

# Bright News!



2020

## December Pumpkin Pie



### Oh My!!

#### Inside This Issue:

<i>Pumpkin Pie OH MY</i>	1
<i>Virtual Holiday Cheer</i>	2
<i>End of Year Ledger</i>	2
<i>Holidays for Children</i>	2
<i>Holiday Attendance</i>	3
<i>Turkey Drive Thank</i>	3
<i>It's a Grinchy Day!</i>	3
<i>Curriculum Corner</i>	4
<i>Nurse Terry's Tips</i>	5
<i>Important Dates</i>	6







## Virtual Holiday Cheer!

Although we are sad to announce that we will not be hosting our Annual Holiday Open House this year due to COVID, our little elves are working hard to get ready for a different virtual surprise. While we know you are more than understanding of our reasoning, this is one family event we truly look forward to each year which is why we have decided to bring our tradition virtually to you!

Your little shining stars have been extremely busy working with their teachers to learn about various cultures and creating beautiful works of art to celebrate holidays around the world! Therefore, we will be sending you a fun holiday video displaying all the beautiful art and decorations your little ones have created in the school, along with songs and some other fun surprises!

*Wishing you and your family a Happy Holiday Season, from The Star Preschool Family!*

## End Of The Year Ledger's

As the end of the year approaches, it is important that we have ALL accounts at a **\$0 balance** by end of December. **All families will be receiving a 2020 Year End Ledger.**

Families who have an outstanding balance will be notified ASAP and will be asked to have it paid by the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. Payments are due prior to the week of attendance. All payments must be received in advance. late payments will be subject to a **late payment fee of \$25.**

If your check is returned, you will be charged a **return check fee of \$35.**



## Children's Holiday Wishes

Every year, Star Preschools participates in

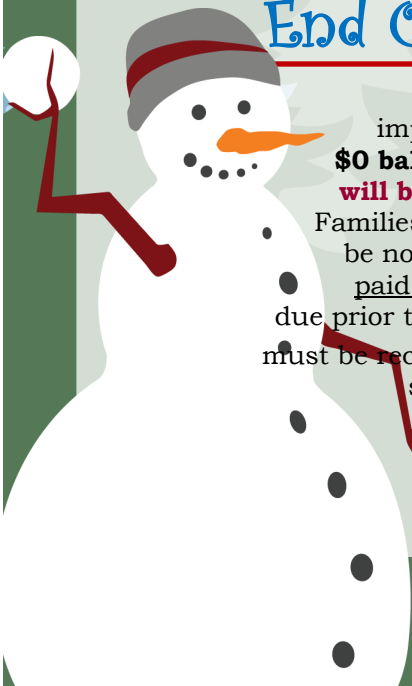
### **A CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY WISHES PROGRAM**

Your generous toy, clothing and gift card contributions help make the holidays brighter for local less fortunate children. Located in the entry windows are holiday tags. If you would like to participate, take a tag from the window, purchase a toy, clothing item or gift card for the child that matches the age and gender on the tag and return the gift to the school *unwrapped* with the tag attached by 12/16/20.

**ALL CLOTHING, GIFT CARD AND TOY ITEMS MUST BE RETURNED UNWRAPPED TO THE SCHOOL BY**

**Wednesday, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>!**

Any dollar amount is acceptable. However, please remember that this may be the only present they receive, so shop wisely. ☺ If you are too busy to shop yourself, a gift card will do! Just take a tag and help make a child's holiday a little brighter! Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness!



## Holiday Attendance Sheets



With the holidays quickly approaching, we would like to get an accurate head-count of how many children will be attending during this celebratory time. We try to base our staffing around the expected number of children so that we can accommodate as much time off as possible for our teachers. Many of them travel for the holidays, which is also why we ask so far an advance for what your plans may look like in the coming weeks. Please be on the lookout for a reminder email and a binder with the Holiday Attendance Sheets organized by class. While we know you may not have set plans for all of the dates we inquire about, please fill them out to the best of your ability. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to celebrating the holiday season with everyone!

