Vision: Children and Families Empowered for a Lifetime of Learning

Mission: The mission of the Thompson Integrated Early Childhood Program is to provide high quality, developmentally appropriate education, and family-centered services that value and respect the diversity of individual children and families. Through collaboration with community and educational resources, we will strive to identify and alleviate barriers that interfere with the ability of families and children to reach their full potential.

December 2018

Hello Families,

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

School Closure Information. Your best resource for school closure information will be on the Thompson School District website. On the TSD school website, you’ll be able to find the most up-to-date information.

We need your help! With the weather changing, we know that there are times when you need someone other than yourself to pick up your child. Please make sure that the person picking up your child has appropriate identification, such as a driver’s license. If the person picking up does not have...
proper identification, we cannot release the child to her/him. It’s also important that you drop off and pick up your child on time. This will help us with staying on schedule for all of our students and families.

Our Family Partnering in Education (PIE) will begin our Self-Assessment for the 2018-2019 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 2019-2020 school year. Our Family PIE welcomes anyone who would like to help make decisions that impact our Early Childhood Program. The next meeting is on Monday, January 14, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Monroe Early Childhood Center. If you have any questions about this, please contact me at 970-613-5031.

“When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you’ll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift that you can give someone is your time.” – Rick Warren

I share this quote with you because it’s the time of year when we consider what to do for our loved ones during this holiday season. I shared this quote last year and it still makes me reflect on what’s important about this time of year. This year, I plan on spending time with my family because the most important things my girls will walk away with is the memory of our experiences together.

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

Sincerely,
Lamb Caro, EC Administrator

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 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


VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!
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 pincher 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!

Education Corner...

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
970-613-5078

English Language Development...

Parents as advocates

As the parent of a preschooler, you are your child’s most important advocate and role model. Forming a strong partnership with the educational professionals that work with your child each day can positively impact your child’s school experience. Parents also have a significant voice in educational decision-making, recognizing issues, and speaking up about concerns for your child.

Two-way communication is a key component of an effective home-school partnership. Parents are encouraged to request translators and interpreters be provided through your child’s Early Childhood classroom staff to ensure language is not a barrier to communication between home and school.

Consider participating in one of the following opportunities to learn more about your child’s educational experience and get involved as a parent leader:
Volunteer in your child’s classroom. Contact your child’s teacher to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Attend Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) Advisory Council- [Click Link](https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/ABCs-Family-Engagement.pdf) for more information.

Attend Families Partnering in Education- [Click Link](https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/ABCs-Family-Engagement.pdf) for more information.

Resource:


Erin Ridge
English Language Development
970-613-6084

**Health/Wellness…**

December 2018 Health Office Policy Council Update

The Health Office has been working on the following:

- As per SB 15-014, our student immunizations and annual exemptions were reported to the State of Colorado on December 1st 2018. This year, we reported our data together with Thompson School District K-12 using Infinite Campus.
- Attended the SETT – School Emergency Triage Training at the Annual School Nurse Conference at the Embassy Suites. This training is designed to provide School Nurses with the knowledge, skills, and training resources to lead school-based Disaster Response Teams and perform triage in response to mass casualty incident events.
- All Vision referrals from the Lions Eye Screening have been mailed out to Families. Initial hearing screenings and re-checks have been completed. Any necessary referrals will be made in December.
- Child Care Licensing, Health Department, and Nutritional Services have been making their audit visits to EC classrooms.

Christiana Shorten – Health Coordinator

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A healthy recipe from the Wellness Coordinators…

Try this cool, healthy smoothie as a quick snack for kids of all ages!

**Strawberry Smoothie**

1. 2 ice cubes
2. 1 c. milk
3. 1/3 c. cottage cheese
4. 2/3 c. frozen strawberries
5. 1 tsp. sugar
6. 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Place all ingredients in blender. Mix well. Enjoy!
**Family Engagement...**

Santa will be visiting classrooms this month, through partnerships with the local Kiwanis Club, City of Berthoud employees and Berthoud Fire Department. Check dates with your teacher.

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**Money Matters – Christmas spending**

What children want most for Christmas is time with you. Try not to get caught up in over-spending to buy expensive toys for your child, only to feel stressed when the credit card bill comes in January. Make special memories with your child like baking cookies, sledding in the snow or reading their favorite book. Your child will remember those special times together more than a fancy new toy.

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**Loveland Holiday Events:**

**Loveland Lights 20178– “Celebrating Lights” at the Loveland Public Library**

Sat., Dec. 8, from 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday, Dec. 9, from 1 – 4 pm. Event includes gingerbread workshops, carving for kids, scavenger hunt, face painting, card making and more. Event schedule: [www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org)

**Christmas at the Promenade Shops at Centerra – near Best Buy**

Santa will be available Saturdays from 10 am – 5 pm, Sundays from 11 am – 5 pm, and Christmas Eve from 10 am – 2:30 pm. Ice Rink is open Saturdays from 10 am – 9 pm, Sundays from 11 am – 6 pm and weekdays from 2 – 9 pm. Cost is $8 children 12 and younger and $9 for adults. Information: [https://www.thepromenadeshopsatcenterra.com/events](https://www.thepromenadeshopsatcenterra.com/events)

**Holiday Movies at the Rialto Theater – downtown Loveland**

Holiday films, “It’s a Wonderful Life” will be shown on Dec. 19th, and “A Christmas Story” on Dec. 20th. All films will be shown at 7 pm. Cost: $6.00. There will be a free showing of “Polar Express” on Dec. 6th at 7:00 pm. Tickets are first come, first served starting Nov. 27th from 12:30 – 5:30 pm. Information: [http://www.rialtotheatercenter.org/upcoming-shows](http://www.rialtotheatercenter.org/upcoming-shows)

**Winter Wonderlights – Chapungu Park at Centerra**
Free nightly light show timed to music November 16 – Jan 1 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Located on the east side of Macy’s. Free admission, but canned food will be collected for the Larimer County Food Bank. Event schedule: [www.visitlovelandco.org/winter-wonderlights](http://www.visitlovelandco.org/winter-wonderlights)

**Garden of Lights – Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave in Ft. Collins**
LED light displays and garden sculptures daily from Dec. 1 – Jan. 1, from 5 – 9 pm. Woodward Governor’s holiday village will be on display this year. Donations are appreciated - $5 adults, $2 children is suggested. Santa visits on weekends. For a complete entertainment schedule: [http://www.fcgov.com/gardens/garden-of-lights](http://www.fcgov.com/gardens/garden-of-lights)

Julie Lindsay, Family & Community Partnership Coordinator (970) 613-5053