



CHESTERBROOK

BULLETIN BOARD

279 Egg Harbor Road Sewell, New Jersey 08080
January 2016

Dear Chesterbrook Parents,

It's hard to believe that the holidays came and went so quickly and we now say hello to 2016! Happy New Year! This month is sure to be filled with fresh new activities filled with excitement, and our students who are eager to learn more!

- ❖ We would like to personally say thank you to all of the families who donated to our "Pajama Tree" during the month of December. Because of your donations, several families had a fantastic holiday this season. Holy Family Church thanks you graciously, it meant so much to the families in need this year. ❤️
- ❖ On behalf of the Chesterbrook family, we would all like to say thank you for your generous gifts this holiday season and all of the delicious homemade cookies we ate entirely!! 😊
- ❖ Please remember that documentation of your child's the flu vaccine is due **immediately** if you haven't already turned it in. Thank you!
- ❖ Please be sure to supply us with your most recent and updated Universal Health Form and Immunization record.
- ❖ As we all know winter is here and it will be much colder outside as our day continues! Please make sure that your child has an extra pair of weather appropriate clothes in their cubby. Also, make sure that you are sending in warm coats, gloves, hats, etc. for them to wear outside. We try to utilize our playground during the winter months even if it is only for a 15 minute interval. Once the temperature goes below 40, we do not bring our little ones outside! 😊

- ❖ In the event of excessive snow, there are several ways to check if we are open. We will send an email by 5:30 am stating a closure or delayed opening. It will be on our Chesterbrook voicemail. Channel 6 (ABC) and Channel 10 (NBC) will also list updates. Look for Chesterbrook Academy Sewell.

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year!

Our warmest wishes,

Stacy & Thien



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Infants

Welcome Carmen to our room and Congratulations Ayla, Violet and Luke on moving up to Toddler A! Some skills we will be covering this month will be: searches for the sound source; gestures to communicate; and strings together sounds and pulls self up to stand. Happy Holidays!

Toddler A

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This month our color will be blue and our shape a Triangle. This month we will be encouraging our toddlers to use their words and build their vocabulary. Thank you for your constant support of Share A Book Day and daily activities. Looking forward to a wonderful 2016!

Miss Rhonda, Miss Lisa, and Miss Sammi

Toddler B

Happy New Year to Everyone! Hope all of you enjoyed the holidays. We want to wish Mason, Gio, Giuliana, and Booker well as they join Beginner A. Welcome Roman who joins us from Toddler A. Liam and Maggie are doing great with open cups. Good job guys! Birthday greetings go out to Parker! Some of our LTL skills this month will be knowing and using names of peers and teachers, understanding the number concept of 1 and completing 1-3 piece puzzles. White is our color of the month. The children are doing really well with color identification!

Beginner A

It's January in Beginner A! This month we will introduce new friends from Toddler B and say goodbye to some friends moving up to Beginner B. Our Spanish this month is "circulo" (circle). With the weather getting colder, we will focus on more indoor activities such as obstacle courses and parachute play! Please check your child's cubby for weather appropriate clothing. ☺ Lastly, we will be celebrating Kennedy and Annabel's birthday's! As always it is a pleasure teaching your children! Thank you!

Beginner B

Welcome to January in Beginner B! This month we will get some new friends from our Beginner A room! We will learn our new Spanish word "Circulo" (circle) and continue to review our other Spanish words. Since the weather is getting colder we will focus on indoor wellness activities such as an indoor obstacle course and parachute play. This month we will celebrate Annabel and Kennedy's 3rd birthday! Miss Gab and I are very excited for the New Year!!!

Intermediates

The Intermediates class is so excited to welcome our new friends up to our room! Welcome our new friends Ben Rosen, Ella Ashe, Jayden Chen, and Adriana DeColli! This month the children will be working on their self-help and social interaction skills. We will be looking at simple 2D and 3D shapes in math. In language we will work on our communication skills with our friends and teachers. We are looking forward to a great and productive month!!

Pre K

Happy 2016! December was a great month, full of a lot of hard work and fun. Last month we went to the Pitman theater for a field trip to see "Twas the Night Before Christmas." We also had a guest, Ken Maclin, come and perform a holiday show. January will be just as exciting. This month we will be welcoming a new friend to our class, Parker Pine. In January we will be learning more sight words and continue practicing our writing skills. This month we will be touching on Science a lot more. We will be doing experiments and the children will make predictions and answer questions. This will be a busy month for sure! We look forward to watching the children continue to grow and excel!

Kindergarten

Happy Holidays and Welcome 2016! I can't believe this school year is already half way done! This month we are focusing on blending initial, medial, and final /n/, /b/, /r/, /k/, /f/ and /d/ sounds, reading text based comprehension such as compare and contrast, plot, cause and effect, and plot, identifying and using verbs, making and taking apart numbers 11-19, learning all about the planet Earth and much more!

Calendar of Events:

- ❖ Flu shot documentation is due IMMEDIATELY!
- ❖ Saturday, January 23rd- Open House 10-1
- ❖ Keep an eye out for our January Kindergarten Open House! Set to take place in late January. Please check for any new updates! ☺
- ❖ 2/15 Closed for Professional Development Day

* Don't forget to visit our website for the lunch menu, special event dates, reminders and so much more...

sewell.chesterbrookacademy.com



The Value of Visual Art Activities for Your Preschooler

Visual art experiences help children develop skills such as critical thinking, self-expression, problem-solving, communication and collaboration. Our teachers focus on process-based art education, in which the experience of creating art is valued over the end product.

