

# Little Panthers Preschool Newsletter

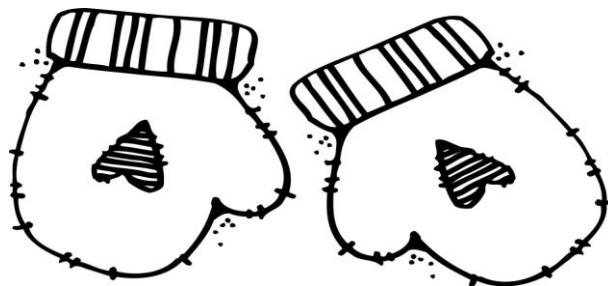
We are the "first step" of District OR-1 Public  
Schools

## Thankful Holiday Thoughts

We have packed away the tinsel and trees, settled into our regular routines again and even dare to think of spring coming in a few months. Before we completely leave the holidays behind we, your child's preschool teachers, wanted to share a few things we are thankful for...

- 25 eager little bodies that come running, walking, hopping, chattering, smiling, sometimes teary, and always bursting to share through our door each day.
- Any day that 25 little pairs of pants stay dry! ☺
- A wonderful fence that allows us to run and play freely around our yard.
- A brand new playground climbing and sliding structure to explore!
- Books, books, books, and the eager little listeners that love to be read to.
- A warm cookie and a cup of milk to dip it in on Thursdays for snack.
- Parents that think of ways to help us make our time here the most it can be with their willingness to share talents, time, and most of all, their child!
- The spontaneous and often entertaining comments and observations that our kids make and say aloud, we really should be writing them into a book!
- Bus drivers, cooks, custodial help, and all other personnel that do their jobs, often behind the scenes, to make our days run smoothly.
- The sheer delight a child gets from something as simple as the huge garbage truck coming on Wednesday mornings, to the squirrels eating corn on our feeder in the play yard. We should all take more delight in the simpler things in life.
- The uninhibited joy children have to dance around, prance like reindeer, hop like rabbits, swoop like owls, waddle like penguins and simply expect/accept that their teachers will also shed all adult inhibitions and do the same. ☺

We have completed one half of our preschool year, we have accomplished a great deal and we have observed growth in so many areas as your child experiences new things and practices skills each day. It is exciting to think about where we will see these eager little boys and girls in May! Thanks for "gifting" us with your child each day, it gives us much to be thankful for.



# **We are waiting...**

Our students are eagerly awaiting a big snow so we can bundle up and build snowmen in our yard. Your child will need boots, mittens, hats, and warm coats when the exciting day comes!

If your child does wear snow boots to school please send his/her shoes also so that the snow boots can be left by the coat hooks and indoor shoes put on. It is difficult to clomp around in snow boots all day inside.

Weather Dismissal Information is available  
on the parent information wall above the  
coat hooks if you need another copy.

The quickest place to get it is the district website

[www.districtor1.org](http://www.districtor1.org)

## Pajama Fun

The excitement of our first Pajama Day here at preschool was practically something we could have bottled! We saw Disney Princesses, the Hulk, Spiderman, footed puppy pjs, Tinkerbell, wild stripes and many many more.

Each child had the opportunity to stand and tell the class about their own pajamas. We give your child many opportunities to speak to the group, the skills practiced each time we do that include thinking and organizing his/her own thoughts, word choice and putting those thoughts into sentences, and sometimes just the courage to stand and talk to the group. When we tie that into something really fun like wearing pajamas the children are eager to have a turn to talk.

Stay tuned for another pajama day later this year....I am sure the kids would be in favor of it another time!

## **Wanted: Old Magazines**

We are looking for about a dozen magazines to cut letters and pictures out of. We MUST be very careful about the content/pictures however, so we are only interested in Family Circle, Cooking type magazines, children's magazines or farming magazines. Some catalogs are also acceptable. We do not need very many so ask us if you have a few of the types mentioned above and we will let you know if we still need more. Thanks!

## Book Orders

I assume the online order option for Scholastic book orders was a good idea. I see many of you turned in an order that way. I will continue to make the paper version available when we do have a book order for anyone that prefers that. The orders will ship here as always. Thank you for ordering, the preschool does earn bonus points for each dollar spent and I use those to purchase a lot of books for our own library.

