

JANUARY

the Children's Center News

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Carrie Rain, Director of Early Childhood Programs



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Reading Corner

Karen Roudybush, Reading Specialist

Let's TALK about books. Share a good book together and start a conversation. Ask some questions and learn together!



The Daily Five

Jennifer Stuber, Kindergarten Teacher

This year, the Daily Five has been implemented in the Kindergarten classroom. The Daily Five is a program that establishes how we organize our Language Arts and Literacy time. It focuses on the following areas: *Read to Self*, *Listen to Someone Read*, *Read to Someone*, *Writing* and *Word Work*. The Kindergarten students have been working hard and are well on their way to becoming early readers. We have increased our stamina (meaning how long we can remain focused and on task) when *Reading to Self* and love sharing books with our each other during *Read to Someone* time. During *Word Work* time, we have been exploring word families and changing letters in words to create new words, and in *Writing* time we are using those words in simple sentences. As always, one of our favorite parts of the day is *Listen to Someone Read*, when the teacher reads and models good reading strategies for us. Kindergarten is a critical year for literacy development and the Daily Five has been a wonderful addition to our program!



Don't forget to clip and save the UPC symbols from participating products so that we can get free stuff for our school. Let's work together...every label counts!

Upcoming Events

February 4th

PJ Day!

February 7th

Literacy
Workshop
9:30-12:00

February 16th

No School-
President's
Day

March 20-21

Family
Learning
Weekend

The Gingerbread Man!

Patty Greeno, Preschool Teacher

It's always great fun to return to school after our December break because that is when we get to do activities with the Gingerbread Man. We read a few versions of the story, watch a movie and meet a Gingerbread Man doll. We even play some Gingerbread Man games on our iPad. We practice various skills while playing with the Gingerbread Man, such as: patterns, sizes, shapes, body parts/clothing, identifying characters in the story, sequencing the story and predicting what will happen next. The children enjoy running as fast as they can while acting out the story and saying, "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man!" A giant cardboard Gingerbread House is set up in our room. We decorate it and the children play in it. Even with all of that fun, the most exciting activity is taking the Gingerbread Man home for a visit. Parents take pictures of their child with The Gingerbread Man and write a brief description of what they did while they were together. Each child then gets to show their pictures in class to their friends. It is an exciting way to ease back into the routine of school and the children love having some of their own special time with their new friend, the Gingerbread Man.



Inclement Weather

Just a reminder... Should there be inclement weather, follow your home school district's closings and delays as they provide transportation for your child. If school is canceled or delayed in your area, the district has determined that it is not safe for buses to travel.

Annual IEPs

IEP season is quickly approaching. You can expect to receive an invitation to participate in your child's IEP in the mail. Please notify us as soon as possible if you would like to change the date or time of your child's IEP. The IEP schedule is very full, so the more time we have to reschedule, the better! We look forward to meeting with you!

Stop the Spread of Germs During Cold/Flu Season

www.cdc.gov

1. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
4. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
5. If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
6. While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.