## Thank You for Donating to Families in Need!

With your generosity, our Starboard family was able to raised \$300 and several food items for the Plymouth Area Coalition For The Homeless. families They were beyond grateful for our donation and told us we were the only childcare facility to set up a donation drive in support of their program. Being able to give back to our community is a HUGE part of what being in the Star Family is all about. We appreciate your donations and feel extremely grateful to have such a warm and giving group of families. A BIG Thank You for donating to such a worthy cause by giving back to the community!

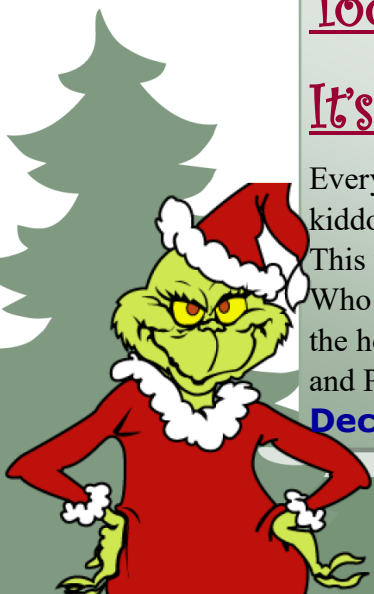


## Toddler/EPs/Preschool/Pre-K,

### It's a Grinchy Day!

Every December, we continue the tradition of having our Toddler/EPs/Preschool/Pre-K kiddos enjoy a day in their pajamas watching a holiday movie and eating Popcorn!

This year, the children will enjoy the original 30 minute movie, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas!" Each class will learn the TRUE meaning of celebrating the holidays with loved ones and the importance of giving to others! Toddler/EPs, PS, and PK will all have a scheduled time to go to the theater on **Wednesday, December 9th.**





# CURRICULUM CORNER

## Making Math Meaningful

While memorization is important, children need a stronger math foundation to be successful in the years ahead. Children may have memorized how to “count to ten,” but they may have no idea what “ten” is conceptually. *Frog Street Threes* teaches children math in a developmental sequence in which one skill builds on another. These skills are taught with materials they can touch, taste and smell as part of their daily activity. Below is a list of things you can do at home that follow the same sequence of skills your child will be learning at school:

**Attributes:** Discuss the colors, shapes, and sizes of various items (old keys, containers, corks, lids, etc.).

**Position & Location:** Talk about where things are located in a room. Point out position and location words (on, off, in, out, on top of, over, under, etc.).

**Classification:** Ask your child to help put away groceries, laundry or organize dishes from the dishwasher.

**Patterns:** Search for patterns on fabrics, clothes or furniture. Encourage children to make patterns using crackers or cookies before eating them. Also, search for patterns in nature (petals on a flower, rings on a tree trunk, stripes on a zebra, etc.).

**One-to-One Correspondence:** Invite your child to help match socks, or when serving food, point out that there is one serving for each person (use language such as “one piece for you, one piece for me”).

**Sequence/Ordering:** Encourage your child to play with nesting toys such as measuring cups or spoons.

Challenge them to organize food cans from smallest to largest or lightest to heaviest. You can also ask them to help sort laundry by clothing item.

**Numeration:** Practice counting objects up to five and point out numerals in daily life (look at phone numbers, addresses, license plates, etc.).

## Great Reads for December

### Infants:

Baby's First Christmas  
That's Not My Elf  
Where is Baby's Dreidel?  
My First Kwanzaa

### Toddler/Early Preschool:

Little Blue Truck's Christmas Tree  
Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel  
Santa Claus and the Three Bears  
Lil Rabbits Kwanzaa

### Preschool:

Snowmen at Christmas  
Santa Duck  
Is It Hanukkah Yet?  
The Sound of Kwanzaa

### Pre-K:

Fox and the Snowflake Christmas  
How to Catch an Elf  
Hanukkah Bear  
K is for Kwanzaa

## HOW TO MAKE THE BEST FAKE SNOW

### SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED:

- \*Cookie Sheet
- \*Corn Starch
- \*Baking Soda
- \*Water
- \*Play Accessories (cookie cutters, pine cones, plastic snowflakes, etc.)

