

## **Children's Choice Educare** **December 2020 Newsletter**



### **Monthly Theme: Holidays and Cultures**

During December, we will introduce our students to different holidays around the world. We will discuss how holiday customs are an integral part of different cultures.



### **Holiday Thoughts**

While we continue to learn to adapt to life with COVID-19 during the holidays, it can be hard on families when long-held traditions must change. As you begin making your holiday plans, here are some ways to help yourself and your kids cope with whatever the season brings:

- Talk with your kids openly and honestly - remember to validate their feelings if they express disappointment or sadness about changes to their holiday traditions.
- Focus on the positive - Talk about the things you'll do together as a family and how you can feel gratitude for what you do have.
- Be prepared to repeat yourself - Some children may ask you the same question over and over. This may be a way for them to understand what's happening and process things that are difficult.



### **Holiday Safety**

This year, holiday safety will consist of a lot more than checking for broken tree lights. With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, this year the safest way to celebrate this holiday season is virtually or with members of your household. Here are a few tips for families to enjoy the holidays with loved ones without gathering:

- Enjoy a family meal over Zoom or FaceTime
- Send friends and family holiday care packages.

- Work together on a shared holiday project
- Document holiday preparations to share with family through a family email chain
- Decorate your home and/or yard
- Prepare meals using traditional recipes and deliver to family and neighbors
- Attend holiday movie nights at drive-in venues
- Visit holiday-themed outdoor art installations
- Participate in drive-by events where everyone stays in their vehicles

Whatever holidays your family celebrates, try to focus on the traditions you can continue to do together — rather than focus on what you can't do this year. And if you do gather in person, Alameda County recommends to keep it small, short, stable, and outdoors.



### **New School Holiday Traditions**

Like holiday traditions at home, our usual holiday traditions at school will be looking very different as well.

- Our usual Santa will not be visiting the school and delivering presents to our students this year, however, a very different Santa may be walking the hallways and visiting kids in the classroom. (Ms. Robin will be putting the Santa Halloween Costume to good use this year.)
- Our annual holiday music program will be canceled this year, but we still plan to celebrate the excitement of the holiday season with a special holiday music performance.
- The students will practice a variety of holiday songs and then we will record the musical performance at school. The music video will be sent to parents' emails for them to enjoy at home. Hopefully, the performance will be ready for cameras before Friday, December 18th.
- If you do not want your child to participate in our musical performance, please notify Ms. Robin.



### **New COVID-19 Health Screening Protocols**

As you know, Alameda County returned to the Purple Tier in November. With the county enforcing stricter public health orders, Alameda County Public Health Department has updated health screening requirements for students and teachers in child care programs. The updated protocols are as follows:

- A student, teacher, or staff member isolated at home with COVID-19 symptoms must meet ALL of the following criteria before requesting to return to school earlier than the 10-14 day isolation period:
  - The person is feeling better (symptoms do not have to be completely resolved), **AND**
  - There have been at least 24 hours with no fever, without the aid of taking medicines to lower a fever, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), **AND**
  - The person or parent must provide a negative COVID-19 test result, **AND**
  - The person or parent consults a medical evaluator (a doctor, a nurse practitioner, or a certified physician assistant) to determine the significance of their symptoms. The medical evaluator will need to provide a letter indicating that (1) the symptoms are **NOT** due to COVID-19, **AND** (2) the COVID-19 test was negative, **BUT**
  - If it is not possible for the parent or person to consult a medical evaluator, **they must obtain a COVID-19 negative test result indicating that a molecular test or a PCR was performed.**



### School Winter Vacation

Our winter vacation schedule is as follows:

- School closed December 23rd - January 1st, 2021
- Re-open on Monday, January 4th, 2021



### December Birthdays

Ms. Frances	12/08
Gabriel Johnson	12/23



### Important Dates

- 12/10 Human Rights Day
- 12/10 Hanukkah Begins
- 12/21 Winter Solstice
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/26 Kwanzaa Begins
- 1/1/21 New Year's Day
- 1/6/21 Three Kings Day
- 1/8/21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (School Closed)



### New Mask/Face Covering Requirement

Effective November 30th, ALL children will be required to wear a mask/face covering upon entering the school and while indoors. Children will not be required to wear a mask/face covering:

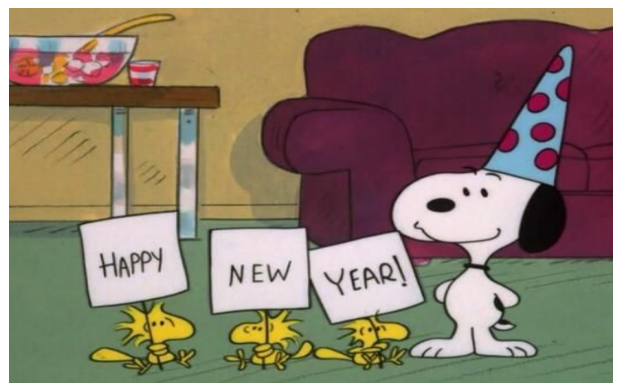
- While engaged in physical activities outside (unless specifically instructed by a parent/guardian).
- While eating or drinking.
- During nap-time.
- If he/she has special circumstances such as a particular developmental or health diagnosis that would limit their ability to wear a face covering.

Please provide a clean mask/face covering for your child to wear daily and an additional mask/face covering to be stored in your child's cubby as back-up.



### School Picture Day Canceled

Our school picture vendor is unable to hold school pictures outside on our playground. Due to this information, we regret to inform you that school picture day will be canceled until further notice.



# SEE YOU IN 2021!!