

# MINIAPPLE INT'L MONTESSORI NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2015

### Director's Notes

December at Miniapple is always exciting! We have so much to celebrate. **Our Holiday Program is on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.** The program will take place at Roseville High School. Each classroom will be performing 1-2 songs. MIM will be closed at 5:30 that day to prepare for the program. We ask that the parents have the performers in the cafeteria by 5:45p.m. We recommend you pick up early to give your child a snack before the program. We will have a potluck after the performance. Please see the sign-up sheet outside your child's classroom. **Don't forget, we are a PEANUT-FREE school.**

The children will be going outside until it is 15 degrees (20 degrees for toddlers), including wind chill. In order for us to take full advantage of our outdoor time and give the children better enjoyment of winter weather, here are some helpful hints for winter dress.

- Coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens are required. Mittens are best attached to jackets with a string, ribbon or clip. Mittens that are waterproof are ideal. Please guide your child in putting their hat/mittens in the sleeve of their coat.
- A pair of dry slip on shoes or slippers need to be kept in the classrooms for when the children come in from outside.
- Please remember to label each of these items when you bring them into the school. Hats and mittens are often taken off on the playground and if they are not labeled, they may not make it back to your child.

Along with all of the snow, come wet feet and floors! We would really appreciate your help in keeping our activity room (especially with new carpet) and classrooms dry this season. Please remove your shoes/boots outside of these rooms prior to entering. AS A REMINDER, IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER 8:30am, IT IS A DISTRACTION FOR THE CHILDREN WHO ARE WORKING WHEN A PARENT ENTERS THE CLASSROOM. PLEASE RESPECT THEIR WORK TIME AND LET YOUR CHILD ENTER THE ROOM BY HIM OR HERSELF.

**“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.” – Maria Montessori.**

It is always a goal of Montessori education in the classrooms to make the child independent and be able to do things for himself. This is achieved by giving children opportunities: Opportunities to move, to dress themselves, to choose what they want to do, and to help the adults with tasks. When the children are able to do things for themselves there is an increase in their self belief, self confidence and esteem that they may carry on throughout their life. Please let your child dress/undress him or herself, put the dinner plate away, and help with other tasks around the house. When they can be independent at home, it will benefit them greatly at school and in the future.

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to mark the days you will be out for the holidays on the sheets posted outside the classrooms. This helps us to send our own staff on vacations. Many of our teachers are waiting to hear if they can go out of town for the holidays. We can't give them time off until we know how many children we will have and how many teachers we will need. Thank you! Please note, Miniapple does not offer vacation credit for any time off.

Please let us know if there is anything you need. We send you best wishes for a wonderful & peaceful holiday season!

In Peace & Harmony, Lee & Lindsay



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### Dates to Remember

- ★ December 10<sup>th</sup>: ZOOMOBILE! \$6.00
- ★ December 16<sup>th</sup>: Winter Program 6:00pm
- ★ December 24<sup>th</sup>: MIM closed
- ★ December 25<sup>th</sup>: MIM closed
- ★ December 31<sup>st</sup>: MIM closed
- ★ January 1<sup>st</sup>: MIM closed

## **CLASSROOM NEWS**

### Infant Room

Hello, December! This month our baby of the month will be Adela! We would also like to welcome our new assistant Hadley to our classroom! She will be filling in for Hailey as Hailey helps out more in the office. Hadley has worked in our room before and is very excited to be joining us again!

Our winter program will be on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. School will close at 5:30pm that day to give everyone time to get to Roseville High school. Please dress your little one in white – we are so excited to perform for you! More details will be posted soon.

We are so proud of all the progress in the classroom. Every day the babies amaze us with all the milestones they are hitting, such as: taking first steps, sitting up, self-feeding, using sippy cups, and crawling. Go babies!! We will transition all babies 14 months and older to one nap a day in preparation for their transition to the Toddler House.

Please remember that we have music class Mondays at 8:30am so please arrive before 8:30am or after music at 8:50am so as not to interrupt Ms. Robin. Also, another reminder to label all your babies' things. Thanks again!

We wish all our families a wonderful holiday season.

Nicole, Hadley, Lauren, & Amy

### Toddler House 1

Hello Toddler parents! We would like to thank you for all of the delicious food that you contributed to our feast. Winter came upon us quickly! When the temperature hits 20 degrees (with wind chill) we will be going outside to enjoy the snow. Please make sure

you bring all of the appropriate outerwear (snow pants, boots, hat, and mittens). Also make sure all items are properly labeled.

December is a busy month and we have lots of fun activities on our calendar. We will be talking about puppies, vehicles, Christmas and New Years. Our winter program is Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and we have been practicing our song.

We will say goodbye to our friend Ada who will be moving on to CH3. We want to welcome our new friend Emmet, who will be joining us from the infant room. Welcome to him and his family!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

With love, Reshma & Alie

### TODDLER HOUSE 2

Hello Toddler parents! We have an in-house field trip on December 10<sup>th</sup> with the Zoomobile! Please sign up and give Lee a check for \$6. The Winter Program will be on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at Roseville High School. We will be closing early that evening to allow for travel time.

Winter has arrived, and we will be going outside. Please send boots, hats, water-proof mittens, and snow pants every day. On a sad note, Katie will be leaving the toddler room. She will be working with Somali women, which I know she is looking forward to. We have a nice selection of candidates to choose from, so we want to make sure we get a teacher that will be a perfect fit. We will be sad to see Katie go, but we wish her the very best.

