Hello Students and Families,

I hope that your Thanksgiving was wonderful! I hope it was spent with family and friends and you have some great memories to revisit.

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 and is listed on the Emergency Card. If the person picking up does not have proper identification and is not listed, 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 Families Partnering in Education (Family PIE) will begin our Self-Assessment for the 2017-2018 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 2018-2019 school year. Our Family PIE welcomes anyone who would like to shape our decisions that impact our Early Childhood. The next meeting is on Monday,

Upcoming Events

December 6
Board of Education meeting
Administration Building
Boardroom
6:00 p.m.

December 11
Colorado Preschool Program Advisory Council meeting
Administration Building
Room 128
12:15-1:45 p.m.

December 18-21
Santa Visits to Classrooms
Watch for more information from your child’s teacher

December 20
Board of Education meeting
Administration Building
Boardroom
6:00 p.m.

January 8
Family PIE meeting
Monroe Early Childhood Center
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
(Dinner and Childcare provided)

Important Announcement

December 25-January 5
NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK

January 8, 2018
BACK TO SCHOOL!
January 8, 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.

As our thoughts turn to the holidays, I find myself in the predicament of trying to find gifts for those that are important in my life. Should I give them a book? How about the newest game? I think gift giving is a part of many celebrations, but I also think that giving others the gift of your time is the most significant thing we can do. Time spent with family and friends can create memories that can last, especially when we think of our kids. I know that I won’t always remember the gifts that I gave, but I will always remember the good times that we had together. More importantly, I hope my kids will, too. This year, I will continue to look for the gifts, and I will look for those opportunities of time to spend with those important in my life.

“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

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

Sincerely,
Lamb Caro
Early Childhood Administrator

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 pincher fingers.
- They can help you write grocery lists by brainstorming letter sounds for items on your list. For instance, you might say “MMMMilk. What sound do you hear? What letter makes that sound?” etc.
- While you are cooking, your preschooler can help you get items as you read the recipe, stir the batter, decorate the cookies, etc. 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
DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS

As we get closer to the holidays, we know many of us are having changes in our usual routines. This is a reminder to you that it is important to drop off and pick up your students on time. Routines are important to students and it is best to keep the classrooms as normal as possible. Our teachers are also getting ready for students to arrive and leave on time so that they can finish up their work to make the classrooms run as routinely possible. Remember, even a few minutes makes a difference in how your child starts and ends their day. Please help us by being on time for pick-up and drop-off at our classrooms. Thanks for your support!

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 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 more “Holiday Strategies” at:

VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

Mary Bowman
Mental Health/Autism Coordinator
970-613-6179
Keeping Kids Healthy!

As we enter into the cold and flu season, here are some health practices that we can follow to keep our Schools and Community safe and well!

Take a proactive approach to curbing the spread of such illnesses by practicing and encouraging our children to practice frequent hand washing. Good hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent illness. Children should be encouraged to **cough or sneeze into their elbow area/sleeve**, not their hands. Germs on fabric/clothing quickly die, while germs on hands that are not immediately washed, are easily spread to others.

- **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 mucus, 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 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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**A healthy recipe from the Wellness Coordinators…**

**CROCKPOT APPLE CINNAMON OATMEAL**

**Nutrition Facts**

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**Prep time:** 5 minutes  
**Cook time:** 7 hours

**What you need:**

- 1 cup steel-cut oats
- 1 cup skim milk (or milk substitute, such as almond or soy milk)
- 3 cups water
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup chopped nuts, optional

**What to do:**

1. Place oats, milk, water, applesauce, and cinnamon into the slow cooker. Stir, cover, and set to low.
2. Cook for 7 hours.
3. Top each serving with 1 tablespoon of the nuts and enjoy! You can also top your oatmeal with 1 tablespoon of raisins, but this will increase the amount of sugar you’re eating.

**How much does this recipe make?** 4 servings

Reviewed by: Rupal Christine Gupta, MD

Date reviewed: June 2015

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Family Engagement...

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

We hope you enjoy making special memories with your family this holiday season. Heat up some hot cocoa, pop some popcorn and plan a family game night or watch a holiday movie. Here are a few holiday events in Loveland this year:

**Loveland Lights 2017 – “Holiday Traditions Around the World” at the Loveland Public Library**
Sat., Dec. 2nd, 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 1 – 4 pm. Event includes gingerbread workshops, carving for kids, dance and music groups, paper crafts, card making and more. Event schedule: [www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org/lights](http://www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org/lights)

**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 $7 for children 12 and younger and $8.50 for adults. Complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides on Sundays from noon – 4 pm and on Christmas Eve from 10 am – 2 pm. Depart from the Ice Rink. Information: [https://www.thepromenadeshopsatcenterra.com/events](https://www.thepromenadeshopsatcenterra.com/events)

**Tree Lighting and Holiday Movies at the Rialto Theater – downtown Loveland**
Wed, Nov. 29 from 5 – 8 pm is the annual Festival of Lights and Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Rialto Theater. Holiday films, “White Christmas” will be shown on Dec. 19th, “Scrooged” on Dec. 20th and “It’s a Wonderful Life” on Dec. 21st. All films will be shown at 7 pm. Cost: $6.00. Information: [http://www.rialtotheatercenter.org/calendar/](http://www.rialtotheatercenter.org/calendar/)

**Winter Wonderlights – Chapungu Park at Centerra**
Walkable holiday light and music display November 18 – Jan. 7th - Saturdays from 5:30 – 9:00 pm, and Sundays, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Parking 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/winterwonderlights/](http://www.visitlovelandco.org/winterwonderlights/)

**Garden of Lights – Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave in Ft. Collins**
Check out their LED light displays and interesting sculptures daily from Dec. 1st – Jan. 7th, from 5 – 9 pm. Woodward Governor is incorporating their light display this year. Donations are appreciated - $5 adults, $2 children. Santa visits on weekends. For a complete event schedule: [http://www.fcgov.com/gardens/programsspecial-events/special-events/garden-of-lights-entertainment-schedule](http://www.fcgov.com/gardens/programsspecial-events/special-events/garden-of-lights-entertainment-schedule)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US AT EARLY CHILDHOOD!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Julie Lindsay
Family & Community Partnership Coordinator
970-613-5053