Thompson School District
Early Childhood Program Newsletter

December 2019
407 E. 42nd Street
Loveland, CO 80538
970-613-5052

Upcoming Events

**December 11th**
Board of Education Meeting
Administration Building
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**December 19th**
Board of Education Study Session
Administration Building
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Important Dates

Winter Break
No School
December 23rd-January 3rd
A Note From Our Administrator

Hello Families,

I hope that your Thanksgiving was a relaxing and energizing time with family and friends!

School Closure Information. Overnight, TSD employees monitor city, county and state roadways throughout the district and evaluate travel conditions. They also monitor conditions at district sites as well as road advisories. Neighboring school districts and city, county, and state agencies are also contacted to confirm delays or closures. The superintendent may announce a late start schedule for the opening of schools if weather or other emergency conditions are severe but not serious enough to close schools.

If the district decides to cancel school or initiate a late start because of inclement weather or other dangerous conditions, the announcement will be carried on the Thompson School District website, radio and tv stations:

KCOL 600 AM
KTRR TRI-102.5
1610 AM
KUNC 91.5 FM
KGRE 1450 AM (Spanish)
KFKA 1310 AM
KBNO 1280 AM (Spanish)

Denver television stations

The announcement will also be made via the district website, Facebook (“Thompson School District”), Twitter (@ThompsonR2J) and the district school closure line (970-613-6788). A phone call, e-mail and text message will be sent to all district families who have authorized the communication in the Infinite Campus "Parent Portal." Media sources will be contacted for both school closings and late starts.

Self-Assessment. As part of our continuous improvement process, Our Families Partnering in Education (PIE) has begin our Self-Assessment for the 2019-2020 school year. This Self-Assessment is an annual opportunity for us to reflect on last year’s goals and focus on the program’s needs in the 2020-2021 school year. This includes taking a
holistic view of our program domains and setting new goals and objectives around our data. Our next Family PIE meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2020.

**Kindergarten Open Enrollment.** If you are attending a preschool that is *not* your neighborhood school, you will need to Open Enroll at the school for the 2019-2020 school year if you would like to continue. For those interested in looking at schools other than your neighborhood school, you will also need to Open Enroll at the school of your choice. The Open Enrollment window begins on December 2, 2019. You will need to apply on the Thompson School District website for Open Enrollment. If you choose to attend your neighborhood school for kindergarten, you do not need to fill out an Open Enrollment application.

I wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro, EC Administrator

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**Social Emotional Resources**

The holidays are on their way! And with them comes excitement and fun! Even though the holidays can be full of wonder and enjoyment, they can also cause Stress, for adults and children. It is going to be an important time to take care of ourselves and our loved ones. Here are some ideas: Practice deep breathing  Take a warm bath  Give each other back rubs  Take time to read and play together  Exercise  Keep your sense of humor  Remember to count your blessings

***Find out more “Holiday Strategies” at:***  

Mary Bowman – Mental Health/Autism Coordinator 970-613-6179
Education Corner

The Holiday season is such a busy time of year for everyone! Preschooler's love to help! Here are some ways to work on literacy, math, language and fine motor skills with your preschooler this month….

- Have them help you wrap gifts and sign any cards or tags by practicing writing their own name.
- Teach them how to tear tape by using their pincer fingers.
- They can help you write grocery lists by brainstorming letter sounds for items on your list. For instance, you might say “MMMMilk”.
- Talk about measurement and have them help you count cups, teaspoons, etc.
- Talk about your family traditions and why you do certain things.
- Introduce unfamiliar family members and explain their relationship to you. “This is daddy’s sister, she is your aunt.”

Most of all, enjoy your time together as your preschooler experiences the wonder of the season!

