

Holly Oak Childcare Center

Winter 2015 GOSSIP

From our director:

Staff Birthdays

Miss Ginni: January 4th

Miss Amanda: January 6th

Miss Liz: January 26th

Jennifer Schiffmacher: February 10th

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for our Spring Fundraiser!

Fundraising is a huge part of keeping our center tuition costs down!

As many of you are aware, there have been staffing changes to the Preschool classroom. Miss Liz welcomed her baby girl a month ahead of schedule. We already miss her very much but are so excited for her and her family. We hope to see her visiting the center from time to time.

Miss Chris is now leading Preschool with the help of Miss Amanda and Miss Veronica. This transition went smoothly since Miss Chris has been assisting in the room since September. Miss Chris welcomes any questions or feedback. Preschool teachers can be reached at their email....Preschool@hollyoakchildcarecenter.com.

As you may or may not know, the center offers a referral credit of \$50.00 to families for each new child that begins at the center that was referred by you! We have openings in our Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K classrooms. Spread the word!

Winter is here and has brought along some inclement weather. For all center closings, delays, or early dismissals you may check www.wdel.com Snowwatch or listen to WDEL 1150AM or WSTW 93.7FM. With any luck, it will continue to be a calm winter!

As always, I am available for any questions or concerns. You can call, see me at the center, or email me at hollyoak2@hotmail.com. Your feedback is always welcome! --Miss Cheryl

From our board:

Just a note of gratitude from the board for all that our teachers and director do for our children. There is a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity happening every day and week that many parents may not be aware of. Lots of effort goes into planning the super fun activities our little ones get to enjoy with their school friends. Not to mention, the meticulous attention to detail that goes into keeping Holly Oak in line with (if not surpassing) regulatory guidelines. I'm always proud to say that my daughters attend daycare here for the clean, safe and very loving environment. --Christina Asuncion

Pre-Kindergarten Room news:

The seasons have changed, and yet, it seems like I was welcoming a new group of students to the Pre-Kindergarten classroom. The girls have enjoyed their time learning new skills and sharpening some others. The class has been working diligently on writing upper and lower case letters. Cameryn has mastered writing her name well. Mya and Brooke have begun to write letters to each other, including pictures of rainbows and hearts. Phoebe continues to write letters as well, but also enjoys using the tracer cards and colored to create pictures.

The end of the fall season was celebrated and we learned and shared a little about some of the holidays, including Thanksgiving, Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas. December was a fun and exciting month filled with singing, stories, crafts and fun. We especially were enchanted with the story and music from "The Nutcracker". The girls also enjoyed making different things to eat. We shredded our own potatoes to make latkes. Everyone gobbled up at least two of these potato cakes. We also enjoyed experimenting, and tasting, peppermints. We even melted some of our candies to make pretty ornaments for our trees.

The class enjoyed playing with some special guest visitors. We saw some of our school age friends, Caleb, and Santa! We were very surprised to see the big man in red. The girls hadn't finished their letters, but had lots to tell. The girls even sang to Santa. He enjoyed it greatly, as they were singing "Must be Santa". But with all the hoopla and people coming in and out of our room, we still were able to enjoy some time together. We exchanged gifts of kindness. Each girl made a certificate for another friend, telling all the reasons that friendship is truly one of the best gifts that one can give to another. The certificates were boxed and wrapped for the special day. It was such a great experience.

Now that Christmas has arrived, we all look forward to new adventures in the New Year. Some of our themes include "I" is for India, the Arctic vs the Antarctic, and Australia. So the Pre=K will prepare to "travel" once again. We have so much more to explore and learn before Kindergarten arrives!

Birthdays: Ms. Jennifer 2/10

We have no other birthdays in Pre-K until summer approaches!

PS. Note: Also a note from MGT that parents can schedule meetings regarding development in January and February!!! Teachers should have these done and turned into me soon!

Infant Room news:

Another year has gone by and we are looking forward to another wonderful new year. We hope you have a happy and safe Holiday Season. Everyday our infants are developing, growing, and experiencing new milestones. We would like to welcome our new infants, Farook M. and Leland M. Farook loves to swing where he is observing his surroundings. Leland has adjusted very well and has made new friends. We love the many faces he makes! Jane S. loves to sing with or without music. Bryce B. has learned how to crawl and pull himself up to stand. Sophia G. and Mason K. are both celebrating 1st birthdays this January. They are also both learned to walk. Dorian P. loves to color pictures. He concentrates very hard when coloring. He is also very animated! Rylie B-S. has completed her goals required for the Infant Room and has moved on to bigger things in the Toddler Room. She will be missed!

We would like to thank all of you the parents who gave the Infant Room Staff delicious treats and gifts. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Toddler Room news:

We will be having lots of fun in the Toddler Room these upcoming months! January will be filled with winter fun. We will play with artic animals in ice and snow. In February, we will enjoy sampling chocolate and, of course, learning how to take care of our teeth. We will also have special treats for our Valentine's Day party. In March, we will have fun learning the colors of the

rainbow and looking for the Leprechauns and their pot of gold.

Welcome Rylie B-S. to our Room. We are very excited to have her join our class. Thomas B. loves talking about the weather during our circle time. He is really good at it, too! Milan R. loves playing the baby dolls and taking care of them. Noah G. is the room coordinator. He likes to help with all the jobs and take care of his classmates. Layla D. is very artsy. She loves art projects and coloring. It's fun to watch how much they are learning and growing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

Noah: March 1st

Milan: March 8th

Preschool Room news:

Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays! The children certainly enjoyed preparing for Christmas. The month of December was a busy month bustling with the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas. We did plenty of Math, Language, Art, and Science activities that were Christmas themed. We turned our dramatic play area into Santa's workshop by adding elf hats, presents, tools, a tool bench, bows, garland and candy canes. Albert, Trevor, Jayson and Jacob enjoyed working at Santa's Workshop and "building" toys for Santa to deliver. The children had fun creating Christmas art. Anneliese, Sienna, Autumn and Andrew enjoyed using playdough to create some Christmas treats. Izzy, Paige, Alana and Adalynn enjoyed decorating gingerbread people. Bridget and Claire enjoyed rehearsing for our performance at our Christmas party. December was a fun month and we are looking forward to the New Year!

The month of January will be filled with cold and wintery themes. We will be learning about the seasonal changes of winter, water, ice and snow, Arctic and Antarctica animals, we might even see some Frozen characters when we travel to Norway as part of our World Traveler's Unit. We are also welcoming Nona to our classroom!

February will bring celebrations and fun. Our lessons and activities will include Groundhog's Day, Hearts and Valentines, Mardi Gras and Dr. Suess. As March approaches will celebrate Dr. Suess' birthday. Spring will be approaching and we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. There will also be themes on Wind and Healthy eating.

****As you already know, Miss Liz and her husband welcomed Mona into world a little earlier than expected. Mom and baby are doing well!

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

Autumn: January 19th

Trevor: January 19th

Bridget: January 21st

Claire: January 23rd

Adalynn: March 1st

Jayson: March 11th

Miss Ethel's Afternoons:

With winter now here, the children can get ready to do lots of art projects. With Christmas already in the past, the children had fun making Santas, reindeer, and Christmas trees. For the months of January, February and March we will be making snowmen, penguins, polar bears, and mittens and boots to name a few. We will use a variety of media in our creations. In the month of February, look for Valentine's hearts, mice and people. Also in the month of March there will be shamrocks and leprechauns. You will be able to check out some of the projects throughout the hallway.

A Treat from Miss Cathy:

Buttermilk Spoon-Drop Biscuits

2 cups unsifted all-purpose flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup (1/2 stick) butter, cut up
2 tablespoons vegetable shortening
1 cup buttermilk

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, sugar, baking soda, and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut in the butter and shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
2. Add buttermilk and stir lightly with a fork just until a soft dough forms.
3. Turn dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead gently 6 to 8 times.
4. Drop dough by heaping tablespoons 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets and bake until golden...12 to 15 minutes. Serve immediately. Makes 16 biscuits.

For Parmesan Drop Biscuits: Prepare dough as above adding ½ to 2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese to the dry ingredients in Step 1. Makes 16 biscuits.

Fun with Miss Ginni

Handmade Hot Cocoa

Ingredients

-4 cups milk
-1/2 cup of sugar
-1/4 cup good quality cocoa
-1 1/2 cup miniature marshmallows

-1 teaspoon Vanilla extract

Directions:

In a saucepan, combine all ingredients. Cook and stir over medium low heat until the marshmallows are melted (about 10 minutes).

Remove from heat. Pour and enjoy!

Snow Paint

Things you will need:

-1 cup of salt
-1 cup of flour
-1 cup of water

Mix all together. The paint dries making a white snow with a gritty texture that looks like snow. (Recommend to paint on heavy paper.)

Painting with Ice

Things you will need:

-food coloring
-water
-ice cube tray
-plastic wrap
-toothpicks

Directions:

Add a couple of drops of food coloring to each section of the ice tray. Remember to mix the colors to get even more fun colors to paint with (add a drop of blue and a drop of red to make purple, etc.) Cover the tray with plastic wrap and insert the toothpicks. Place the tray in the freezer until the ice is frozen through.

Once the ice cubes are frozen, take them out and paint with them on heavy paper.

A Treat from Miss Amanda:

Chocolate Heart Lollipops

You will need:

- melting chocolate
- sticks
- heart shaped mold

To do:

Melt the chocolate in the heart mold shape and put in the stick. Let the chocolate harden in the fridge. Once hard, remove from mold carefully. Enjoy!

A Treat from Miss Veronica

Gingerkids!

These plump marshmallow pals are adorned with sugar, spice, and everything nice.

To make them, combine ½ cup sugar with 2 teaspoons cinnamon and ½ teaspoon ginger in a medium bowl and set aside. Fill another medium bowl with water. Melt 1 cup white chocolate chips according to the package and snip off a corner. To form each pop, slide two marshmallows onto a lollipop stick. Use the melted chocolate to adhere mini marshmallow arms and legs as shown. Let the chocolate set. Dip the pop in the water, then roll it in the sugar mixture until coated. Pipe on a chocolate face. Then use more chocolate to attach heart and confetti sprinkle buttons, bows, and bow ties.