Amanda, Hayat and Katie

### Children's House One

Happy December CH1 families! A great big thank you to everyone for their help with our Thanksgiving Feast. Everything was delicious! A big shift in focus for our friends to the sciences (yay!) as seasonal works are switched out, and many new gifted works make their way to the shelves. We have a lot of rocks, minerals, magnets, and weather studies on the forefront! We also have some fun food/cooking works on the horizon which may or may not also be experiments. So excited for our program on the 16<sup>th</sup> – please watch the white board for details as it approaches. We are singing our little lion hearts out and designing our costumes!

Peace, Annah & Krista

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### Children's House Two

This year for our Winter Program, CH2 will be singing, "Skating on the Volga." This is a Russian folk tune and has provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about The Volga River and Russian culture. Costumes will be based on Russian clothing, but details will be posted soon.

Winter comes with some exciting new things including a study on snowflakes, identifying animal tracks, and water/ice science. We'll also be learning about Hanukkah this year!

'Tis the season for clothing items to go missing, so label everything that your child brings to school! I have also been teaching the children to keep their gloves in their hat and their hat and scarf in the sleeve of their coat. This way items don't get separated. There is a marker for labeling items located by our whiteboard. The lost and found is below the sign-in table by the office.

Stay Warm!

Mia and Blake

### Children's House Three

*Happy December CH3 families! Wow, another month has flown by. Your children are growing bigger and smarter every minute. In November, we focused on giving and what we are thankful for. We took full advantage of every warm day. In December, we will be learning in depth about giving and charity and how children can contribute to society and be charitable. We will also be learning about winter light celebrations all over the globe and doing a lot of winter crafts. We will be performing at the Winter Program on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Our class song is "Doe a Deer" and other Miniapple classics! Please bring warm/waterproof mittens, boots, hats, coats and snow pants every day. Please check our Wishing Tree which is a great opportunity to learn more about Montessori materials and to provide work opportunities catered to your child's specific interests. You can take a leaf right off the tree. Don't forget to request to follow us on the class Instagram at MiniappleCh3. Thank you so much for all of your support!*

Molly & Lilah

### Children's House Four

We want to say thank you to Lakshya's family for the Usborne books (origami and coloring books). Our winter program is coming up on Dec 16th which is Wednesday. The theme of our program is "Somewhere over the Rainbow." We are planning on having costumes of all the main

characters of the movie. So far, a few friends have requests that they want to be like Dorothy, lion and witches. We are hoping we can make a scarecrow, a tin man and may be some munchkins. Other than the main characters, you may wear your favorite outfit. There is no particular dress code.

We are no longer going outside in the morning at 8am; we will be going to our classroom around 8:25. Please remember to give your child hugs and kisses by the door and let your child enter the classroom independently. Any messages please write it on the clipboard by the bulletin board. We appreciate your cooperation.

If you have questions or concerns we are always available.  
Have a wonderful holiday! Wangmo & Najat

### CHILDREN'S HOUSE 5

I want to thank all the parents that brought food and stayed to help for the Thanksgiving Feast. We had a lot of fun and can't wait until next year! This month we will focus on how the Minnesota outdoors are changing, where the animals go, and fun things we can do in the winter. We are practicing for the program and can't wait to wow your socks off! We need each child to bring a white or blue shirt and a head band, if you want your child to wear a head decoration for the program. Kay and I thank you for your continued help and support!  
Gabrielle and Kay

### PRESCHOOL FRENCH

*Bonjour à toutes les familles et joyeux mois de Décembre. It is the holiday season so we will work on naming the members of our family (famille) such as mom (maman), dad (papa), brother (frère), sister (sœur), grandpa (grand-père), grandma (grand-mère), aunt (tante), and uncle (oncle). We are also working on winter words such as snow (neige) and the phrase "I am cold" (J'ai froid). For story time we are reading "les oeufs verts au jambon". Our French song for the program will be singing "Vive le vent, vive le vent d'hivers" as follows (practice at home!):*

Merci, Najat

### VIVE LE VENT

(sing to the tune of Jingle Bells)

### FRENCH

Vive le vent, vive le vent  
Vive le vent d'hiver  
Qui s'en va sifflant, soufflant  
Dans les grands sapins verts

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Eh!  
Vive le vent  
Vive le vent  
Vive le vent d'hiver  
Boule de neige  
Et jour de l'an  
Et Bonne Anneé, grand-mère  
Et Bonne Anneé, grand-père

### ENGLISH

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Long live the winter wind  
Who goes whistling, blowing  
In large green pines  
Eh!  
Jingle Bells  
Jingle Bells  
Long live the winter wind  
Snowball  
And New Year  
And Happy New Year, grandmother  
And Happy New Year, grandfather

## ZOOMOBILE

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Minnesota Zoo will be bringing a wide variety of animals to our school. All children will participate (including the older infants). The cost will be \$6 per child. More information is posted outside of each classroom. Payments should be made by the 9<sup>th</sup>, by check please.



# Thank You!

We have many thanks to give our families. First, our Thanksgiving feast was a huge success thanks to the wonderful food our families shared and for those who were able to come and help out. We are truly lucky to have such wonderful family involvement! Thank you for all the food that was donated to the Food Shelf. This year we donated 277 pounds (yes, I said 277 pounds!) of food to the Aliveness Project who help people with HIV and Aids. Thank you so much for the amazing book sales and donations through Usborne Books. We received over \$600.00 worth of books for our school! Thank you to the parents who could attend our Montessori Education Night. We were thrilled to see all of you there and we hope you learned more about the Montessori method. Thank you so much for the amazing donations we have received from Montessori Services/For Small Hands. We are so grateful to all of you! One more thanks....for your hard work to be here by 8:30am and for the amazing morning transitions. Thank you Miniapple families! **You are the best!** On behalf of all of us, we wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

*Grazie!*

*¡Gracias!*

*Gràcies!*

*Thank you!*

*DANKE!*

*Merci!*

*你很*