In our classrooms, teachers integrate art into many aspects of our Links to Learning curriculum. After reading a book about polar bears, teachers might ask students to create their own polar bears using sponges, paint, markers and paper. They encourage students to talk about their art, providing a great opportunity to learn new vocabulary, particularly words related to colors, shapes, textures, and emotions.

Our students are also exposed to and inspired by famous artwork. In order to cultivate that fascination, we discuss famous artists and art works and ask students to create replicas of well-known paintings and sculptures. For example, after learning about Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, teachers mimic the activity in the classroom. They tape paper underneath tables, and students practice painting a masterpiece while lying down.

Below are visual art activities you and your child can do at home, as well as recommended reading.



At Home:

- Provide your child with finger paint, a large piece of paper and a smock. Let him create a masterpiece. Talk about how the paint feels and what colors and shapes he creates on the paper.
- Start a journal with your child. Have him draw a picture of something that happened during the day. Avoid giving direction. Instead of saying "Draw a picture of your teacher and classmates," encourage him to experiment using different colored markers or crayons. If age appropriate, ask your child to write a few words to describe the picture.
- Give your child a piece of paper and a box of crayons or markers. Show him how to use the materials to make dots, lines and swirls on the paper. Let him take over and have fun. Encourage conversation about your child's art by saying, "Tell me about what you made" or "I see you used a lot of blue in your picture. Why did you choose that color?"
- Ask your child to decorate a sign for his bedroom door using various art materials. Have him write his name on the sign.

Recommended Reading:

- *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds
- *Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Art* by Patrick McDonnell
- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- *Mix It Up* by Herve Tullet

From the Education Department

Making the Holidays Less Materialistic

"The gimmies" are all around us during the holiday season. It's not the gifts but what's behind them that's important — the spirit of giving. Help your kids learn the fun of giving, and how rewarding it can be to look for, make, and wrap something special — or do something special — for people they care about and others who are in need.

Here are five ways to curb materialism in your kids and reinforce the real reason for the season:

1. Teach Kids to Question Marketing Messages

From the TV commercials during cartoons to the promos on the backs of cereal boxes, marketing messages target kids of all ages. And to them, everything looks ideal, like something they simply have to have. The ads kids see around the holidays can help foster unrealistic expectations and lead to disappointment. After imagining their "wish list" items all around them, it's hard for reality to measure up when they actually open their gifts.

Explain, when your kids ask for products they see advertised, that commercials and other ads are designed to make people want things they don't necessarily need. And these ads are often meant to make us think that these products will make us happier somehow. Talking to kids about what things are like in reality can help put things into perspective.

Teach kids that not everything they want can always be theirs and that a little "want" here and there isn't all bad. The key is to want things in moderation and to fully appreciate what you're given. Emphasize that the holidays are a special time, when a lot of love and thought is put into gift giving.

2. Focus on Family Traditions

Traditions that focus on family or friends can be a great way to put meaning back into the holidays. Here are a couple of ideas:

Talk about which family traditions your family loves the most. Then figure out how you can put more emphasis on them. If you love the tradition of lighting the menorah, get together as a group to make your own candles. If you enjoy the family trip to pick out a tree, make it an all-day event and head to a tree farm to choose your own.

Find out what the holidays mean to others. Have your kids talk to a grandparent, parent, uncle, or aunt about how they spent the holidays growing up. Some holiday traditions that used to be strong — such as neighborhood caroling — are all but lost today. Maybe you'd like to revive some of these as a way to share some holiday spirit with your family, friends, or community.

Build some new traditions. If you don't have any family traditions, it's never too late to start. Get together around activities that you all enjoy, such as cooking or ice-skating. Ask your kids what they would enjoy doing every year and make an effort to do it. If you can't all decide on one thing, make traditions out of several, so that everyone feels like part of the festivities.

3. Teach Kids to Give of Themselves

Volunteerism, especially around the holidays, offers an ideal opportunity for families to have fun and feel closer to each other at the same time. Community service helps to drive home the message that giving is much more than laying down cash for the hot gift of the season or scrambling around to buy mounds of presents.

Volunteerism can show kids that giving your time, effort, and kindness is more rewarding than just expecting to receive lots of presents.

Also, if volunteering begins at an early age, it can become part of your kids' lives — something they just want to do. It can teach them:

that one person can make a difference. A wonderful, empowering message for kids is that they are important enough to have an impact on someone or something else.

the benefit of sacrifice. By giving up a toy to a less fortunate child, a child learns that sometimes it's good to sacrifice. Cutting back on recreation time to help others reinforces that there are important things other than ourselves and our immediate needs.

tolerance. Working in community service can bring kids and teens in touch with people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, ages, and education and income levels. They'll likely find that even the most diverse individuals can be united by common values.

to be even more appreciative of what they have. By helping others who aren't as fortunate, kids can better see all the remarkable things to be grateful for in their own lives.

Choose to help an organization or group that fits with your family's values and the things you believe in.

Give Gifts With Meaning

Of course, gift giving will always be a large part of the holiday season. And with good reason — it can teach kids to really consider what might make others happy and what's important to people they care about. Watching loved ones' faces as they open presents that your children put a lot of heart and thought into can make the holidays more worthwhile for your kids.

But presents don't always have to be purchased in a store. Teach your kids how to put some real meaning and feelings into their gifts this year and beyond. Making their own presents can help show just how much kids care and can make the experience of giving more rewarding for both kids and their gift recipients.

Be a Good Holiday Role Model

Show your kids that the holidays can be joyous and fulfilling, not just a stress-ridden time that revolves around marathon shopping trips. Emphasize early on that it's not about tons of presents but giving and receiving a few heartfelt gifts.