

4401 Roger Stover Drive

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'Tis the Season...

The holiday season is upon us and we are busy, busy, busy at Chesterbrook Academy! We are starting off December with a bang! Since this is a time of giving, we will be participating in "Our Neighbor's Child." This is an opportunity to teach our children about the true meaning of this holiday season. There will be a decorated tree at the front of the school where children can bring unwrapped gifts for children who are less fortunate this time of year or pick an ornament from the tree that specifies what the less fortunate child would like for Christmas.

Schedules & Hours of Operation...

We will be closed on Monday, December 25th for Christmas and Monday, January 1st, for New Year's. As we prepare for the Holiday Season, please take a moment to let your teachers know which days your child will be here. The teachers will have a sign-up sheet posted on their door for the week of Christmas and New Years. This will help us to staff accordingly and for teachers to see their families.

Schedules & Hours of Operation...

If you will be utilizing your vacation credit, please remember that we need a two week notice to properly apply the credit. Forms are available at the front desk.



December



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| 12.04.17 | Our Neighbor's Child/Toys for Tots and Animal Shelter Collection start. |
| 12.04.17 | Lil' Shoppers Shop starts |
| 12.12.17 | Joy of Dance: Parent Watch Day |
| 12.12.17 | Hanukkah starts |
| 12.15.17 | Our Neighbor's Child/Toys for Tots and Animal Shelter Collection Ends |
| 12.15.17 | Holiday Parties/Gift Exchange & Santa Visits Starts at 3:30pm Holiday Recital: Intermediate, Pre-K & PreK2 – Starts at 3:30pm |
| 12.15.17 | Lil' Shoppers Shop Ends |
| 12.18.17 | Winter GAP Camp Starts |
| 12.20.17 | Hanukkah Ends |
| 12.25.17 | Christmas~ CLOSED |
| 12.26.17 | Kwanzaa starts |
| 12.29.17 | Winter Gap Camp Ends |
| 12.31.17 | New Year's Eve |
| 01.01.18 | New Year's Day: CLOSED |
| 01.01.18 | Kwanzaa Ends |

**We want to wish everyone a safe,
happy holiday and new year!**

Our Neighbor's Child

We are proud to announce that we will be partnering up with our sister school in Fairfax to collect toys for "Our Neighbors Child." If you would like to participate in this toy drive, please bring a new, unwrapped toy or pick a paper ornament off the tree that has what the less fortunate child would like. Starting Monday, December 4th and ending Friday, December 15th.



Animal Shelter

This year we are also helping out the local animal shelter. If you would like to participate please bring in new toys, food, small animal supplies or new/gently used dog & cat beds. The Pre-K2 Classroom will go to the Animal shelter and drop the items off.



Attention Parents:



You are invited...

We have planned a special afternoon for our Holiday Recital & Parties. On **Friday, December 15th**, all families are invited to come and join the celebration. There will be songs and snacks for the older children. The sign up for snacks will be on your child's classroom door. Intermediate, Pre-K & Pre-K2 are the only recital classrooms participating in recitals. Infant 1 & 2, Toddlers and Beginner are having parties and gift opening starting at 3:30 to celebrate the holiday. Please look out for information posted soon.

Also, the parking lot is usually full and we can not have families parking in the fire lane or handicap spaces, so please be prepared to park across the street. Since space in the building is limited, we also ask families to bring minimal guests to our event.

Friendly Reminders:

Tax Statements: Please look for a signup at the front desk if you would like your 2016-2017 year to date tax form. We can send it electronically or have a printed copy once the last invoice is paid for the year. If you have questions, please reach out to management

Coming up...

Preparation...

Brrrrr.....The weather is getting colder outside! Please bring the appropriate outdoor clothing for your child and their cubby. If it is above 32 degrees we will be going outside. Always plan on your child going outside even if there is snow on the ground!

With the weather getting colder, you may ask yourself, "What do I do to find out if Chesterbrook is closed due to weather?"

The answers to this question are:

1) Ensure we have your accurate email because in the case of snow emergency, Ms. Jenn or Ms. Kirby will notify the whole school via email. Do you receive the school's monthly newsletter via email?

2) Visit our school website at <http://fairfax.chesterbrook.com>. The snow information will be posted in case of an early closure or late opening. Also, you can call the school and check the answering machine if for some reason our website is not working. Please always be safe and make the best judgment.



8 Multicultural Holiday Books for Children

December, 2017 | Topics: [Citizens of the World](#), [Language & Literacy](#)

The holiday season is a time when we celebrate community, diversity, and the universal joy of giving. In the classroom, we introduce children to holiday traditions observed around the world by singing songs, making art, and tasting favorite local seasonal foods, as well as those from other countries.

You can continue the learning at home by engaging in shared reading experiences with your child. Below are some of our all-time favorite multicultural holiday books.

1. *Lights of Winter: Winter Celebrations Around the World* by Heather Conrad

Your child might be familiar with Christmas, Kwanzaa or Hanukkah, but what about Soyal or Los Posadas? This book introduces children to 10 winter holidays celebrated around the world.

2. *The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving* by Jan and Mike Berenstain

This story does a wonderful job reinforcing the importance of showing gratitude and giving back to others. After reading, encourage your child to think of ways he can spread holiday cheer this year.

3. *Dream Snow* by Eric Carle

This book tells the story of a farmer who falls asleep on Christmas Eve wondering if Christmas will come without snow. He then dreams about a magical snowstorm that covers him and his animals. Infants and toddlers will love the lift-the-flap version of *Dream Snow*, which is designed to help stimulate their growing sensory awareness.

4. *A Kwanzaa Celebration* by Nancy Williams

Your child will enjoy learning about the traditions and principles of Kwanzaa as he delves into this pop-up book by Nancy Williams. He'll even be introduced to African words and pronunciations!

5. *Where is Baby's Dreidel: A Lift the Flap Book* by Karen Katz

Your little one will embark on a reading adventure as he lifts the flaps to reveal dreidels, menorahs, potato pancakes and other symbols of Hanukkah.

6. *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto

This book tells the story of a little girl who misplaces her mother's diamond ring while making tamales. Not only will your child enjoy the story's humor, but she'll also learn the names of foods enjoyed by Hispanic families during the holiday season.

7. *Lots of Lights* by Kavita Sahai

Although the Indian holiday of Diwali already occurred this year, it's never a bad time to reintroduce some of the traditions your child learned in the classroom. This fun story includes catchy rhymes and adorable characters to keep your child fully engaged.

8. *Bringing in the New Year* by Grace Lin

Bringing in the New Year is a heartwarming story about a Chinese-American family as they prepare for and celebrate the Chinese New Year. The book introduces food and festivities, such as a dragon parade, dumplings, lion dancers, lanterns and fireworks.

