Principal’s News:

Greetings!

I hope that you had a fantastic Thanksgiving and had an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends! As we head into the month of December, I wanted to remind you about our information on the Thompson School District website. You can find us by going to the Thompson School District webpage and going to the top right button marked “Schools” and clicking on “Early Childhood.” Here’s a short list of things that you’ll be able to find:

- School calendar
- Upcoming events
- Parent Resources
- Newsletters
- Policy Council Agendas and Minutes
- Colorado Preschool Program Advisory Council Agenda and Minutes.

In addition, on the main district web page, you’ll also be able to find school closure information.

Your Policy Council is in the early stages of beginning our Self-Assessment. This Self-Assessment is an annual opportunity for us to work on continuous improvement of our program. Our Early Childhood Policy Council would welcome anyone who would like to shape our decisions that impact Early Childhood. The next meeting is on Monday, January 9, 2017, 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.

I, and the all of the Early Childhood staff, wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro, EC Administrator

Stay connected with us on Facebook, too! Look for us under “Thompson Integrated Early Childhood.”
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

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

VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

Mary Bowman – Mental Health/Autism Coordinator

Safety Smart own-up Reminders

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms (press the test button) once a month to make sure they work.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Make a home fire escape plan with your family.
- Find two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home.
- Know the emergency number for your fire department or teach children about 911.
- Practice your escape plan twice a year (one during the day and one at night).
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out! If you have to escape through smoke, get low and stay low.


Christiana Shorten ND, RN, CNS
Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Coordinator (970)613-5063
Family Engagement

The holidays are here and Santa will be visiting classrooms in December, courtesy of the Kiwanis Club, City of Berthoud employees and Berthoud Fire Department.

We hope you enjoy time 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 other suggestions to make special holiday memories:

**Loveland Lights 2016 – “Holiday Traditions Around the World” at the Loveland Public Library**
Sat., Dec. 3 from 9 am – 5 pm and Sunday, Dec. 4 from 1 – 4 pm (Includes gingerbread workshops, holiday trees and displays, dance and music groups, origami workshop, recycled ornaments workshop, book and bake sale and more.)

**Christmas at the Promenade Shops – 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. Cost is $7 children 12 and younger and $8.50 for adults. Complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides on Sundays from noon – 4 pm. Depart at the Ice Rink.

**Lighting of the Menorah – Peters Park/Loveland Museum – 503 N. Lincoln**
Tues., Dec. 8 at 5:00 pm. Join our Mayor for a giant Menorah lighting, complete with Chanukah music, latkes, donuts, dreidels and more.

**Holiday Movies at the Rialto Theater – downtown Loveland**
“It’s a Wonderful Life” Dec. 8, 9, 10 and 11. Times vary. Cost is $12 students, $15 adults. “Scrooge” will be shown Dec. 19 at 7 pm or “Babes in Toyland” Dec. 20, 7 pm. Cost is $6.

**Christmas Walk in the Woods – 1750 Savage Road**
Enjoy Christmas light display in the woods on Saturday, Dec. 17 and Friday Dec. 23rd from 4 – 8 pm. Cost is $12; children under 5 are free.

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December Recipe:

**Banana in a Blanket**

Preparation Time: 5 minutes
1 (6 inch) whole wheat tortilla
1 Tbsp reduced-fat smooth peanut butter
1 medium banana
1 tsp maple syrup or honey
1 Tbsp crunchy, nutty nugget cereal (Grape-Nuts or something like that)

Lay tortilla on a plate. Spread peanut butter evenly on the tortilla. Sprinkle cereal over peanut butter.

Peel and place banana on the tortilla and roll the tortilla. Drizzle maple syrup or honey on top.

Optional: garnish with more cereal on top.

Nutritional information:
Calories: 303
Total fat: 6.4 g
Saturated fat: 1.2 g
%calories from fat: 17%
Protein: 9 g
Carbohydrates: 63 g
Dietary fiber: 7 g
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. 4 – Jan. 8th, from 5 – 9 pm. Donations are appreciated - $5 adults, $2 children. Santa visits on Saturdays and Sundays. For a complete event schedule, visit: http://www.fcgov.com/gardens/programsspecial-events/special-events/garden-of-lights-entertainment-schedule

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

The 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, 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.
- 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 your family traditions and why you do certain things.
- Most of all, enjoy your time together as your preschooler experiences the wonder of the season!

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
Open Enrollment for Kindergarten...

The Kindergarten Open Enrollment Window for the Thompson School District is from November 28, 2016 – February 8, 2017. If you would like to open enroll into an elementary school outside of your student attendance area, you need to fill out a School of Choice Application. This can be found on the Thompson School District website. Go to the “Search” window and type in “Kindergarten Registration”. Go to the Kindergarten Registration page and go to Open Enrollment Process to find the instructions and application form.

*You will not be able to access bus transportation for your student if he/she is open-enrolled into a school outside of your attendance area.

Kindergarten Registration...

You may register our child at any time into your home school. If you are requesting open enrollment, you must wait until your child is accepted to register.