



## Busy Bees December '11 Newsletter

### FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

Happy Holidays from the Busy Bees staff! Do you have any holiday traditions that you would like to share with the class? We welcome all Busy Bees families to share ethnic holiday traditions with the children. If you have any stories, books, games etc. to share, please let us know so we will pick a date.

### DECEMBER THEMES

Holiday Cheer! ☺

The Busy Bees Children will not be taking home many crafts during the month of December. We will be doing some group projects, and they will be working on a special craft to take home for the holidays.

### HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a holiday party for the children. We will sing carols, eat yummy treats and have a visit from Santa. If you would like to bring a special treat, please sign up on the parent board. If you have any healthy holiday treat ideas that you would prefer to bring in, please let me know. \*\*Note: December 19th and 20th are the snow days for the holiday party.

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Sugar Cookies

Ingredients: 2/3 c butter, 3/4 c sugar, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, 1 egg, 4 tsp milk, 2 cups flour, 1 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/4 tsp salt.

Cream shortening, sugar, vanilla. Add egg. Stir in milk. Add dry ingredients. Divide dough in half. Chill 1 hour. Bake cookies at 375 degrees for 6-8 minutes.

(They can be rolled out and cut with cookie cutters. Decorate with frosting and sprinkles too. A great family activity!)

### THANK YOU

To parents who donated Thanksgiving treats for our party. The children had a great day!

### **SNOW DAY MAKE UP**

It is the Busy Bees Policy that we allow up to 3 snow days per class. We make up any classes missed beyond that amount with extra in-house field trips or free extended lunches. HOWEVER.... We had a storm like never before, and there is talk about another snow packed winter. We are working on making up some of the time missed. We are considering extending the school year, but want to make sure that we do not go longer than the public schools. Unfortunately, we would give up a week of Summer Bees, but this was an unusual event. We will keep you informed and let you know as soon as possible how we will make up some of the missed time.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Over the holidays, we will collect items for "Welcome Baby Baskets". A flier about this cause is posted on the parent to parent board. We are collecting items for young families with new babies. We are collecting items such as books, bottles, bibs, blankets, baby caps, hygiene and personal care items, pacifiers, and pacifier thermometers. Thank you for supporting this cause.

### **COLD WEATHER PREPARATION**

The cold weather is on its way. We love to play outside, even if it is cold and snowy. Please pack warm jackets, hats and mittens every day. (Unless it is unseasonably warm!) If there is snow, please pack snow gear. **Please help your child practice putting on his/her jacket and snow gear.** Nylon mittens on snowy days are the best. They stay dry and are easier to put on than gloves. Please put your child's name in all outdoor clothing. We have permanent markers above the cubbies if you need them. Thank you for your help. It will make getting outside easier for all.

### **SNOW CANCELATION POLICY**

Please listen to East Longmeadow Public School cancellations due to inclement weather. When East Longmeadow delays the start of school for **two hours** or cancels school for the day, Busy Bees will be closed.

### **A FUN WEBSITE**

Check out Starfall.com. It is a fun website for learning letters, sounds, and beginning reading. It is fun for older more advanced readers also.

### **REGISTRATION DUE**

Registrations are due for September 2012. We are now opening the registrations to families that are not currently enrolled.

**The Busy Bees staff wishes you a holiday season filled with love, laughter, peace and joy.**

Sincerely,

Marna Shields

