# The Friday Flyer

## The Children's Academy

www.childrensacademy.net

Nov. 28th – Dec. 2nd 2011

**THE CHILDRENS ACADEMY CORDIALLY INVITES FAMILY**
**AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND**
**THE HOLIDAY SHOW**
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2011**
**10:30 A.M.**
******CHILDREN ARRIVE AT 10:00 A.M.******

**LIFETOUCH PHOTOS - The children will be bringing home their school photos on Friday. If you are interested in a retake, please return your photos and the retake date will be 9:00, Thursday, December 8th for ALL STUDENTS.**

**AFTERNOON PROGRAMS – New applications for our programs will be sent home Friday. Classes will start immediately upon return from our Holiday break. If you are interested in our next sessions or would like to continue your child in our winter session and have not signed up for the full year, now is the time to sign up! Please return applications ASAP to ensure space.**

**SPEECH SCREENING – We are very fortunate to be able to provide free speech screenings from Creative Speech Solutions, an excellent speech evaluating team in our area. Screenings will begin December 5th.**

**<u>FLU VACCINE</u>- The seasonal influenza vaccine is the best and safest protection available against influenza. Please note that Influenza vaccine is a requirement for all children 6 months through 59 months of age attending preschool to receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 and December 31 of each year. Students who do not receive the vaccine by December 31st will be excluded from school for the duration of the influenza season.**

**<u>PARKING LOT REMINDER</u>- All children must be accompanied by an adult who is holding their hand in the school parking lot. This is imperative to the safety of all students at the Academy. Thank you for your cooperation.**

**<u>BOOK READING</u>- The Academy was very fortunate to have children's author Alidis Vicente (mother of Joaquin Vicente) read her recently published children's book "The Coqui and the Iguana". We all enjoyed the story which takes place in Puerto Rico and discovered many interesting things about iguanas, coqui and luminous water! We now have a signed copy of this book for all our classrooms. If you too are interested in purchasing this book, it is available for $8.00. All copies will be signed by Alidis Vicente. Please contact the office. Thanks!!!**

**<u>TOY DRIVE</u>- In the spirit of the holiday season, the Springfield Fire Department will be collecting toys for children in need. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach your children the gift of giving. If you wish to participate in this worthwhile cause, toys should be newly purchased and delivered to The Academy <u>unwrapped</u>. December 14th will be the last drop-off day.**

**<u>THANK YOU</u>…..to Maia's grandma for the dream catcher that we will be adding to our Native American basket. The children will enjoy it for years to come! It was so thoughtful!**

**SNACK – Thank you to Helia and Aanvi.**

**<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>- Happy Birthday wishes to Gabi.**

**<u>LITTLE ROOM – Mrs. Lombardi and Mrs. Kovacs</u> - We welcome the month of December with the color green, the shape star and the number four. Our structured lessons will support these as well as embrace all of the holidays that**

**are celebrated in December. We are thankful that the children have allowed us to use their artwork to decorate our classroom and also contribute to the stage for the Holiday show.**

**PRACTICAL LIFE- Our shelves have been transformed to celebrate the season and the new materials bring excitement to familiar work. A holiday tray**

**combines napkin folding, napkin ring and place setting in festive décor. Toothpick insert work has been changed for the season and shown with a new extension. The children now open the jar, remove the toothpicks, close the jar and insert the toothpicks into the holes. This develops our jar-opening skills, hand-eye coordination and our pincer grip. A pot washing activity has become an exciting classroom activity. Both the toothpick work and the pot washing help us to focus on following instructions in a particular sequence. Dreidel and menorah lacing were also shown.**

**SENSORIAL – Star sorting work supports our shape of the month. This allows for shape identification, visual discrimination and the identification of both primary and secondary colors.**

**MATH - Dreidel counting one to four were added to the math area. The sandpaper number four and the number four cylinder card were added to the current math work.**