Amy Gerhard Education Coordinator 970-613-5078

Health/Wellness

- Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Some of our School Exclusion guidelines are below.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve, not your hand if you sneeze. If you need to use a tissue, throw it away after use.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub (Adults, not children under 5).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way. Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, especially when someone is ill.
If your child does become ill, please keep them at home if they exhibit any of the following: **Cough:** severe uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, difficulty breathing, red or blue color to face with cough, high pitched whooping sound with coughing or vomits after coughing. **Diarrhea:** when accompanied by symptoms of illness, when it contains blood or mucous, when the child is in diapers, or when stools are so loose they can’t be controlled by the child. **Fever illness:** Temperature greater than 101° F (oral) with signs of illness. Temperature should be back to normal for 24 hours prior to return to school without the aid of fever reducing medications. **Flu symptoms:** Elevated temperature (>100° F) or fever (>101° F) and sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea. Stay home from school until the fever or symptoms of fever are gone for 24 hours without the aid of medications.

Healthy Children Learn Better!
Christiana Shorten
Health Coordinator
970-613-5063

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**Family Engagement**

Santa will be visiting classrooms before winter break, through partnerships with Loveland Kiwanis Club, Berthoud Fire Department and the Town of Berthoud.

**Holiday Events in Loveland**

**Christmas at the Promenade Shops at Centerra** Ice Rink is open Saturdays from 10:00 am – 9:00 pm, Sundays from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm and weekdays from 2:00 – 9:00 pm. Cost is $8 children 12 and younger and $10 ages 13 and up. Free night: Dec. 8 from 4 – 7 pm. Info: [https://www.thepromenadeshopsatcenterra.com/events](https://www.thepromenadeshopsatcenterra.com/events)

**Santa’s Workshop at Centerra** Saturdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at The Group, 5401 Stone Creek Circle. Visit Santa while listening to a story from Mrs. Claus, plus a coloring contest, cookies, hot cocoa, and horse-drawn wagon rides.

**Holiday Movies at the Rialto Theater – downtown Loveland** *Muppet Christmas Carol* – Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm – Free (Tickets available Nov. 21) or *Elf* – Dec. 17 at 7:00
pm, $6 per person (Tickets went on sale Aug. 6.) Info: http://www.rialtotheatercenter.org/calendar

**Storytime with Santa at the Rialto**  Saturday, Dec. 5, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, Story with Santa, cookies, hot cocoa - $5 (children under 2-free.) Info: http://www.rialtotheatercenter.org/calendar

**Winter Wonderlights – Chapungu Park at Centerra**  Now through Jan. 1 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Free nightly light show timed to music. Winter Wonderlights Live includes live entertainment Dec. 13-14. Located on the east side of Macy’s. Free admission. Info: www.visitlovelandco.org/winter-wonderlights

**Winterfest at the Loveland Public Library**  Sat., Dec. 7, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Event includes Santa visits, gingerbread workshops, music and crafts. Info: www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org

**Loveland Concert Band**  Sun., Dec. 8 at 3:00 at Sue E. Wall Auditorium at Mountain View High School. Holiday concert – *Santa is Coming to Town*. The event is free, but they are asking for non-perishable food items to benefit House of Neighborly Service.

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**Money Matters**  - Sometimes we get caught up in gift giving at the holidays, then we are shocked when the credit card bill comes in January. Instead, attend one of the free events listed above, go sledding, bake cookies or read your child’s favorite Christmas story. Making family memories means more to your child than a new toy.

**English Language Development**

During the winter holidays we celebrate many traditions with family. Why not start (or continue) a tradition that you can pass down for years to come? Oral storytelling is one way to develop language and celebrate your culture. Research has shown that sharing stories with young children can aid in their social and emotional development, their cognitive growth and their language skills (Escamilla et al., 2014). Children who listen to stories are activating both their auditory and language processing systems. They are hearing grammar, syntax and new vocabulary which they will begin to use in their own expressive language skills.
Oral storytelling is much more personal than telling a story using a book. Using physical movement and changing your tone of voice is a great way to engage young learners. Telling the stories of your culture and your ancestors allows for preschoolers to begin to tell their own descriptive narratives and recount events. Visualization is another skill that oral storytelling can reinforce. This skill is essential for a child when they begin to read novels that do not have any picture support. Enjoy the winter break with your families and remember to tell some stories.

Please call or email if you have any questions for me. You can also use TSD's translation service anytime you need translation for school business. Their number is (970) 613-6167.
- Julie Sullivan, ELD teacher
  julie.sullivan@thompsonschools.org
(970) 613-6885

References: