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Newsletter

“Nothing Without Joy”

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Be sure to check out the blog for the latest news and events!

Have pictures or a story to share?

Email it to

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Family Feast

By Teacher Casey

For years, the Family Feast has been one of my favorite CCC events! As a child and even in college, I couldn't wait to go to the family feast. The positive holiday energy, the delicious food, and the community all together is something I just looked forward to year after year. If you haven't heard of the family feast, here is all you need to know:

On **December 20th at 6:30 pm**, Tobias Elementary will have the most boisterous cafeteria in town! All CCC families are invited to attend the annual Family Feast for food and holiday fun.

The evening will start with a pizza potluck buffet and will include salads, drinks and cake! To join in the fun, just bring a pizza from your favorite pizza place! And an additional favorite dish if you'd like. The pizza should be the size your family normally eats and can be your favorite or even a specialty or

When: Thursday, December 20, 6:30pm

Where: Tobias Elementary

Who: All of CCC!

gourmet pizza you have wanted to try. There is sure to be enough plain cheese and pepperoni around to satisfy the simpler palate. The school provides salads with fixings, plates, silverware and cake!

Once our tummies are full, the children will be singing some holiday songs for our listening delight and the teachers are planning some traditional activities for the little ones. If we are all very, very good, there may even be a visit from a certain bearded fellow from The North Pole!

This event is a great way to kick off the holiday season and is sure to be packed with fun. Visiting friends and family are welcome to attend. Mark your calendars! It really is a magical night for the children to run, play, and sing together.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 10	NO K-3 Class
Dec 20	Family Feast
Dec. 21	NO SCHOOL -Teacher Work Day
Dec. 24	Winter Break Begins
Jan. 7	No SCHOOL —Teacher Work Day
Jan. 8-11	School Resumes
Jan. 12	Work Party 9-noon
Jan. 21	NO SCHOOL -MLK, Jr. Day

Mini Meal Ideas

Tortilla Pizza: *Courtesy of KitchenSimplicity.com*

This is super easy and the kids can get involved too! Here are some ideas for topping your tortillas:

Sauce:

- pizza sauce
- pesto
- dressing (such as southwestern ranch)
- salsa
- cream cheese
- refried beans

Meat:

- leftover chicken
- sandwich meat
- taco meat/fajita filling
- leftover ham
- vegetarian: beans

Veggies/Fruit:

- bell peppers
- mushrooms
- green onions/onions
- pineapple
- corn
- spinach

And don't forget the cheese!

Place on a baking sheet in a 450 degree oven until

cheese is melted and the tortilla is crisp.

Sandwich Sushi: (makes 4) *Courtesy of Martha Stewart Kids, Volume 11, 2004*

Kids will be happy to eat these veggies parading as sushi. Flatten 2 slices of bread with a rolling pin. Mix together 3 tablespoons cream cheese and 1 1/2 tablespoons sour cream; spread over slices. Lay two carrot and two cucumber matchsticks (6 inches long) at the bottom of each slice -- let hang over edges. Roll up bread, pressing gently to seal, then cut each roll in four equal pieces. Serve with a fruit salad for a sweet side treat!

Do you have a fun recipe to share with the school? Email it to press@creativechildrenscenter.com to have it included in the next newsletter! And be sure to look for more mini meal ideas on the CCC blog!

Inclement Weather

It's that time of year again! CCC follows the Beaverton School District when classes are delayed or cancelled due to bad weather.

So watch the news, listen to the radio, or check online. If you do not hear an update from the Beaverton School District or the District's advice seems inappropriate (as has happened in the past), call the school and check for an update on the answering machine. We will also try to update the school's website and Facebook page if at all possible.



Helping Others

It's the holiday season again — time for being merry while we pick out just the perfect gift for friends and family. Some children need more than just a new toy for the holidays, though: They need food.

According to the Oregon Food Bank website, "We have never seen the demand for emergency food this high. But through planning, innovative thinking, strategic use of our resources and the help of our community, we rose to the challenge. OFB and our network of regional food banks and partner agencies provided a record 81 million pounds of food and distributed 1,024,000 emergency food boxes to families in need — a 12 percent increase from 2009-10."



In response to the continued need for emergency food, CCC once again is holding our annual food drive to benefit the Oregon Food Bank. From now until the holiday break, students are encouraged to bring in canned food, baby formula, flour, sugar and non-perishable food items. Participating in the food drive teaches children about the hardships faced by others, empathy for those facing difficult times and the value of giving. The teachers also use this opportunity to teach the children units of measure (how many cups in a quart?) as well the math involved in weighing the donations, counting the items, and determining how much these items would cost in a grocery store.

Please join us in providing a little relief for those who so badly need it: Collect food donations from your family, friends and neighbors, as well as from

your own pantry or shopping trip.

Most wanted foods:

- Canned meats (i.e., tuna, chicken and salmon)
- Canned and boxed meals (i.e., soup, chili, stew, macaroni and cheese)
- Peanut butter
- Canned or dried beans and peas (i.e., black, pinto and lentils)
- Pasta, rice and cereal
- Canned fruits
- 100 percent fruit juice (canned, plastic or boxed).

To ensure food safety, we cannot use:

- Rusty or unlabeled cans
- Perishable items
- Homemade items
- Noncommercial canned or packaged items
- Alcoholic beverages, mixes or soda
- Open or used items.

I'm a Little Snowman

~Anon

I'm a little snowman short and fat,
Here is my scarf and here is my hat.
When I see the snowfall,
Hear me shout
"All you children please come out!"



Holiday Celebrations

Have you ever wondered how many holiday traditions and celebrations there are around the world? From the Jonkonnu Festival in Jamaica to the Feast Day of Santa Lucia in Sweden, there are so many ways to celebrate this season! Here at CCC, we like to look into various traditions from different cultures. One of those traditions is making potato pancakes with the children! Called *Latkes* in Yiddish and *Levivot* in Hebrew, potato pancakes are a fried food that is traditionally eaten during Hanukkah. Want to make some with your family? Here's a traditional recipe to try (*courtesy of kosherfood.about.com*) - Yields 20 pancakes:

Ingredients:

- 5 potatoes
- 2 onions
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- Between 1/4 and 3/4 cup of flour
- Oil for frying (canola is recommended)

(continued on page 8)



Support CCC

– with a simple click!

Do you shop on Amazon? Why not do your regular online shopping AND support our great school! We have signed up as an Amazon School Rewards Associate; **CCC will earn 2-10% of every purchase** made through our link, without costing you anything extra.

Just remember to go to **www.creativechildrenscenter.com** and click our associate link, then do your shopping as usual. Tell everyone you know and we can really make a difference this shopping season, and all year. Funds earned will go toward everything that makes our school great! This is fantastic, simple way for far away relatives to support the school!



SAVE THE DATE!



Mark your calendars for CCC's
Annual Auction:

**March 16, 2013 at the
Oregon Zoo**

Look for information in the coming
weeks about tickets, donation pro-
curement, and how to help!

Grocery Store

The preschool classes had a fantastic time going on field trips to New Seasons and Whole Foods! We learned many interesting facts from the bakeries, dairy sections, fish and meat departments, the stock rooms, produce sections, and checkout counters.



We sampled yummy treats and had an all around wonderful time learning how grocery stores work.



These field trips inspired the classes to put together their own grocery stores and take turns having different jobs – like cashier, stocker, or baker. It's been a fun lesson in teamwork, as everyone in the store works together to make sure that jobs get done and the customers can find what they need.

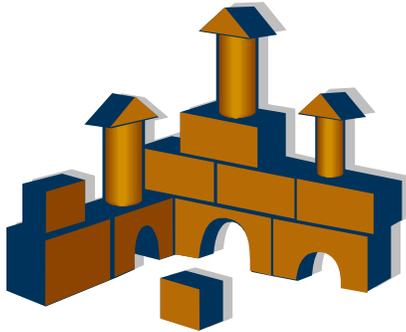
Huge thanks to the staff at New Seasons and Whole Foods for being so welcoming!



My Favorite Toys

Written by David Betcher in 2001

If you want to know what the “best toys ever” are, take it from a 12 year old boy. In my generation the best toys ever (in my opinion of course), were Brio train sets, blocks, and Playmobile. You could make little cities with those three things. You have a train station, block houses, and people.



Girls are all about princesses. Even when YOU were young girls played with Barbie dolls. My sisters used blocks for building Barbie houses when they were young, so don't think blocks are only for boys. Girls also like Playmobile. Don't get them the nail maker or makeup kits, they will just spill on the floor.

Little boys at the age of three or four are all about fighting toys. I have to admit that I did once play with Batman or Power Rangers or even Ninja Turtles but I was five or six. Kids now shouldn't hassle you about toys like that when you are shopping. Also, don't buy shooting games for seven year olds. They could get obsessed with them and pretend at school.

Get the good stuff, BLOCKS! Or you can get them Power Rangers (just kidding). But I am telling you, blocks rock!

Imagination

By Lucy Chaille

A simple toy buying rule is “Imagination!” When purchasing toys for home look for products that have open ended possibilities. As David shared, the large hardwood blocks can transform a child's bedroom into a city, a fort, or a zoo.

