quite a collection! Some days, we leave items without names hanging on the fence as you drive up. Please take a minute to check and see if your missing item is there.

Please be on time! Make it your New Year's resolution to be on time to school. Arrival time is 8:45am to 9:00am. We usually start going in at 9:05! It makes it difficult for us to get settled into work when so many are still arriving at 9:15 and 9:20. The late child is out of sync with the rest of the children. It is important for them to have that little time outside to socialize and greet their friends and then we can come inside to get to work!

Thank You's:

Thank you to Gila, Yuval and Lavi's mom, for talking to our class about the traditions of Chanukah. Thank you to Amy's parents, Peter and Marketa Maivald for talking to the class about Christmas traditions in the Czech Republic and for bringing the yummy cookies for us to try. We will miss Amy and her family as they are traveling home to Prague during the winter break. Thank you to Everyone for your contributions to the book drive. Thank you to all our wonderful lunch parents. We really appreciate your support. Thank you also to our reading parents, and all the parents who have donated healthy snacks. Thank you also, our wonderful room parents, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Suters for organizing our winter party at McGough Nature Park. Thank you each and every one of you for allowing us to share in the lives of your children. We have so many helpful and generous families! We appreciate every one of you!!!

Welcome to our new students and their families, Aly Cappo (3), and Arielyn (6) to our P2 classroom!

Children's Line:

Thursday, December 15 – Something about Winter
Thursday, January 5 – Child's favorite gift (small please, or bring a picture)
Thursday, January 12 – A vertebrate, a mammal, fish, amphibian, bird, and or reptile
Thursday, January 19 – Something from or about the continent of Antarctica (or a photo or drawing)
Thursday, January 26 – Something that starts with 'o' or 'p'
Thursday, February 2 – Three things that rhyme

Our Children's Line time is a time for your child to find there speaking voice. It is a time for them to talk and all the other children to listen. Thank you for taking the time to discuss with your child what they brought and why. Even the children who are generally very quiet seem to really enjoy their time to share.

Important Dates:

Friday, December 16 – Winter Party at McGough Nature Park....It's a **Half Day!**
December 19 through January 2 – **No School – Winter Holiday**
Tuesday, January 3 – Classes resume
Monday, January 16 – MLK Holiday – **No School**
Tuesday, January 17 – Parent Education Series – **Transition from K to 1st grade**

Remember reading to your child every day is the single most important thing you can do to nurture the sensitive period for language development that they are in right now. Make reading each night a priority.

*We wish you peace and happiness this holiday season.
Know that the best present you can give your child is to be present for them.*

Enjoy your time with your families and friends, and we will see you in 2012!

Happy Holidays,

Linda Carter, Deborah Kirkpatrick, and Joan Poppleton

Peace on Earth



“If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”
- Mahatma Gandhi