## How to make a reader...

There is an excellent brochure available in a pocket on the parent information wall for you if you would like. It is titled "Raising a Reader Raising a Writer" and it is published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a professional organization I belong to. I would recommend that you pick up a copy if you want some practical tips on helping your child become a reader and your home a place where reading is a valued activity.

## Picking Up Your Child

**We want to remind you that an adult needs to come in to pick up the preschool children. It is board-approved policy that we do not release our preschool students to siblings or other students. This is primarily a safety issue for a number of reasons and we thank you for understanding that an adult needs to be present to pick up a preschool student each day.**

## Sick Children and Preschool

**What do you do with a sick child? Our policy states that your child needs to be "fever-free" for 24 hours, and this does mean fever free without Tylenol or other medication that is reducing the fever.**

**We spend so much time in such close proximity of each other that we easily share many germs. Please keep this in mind when you are considering if your child should come to preschool or not. An active cold, cough, or other contagious illness should keep your child at home so we don't pass it around to everyone else. Thanks for your help with this during the cold and flu season!**

## Updating Contact Information

**If you have moved, changed jobs, gotten a new cell phone, or changed your contact numbers in any way since we started in August it is very important that you provide the preschool with the new information. We use the contact cards you filled out to quickly call for a variety of reasons; if we cannot reach you at the numbers you provided that is a serious problem for us. PLEASE let us know of changes!**

## **Pictures Please**

There is a request on the January calendar for one baby picture this week. It should be no bigger than a 4x6 size and it should be when your child is about 1 year of age. We will return these to you, so please put your child's name and age on the back of the picture.

## **Valentines**

Yes, we will be exchanging Valentines in class here at preschool. There are a few guidelines below to make it a fun, fair and all-inclusive activity for everyone.

- Your child should make/buy just ONE Valentine card for each of the other students in his/her class; I will send a list of names later.
- ***Put your child's printed FIRST name on the card so the student can tell whom it is from.*** You would be surprised at how many names the kids are starting to recognize aside from their own.
- ***Put just the printed first name of the child the Valentine is to on the envelope so your child can match it to the name on the "mailbox" and have the fun of "mailing" his/her own cards here at preschool.***
- We will let you know when you can send the cards.
- Please do not put candy in the cards or send candy, thanks!

If you are unable to purchase Valentines please let me know, I will make sure your child has some here at school so no one is left out of this very exciting activity. We work hard on recognizing our names and the letters in them; this is an exciting way to really use some of our new skills!

If you have questions just ask!

## **Penguins**

We have been reading and talking about penguins this past week and will continue to do so for a few more days. If you were to peek in the window you would see a line of little penguins taking our morning "waddle" around the room while we sing one of our penguin songs. Try it, it is not easy to move like a penguin and get very far very fast!

A few "facts" the afternoon class brainstormed and we listed on our chart are below. The morning class went over them also and they all agreed that these are all true things we have learned about penguins already.

- They cannot fly, but they are birds.
- The penguin uses his wings for balance, not flying.
- Penguins eat krill and fish.
- The leopard seal and killer whale are the penguins' enemies.
- The parents carry the egg and then the chick on their feet sometimes.
- They are very good swimmers.

We have read a lot of good books, looked at some really cool pictures in our non-fiction science books about the Polar regions, and we watched Scamper the Penguin. We will watch a National Geographic video called Polar Prowl this week, and learn about more Polar animals that love the ice and snow. We made penguin puppets and we will make a penguin with wiggly eyes this week. Oh, and did you know penguin starts with the letter Pp? We are learning about that p-p-p-p-p-p sound too!

## **Our One-Year Anniversary Approaches**

While at times it seems I have been here at Little Panthers Preschool for years, our doors have just been open to our "little panthers" for one year on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. One year ago this week we were surrounded by boxes and tubs of preschool "stuff", furniture, and many decisions were being made about how best to set it all up. That does seem a long time ago when I look around now and see our classroom and the students that come chattering in the doors each day.

It has been quite a year, and many people have helped in so many ways to make it all possible. Stop in and enjoy a cookie with us when you pick up your child on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate our first year at Little Panthers Preschool!

"Don't ever say a child is "just" playing.  
That's like saying a  
surgeon is "just" operating or a pilot is  
"just" flying an airplane.  
Play is the essence of being a child."