Many independent toy stores, (as well as good discount stores like Target), will sell items that encourage imaginative play. Large zoo animals, pretend people, pretend food, dolls (fine for boys!), or trucks (fine for girls!), are just some of the items that encourage creative/critical thinking skills.

Children learn to act out life's stories, work through imaginative conflicts, and build on predictions. Many of the commercial toys that children ask for are marketed to them with storylines produced by film and

TV writers. There is a danger that the child's play can become scripted. Spiderman or Disney princesses may be fun, but when faced with the option of playing with others and making up a new plot, the toy can have creative limits.

In the end, remember that you are the parent and whatever children receive is a blessing.

Keep in mind Santa makes the toys in the workshop. Although a child may want Tickle Me Elmo, perhaps the

workshop doesn't carry that brand? He is a wise old soul and knows that “Christmas isn't a season, it's a feeling!” .



Early Registration

Now is the time to think about early registration for the 2013-2014 school year. Early registrations are processed by seniority: (1) Current and alumni families by original registration date and number, (2) second generation alumni, (3) new families by wait-list application date and (4) open enrollment.

Current families and alumni enroll in January, open enrollment begins in February.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask!

And watch for information in your sign-in folder soon!



Fun Books for December

Carl's Christmas by Alexandra Day

Lights of Winter, Winter Celebrations Around The World by Heather Conrad

Bear's First Christmas by Robert Kinerk

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

Dream Snow by Eric Carle

Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto & Ed Martinez

Tree of Cranes by Allen Say

Christmas Trolls by Jan Brett

The Legend of Poinsettia by Tomie dePaola

The Gift From Saint Nicholas by Dorothea Lachner

The Chanukkah Guest by Eric A. Kimmel

Chanukah Lights Everywhere by Michael J. Rosen

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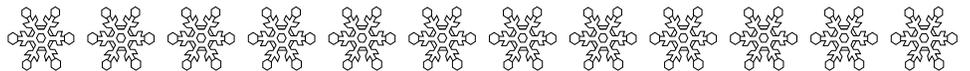
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All advertisers must provide their own artwork.



See you at the work party!

That's right! We have a work party coming up on **Saturday, January 12th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. This is the first Saturday back after winter break. If you recall, **each family is required to work 2 of 5 work parties** during the year (*family buyout is \$50 per work party, this work party will be the 3rd of 5*).

Let's tidy up for winter. Having clean classrooms to help to ensure our children have a healthy environment to expand their minds. We hope you will be able to join your teacher and help her spruce up the room. See you there.



Holiday Celebrations, continued from page 4

Preparation:

1. Peel potatoes. Place in a bowl of cold water so they won't turn brown.
2. When ready to prepare the latkes, drain the potatoes. Place potatoes and onions in a food processor fitted with a knife blade. Pulse until smooth. Drain mixture well.
3. Pour potato mixture into a large bowl. Add beaten eggs. Add salt and pepper. Add enough flour so that the mixture holds together.
4. Pour 1 inch of oil into a large, deep frying pan. Heat the oil over medium-high heat.
5. Carefully drop 1/4 cup of the potato mixture into the hot oil.
6. Flatten the pancake slightly so the center will cook.
7. Fry for several minutes on each side until golden brown and cooked through.
8. Drain on paper towels.

Serving suggestion: Serve the latkes with applesauce.

Holiday Events around Portland

Looking for some family-friendly holiday events around Portland? Here's some fun suggestions! Check out PDXkidsalendar.com for many more events in our area!

What: Northwest Dance Theater presents A Nutcracker Tea. A Nutcracker Tea is an abridged, family-friendly adaptation of the Nutcracker ballet for ages 4 and up.

Where: PCC Sylvania Performing Arts Center, 12000 SW 49th Ave

When: December 15, 16, 22, 23 at 2 and 7

Cost: \$13-29

What: Posado Milagro. This community celebration filled with Latin American traditions reflects upon the journey of Mary and Joseph in their search for refuge and is day of fun for the whole family!

Where: Miracle Theater, 525 SE Stark

When: December 16, 1-5

Cost: Free, but tickets needed (first come first served)

What: Lighting of Maddax Woods. Enjoy a magical walk down a lighted accessible path through the Woods and to the viewing platform on the Willamette.

Where: Maddax Woods, 5785 River St., West Linn

When: November 17-December 31, 4-9

Cost: Free!

What: Storybook Lane at Alpenrose Dairy. Carols, movies, and of course- Santa!

Where: Alpenrose Dairy, 6149 SW Shattuck Road

When: Fridays-Sundays December 7-23, Fridays from 3-6, Saturdays and Sundays from 11-6

Cost: Free! Extra cost for Santa photos.