

# Learning Center Newsletter

December 2011



HELLO....

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving break. It was wonderful meeting those parents who were able to come in for conferences. And for those parents who were not able to attend, you know I am always available by phone or notebook should you have any questions or need any information. If you would like to talk with your student's general education teacher that can easily be arranged. Also, please note that we can make arrangements for a conference call or a home visit, if you prefer. Children don't always want to talk about their day in school when they get home and parents may feel left out of the loop. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Working as a team is the best way to serve each child's needs.

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## Homework Blues



Ahhh...Homework!

Not everyone's favorite subject, but often a must to discuss. It can be very difficult to get some students to accept the rigors of homework. Others buckle down and complete homework tasks on a nightly basis. If your child is currently accepting

homework...Bravo! However, it is often the case that homework becomes a bone of contention between the parents and the child. We have tried to assist by working on homework in the classroom. However, you might want to start encouraging your child to work along side you on an unassigned, academic task.

Turning learning into fun is often challenging for parents. Reading to your child on a daily basis is a great way to set a schedule and a precedent. Encouraging your child to answer questions about the text that you are reading together promotes the child's interaction with the text.

Another fun way to learn is to make a Memory Game out of math facts or vocabulary words. There are various sites on the internet that provide you with templates to make Memory games and Bingo cards. Using pennies as markers for your Bingo cards can also support student interaction with money. When the whole family sits down to play it doesn't feel like homework, it feels like FUN!

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## Hidden Education



Q: Here is a present.  
Can you guess what's  
inside?

A: A bunch of  
little presents.

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Although I am not suggesting you make your child guess what their gifts are, education is hiding all around us. If you are baking special treats for the holidays, then I am sure your child will be interested in helping. Measuring, mixing, sifting and watching a thick liquid like batter turn to a solid encompasses math and science. If you are using a printed recipe, your child may be able to pick out words that he or she knows.

Out shopping for the holidays? See if your child would be interested in finding the items in the newspaper circular and making a list by gluing them on paper. Then he or she can help locate those items in the store. Although the check outs are usually busy, try having your child count out money to match a price on the list at home.

What about wrapping those gifts? Cutting, measuring and taping are all great fine motor tasks.

Sending cards this year? This is great writing practice for little hands that can print or write their name under yours.

Why did I put that box at the top of this article? You can do the same with a paper bag. Fill it with various items and allow the child to put their hand inside. Ask them to not look (or blindfold them) and have them talk about the item that they have chosen. This is a good practice to encourage using descriptive words.

Try talking about the various ways

people celebrate the holidays. The Internet has some great sites to explain different traditions. Use Google images to introduce your child to the pictures of different cultural celebrations. The library is a wonderful source for obtaining books and films. And best of all it's free!

Yes, it is a lot of work for parents who are managing the home, a career, school and the family. I know I've been there. However; my favorite times were when we shut off the TV and made holiday cookies, decorated May Day baskets or made home-made valentine cards. Please let me know if you need any suggestions regarding books or web sites. I'll gladly research them for you!

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## Reminders

\* The *Gingerbread Decorating Gala* evening is coming up soon on 12/13 .  
Two sessions: 3:30-5:00 & 5:00-6:30

\* PTO has the *Holiday Craft Sale and Activities* on 12/3 from 9:00-2:00. Come see what crafts your children made to sell!

\* *Holiday Concert* for the school is on 12/14 with two performances: 9:15 and 1:00!

\* Thursday 12/22 is the *last day before the holiday vacation*. Classes resume on 1/3/12.

*Happy Holidays Everyone!*