**Cultural – A three dimensional menorah puzzle was added to our cultural area. Dreidel spinning and menorah assembly support our discussions about the celebration of Hanukkah.**

**<u>TRANSITIONAL ROOM – Mrs. Tschopp and Mrs. Errante</u>**

**LANGUAGE- Our new activity was Hanukkah card matching. This activity introduces the children to familiar items we see during Hanukkah like the menorah, dreidel and gelt. "h" objects, "h" coloring and "h" gluing were shown to reinforce that sound. The pentagon inset was shown to develop pencil control and left to right progression.**

**SENSORIAL- Dreidel color sorting and menorah candle sorting were added to our shelf. Both of these activities are color sorting activities to reinforce sorting skills.**

**PRACTICAL LIFE- Our new activities were menorah candle placement and dreidel spinning. Both activities reinforce small motor skills and concentration.**

**Math- Hanukkah dominoes and Hanukkah counting were added to the shelf. Hanukkah counting reinforces number recognition and both activities reinforce counting skills and quantities.**

**ART- Our art project was marshmallow menorahs. What a fun and tasty way to help celebrate Hanukkah!**

**SOUND OF THE WEEK- for the week of Dec. 5th is "u" as in umbrella**

**BIG ROOM- Mrs. Sarno, Mrs. Smith, Ms.Dixon and Mrs. Gerst**

**PRACTICAL LIFE-While learning about Hanukkah, we are reinforcing our fine motor skills with our menorah and dreidel activities. We are enjoying delicious potato latkes dipped in either sour cream or apple sauce. Of course, we all remember to only dip once. Our pincer grip and eye hand coordination are enhanced with the pushpin Christmas tree. The nesting boxes improve our fine motor skills as we practice opening, closing and stacking the boxes. We are learning to care for our clothes using a lint brush.**

**SENSORIAL-The holiday coasters enabled us to create our own patterns. Ornament placement worked with our matching skills. The pine cone with pom poms allowed us to use small motor skills and concentration. Sizing snowmen reinforced our concept of small, medium and large. The jeweled evergreen also helped us with our placement and matching skills. Our tasting samples this week were ketchup and cocktail sauce. Yes, they were very different. Ketchup was preferred by most of us.**

**MATH-We continue to enforce our counting skills and recognition of numbers and their quantities with new activities. Golden apple counting, holiday ornament counting, holiday eraser counting, Hanukkah stamping, and Hanukkah counting and sequencing have all been added to the math area.**

**LANGUAGE- New work this week included the felt alphabet to reinforce letter order, wooden nouns to gain understanding of the short "u" sound, rhyming puzzle cards, and the "things we wear" freeze for recognition of whole words.**

**CULTURAL – We traveled to Puerto Rico with the help of Mrs. Vicente and our new book based on children in Puerto Rico. How lucky we were to have an author read to us! Our Puerto Rico box contains postcards, pictures, maps, sea glass, a handmade mask, a handmade toy and our favorite the guiro (a musical instrument).**

**SOCIAL STUDIES –We have begun our discussions of the December holiday celebrations. We now know the significance of using oil to make potato latkes and donuts for Hanukkah. We also learned why this holiday is celebrated for eight days and what the Menorah and candles represent.**

**SCIENCE- Air paths can be pretty tricky, you can't see them buy they are there. Using a candle, some wind and a little interference, we were able to see that air streams can divide and then join together again. We tried variations of the experiment and always came up with the same result.**

**ART-We are creating Jewish stars for Hanukkah with two paper triangles and gem stones. We can make some for home and some for our holiday show.**

**VOCABULARY- dreidle, match, celebrations, latke, remarkable, loan**

**SOUND OF THE WEEK- for the week of December 5th is "u" as in umbrella**

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

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| **December 5th** | **Monday** | **Speech Screening** |
| **December 8th** | **Thursday** | **Picture Retake** |
| **December 16th** | **Friday** | **Holiday Show (Details to follow)** |

**The Academy A Great Place To Be!!**