### STEP-BY-STEP:

- 1) Pour equal amounts of corn starch and baking soda onto a tray
- 2) Mix the corn starch and baking soda with your fingers
- 3) Add just enough water so that when you squeeze some of the mixtures in your hands, you can form a ball!

*TIP: Make sure to add the water very slowly. And if you end up with a mixture that's too runny, simply add a bit more of the baking soda and cornstarch mixture.*

# Nurse Terry's Tips: 'Tis the Season To Be...SICK?

## On the Jolly Side...

It is my first holiday season at Star Preschools Schools and I feel like I'm in the middle of a winter wonderland! The decorations multiply daily and the good cheer seems to be year-round. Every single child has touched my heart and soul, and I've never seen a more caring, dedicated set of teachers. Ms. Tonya and the Leadership Team have a vision that I see coming to life everyday. Kind of a nice place to come to every day, wouldn't you say?

## On the Serious Side...

**Below you will find a few very common illnesses we have seen and should expect to see as the weather changes continue. Remember, you can get any of the following communicable diseases from anywhere and from anyone. GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE!**

**Strep Throat:** A sore throat is the main symptom of strep throat. Colds and other viruses are often a cause for sore throat. One way to tell the difference is that a virus will often cause a runny nose, where as with strep, the sore throat comes on quickly and your throat often feels raw and hurts to swallow.

**Symptoms to watch for:** A fever of 101 F or higher, red, swollen tonsils, white patches in the throat, tiny red spots on the roof of the mouth, appetite loss, stomachache, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or rash

**Hand, Foot, & Mouth:** Painful blisters similar to cold sores can show up on the inside of your child's mouth or on his tongue, hands, feet, and sometimes bottom.

**Symptoms to watch for:** Early symptoms may include fever and a sore throat, rash on the palms of hands or feet, blister-like spots in the mouth, on palms of hands, feet, elbows, knees or bottom. Some or all of the symptoms may occur

**Flu:** Unlike a cold, flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. Another key difference is a fever, which might not happen with a cold.

**Symptoms to watch for:** Severe aches in muscles and joints, pain and tiredness around your eyes, weakness or extreme fatigue, warm, flushed skin and red, watery eyes, headache, dry cough, sore throat and runny nose

**Stomach Virus:** What is often called "stomach flu" is gastroenteritis, an infection of the stomach and intestines. Viral infections are the usual cause of gastroenteritis. The sickness usually passes in about 10 days without medication; the first few days tend to be the worst.

**Symptoms to watch for:** A sudden attack of diarrhea and/or vomiting, and complaints of stomach pain.

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHILD TO BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL. (This is a short list of many disease exclusions).**

**Temperature** - 100 degrees and greater. The child may return to school when fever free without the aid of fever reducing medication for 24 hours.

**Diarrhea** - Three or more abnormal loose stools within 24 hours. May return to school when diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications.

**Vomiting** - 2 or more times in 24 hours, or once with any other sign/symptom of illness. May return to school when vomit free for 24 hours.

**Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)** - symptoms include: red eye with discharge or crusting around eyes, burning and itching. To return to school we will need the permission issued by a physician or until symptom free.

**Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever** - Child may enter school after taking an effective antibiotic for 24 hours and fever free.

**Influenza (Flu)** - May return to school when fever free without the aid of fever reducing medication for 24 hours.

*Kidshealth.org*

**WASH  
YOUR  
HANDS**



**Cover  
your  
Cough**



**STOP  
the  
SPREAD**





## December Reminders:

### **Partnership for Children Donations:**

December 1st - December 16th

### **Grinchy Pajama Day:**

Thursday, December 9th

### **Holiday Celebrations Party:**

Thursday, December 17th

**CLOSED:**

Thursday & Friday, December 24th & 25th

**CLOSED:**

Thursday, December 31st

## Looking Forward to January:

**CLOSED:**

Friday, January 1st

**\*Our annual in-service day is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 15th We will be CLOSED!**



114 Industrial Park Rd  
Plymouth, MA 02630

Phone: 774-234-7827

Email: [tonya@starpreschools.com](mailto:tonya@starpreschools.com),  
[Sydney@starpreschools.com](mailto:Sydney@starpreschools.com)

## Connect with US!



## Busy Little Elves

