



Early Learning Academy DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM MRS HAO

Special thanks to all the parents who attended and brought sumptuous dishes to our Thanksgiving Party. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

The year 2009 has flown by so quickly. Before we know it, the year 2009 will be upon us. I want to wish every family a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

At this time of the year, I would like to reflect about the nurturing and dedicated teachers who join us in caring for our children. I am so thankful for my wonderful team of professional staff, and I know that you will want to join me in expressing appreciation to the terrific Early Learning Academy teachers.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled this month. This is a great opportunity for you to talk to your child's teacher one-on-one. Please note, however, that for us to be able to accommodate everyone, **we cannot reschedule missed appointments.**

SANTA VISITS E.L.A.

Santa will visit our school on Wednesday, December 9th at 9:30 a.m. **This event is for the children only.** I am sure your child has already told you what he or she wants from Santa Claus. This will be your chance to let Santa give his gift to your child personally. Please bring the present, wrapped with your child's name on it, by December 3.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM & PARTY

Mark the date – December 9th - because you won't want to miss this celebration! Join us in our Holiday Program and Potluck Lunch at 10:30 a.m. It has been an Early Learning Academy tradition that each family bring a dish to share. **A Sign-up Sheet will be posted!**

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 1-3 – Bring child's present

December 1 – 4

Parent/Teacher Conferences for the Panda & Caterpillar Classes

December 9

9:30 AM – Santa Claus Visits
(for children only)

10:30 AM - Holiday Program/Party
(Parents are welcome to come)

December 24 – January 1

Winter Recess School Closed

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to dear Z.J. Cantoria!

BIRTHDAY BOOK

On your child's birthday, he/she may wish to donate a book to the school. All of the children will appreciate your gift!

PARENT'S CORNER

The following flu advice, given by Dr. Oz, makes a lot of sense and is important for all to know:

The only portals of entry for the flu virus are the nostrils and mouth / throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as is proliferation. While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu, think about how to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms, and development of secondary infections. Some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced:

1. Frequent hand-washing
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat or bathe).
3. Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine or Hydrogen Peroxide if you don't trust salt). After initial infection in the throat/ nasal cavity, H1N1 takes 2-3 days to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual as Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive, and powerful preventative method.
4. Clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water or hydrogen peroxide. (Not everybody may be good at Jala Neti or Sutra Neti, which very good Yoga asanas to clean nasal cavities, but blowing the nose softly once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.
5. Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). If you think you need to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.
6. Drink as much warm liquid (tea, coffee, etc.) as you can. Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach, where they cannot survive as well, proliferate, or do as much harm.

Holiday Fun

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Throughout the month of December, the children will be learning about how children around the world celebrate the holidays. They will participate in cooking projects and art projects such as making a Star of David. They will learn the traditions from a variety of countries.

If you have a special family custom or a tradition that you celebrate each year, we would love to learn about it.

No matter which occasion or tradition your family follows, make it a perfect season for the whole family to gather together. It's also a great opportunity to create your own family traditions.

Here are some fun poems and songs for you and your kids...

I'm A Little Snowman

(Tune: I'm A Little Teapot)

I'm a little snowman, short and fat.
Here is my broomstick, here is my hat.
When the sun comes out, I melt away.
Down, down, down, whoops...
I'm a puddle. (spoken)

The Chimney

Here is the chimney (fist)
Here is the top (other hand over fist)
Open the lid (remove hand)
Out Santa will pop (pop up thumb)

Candles of Hanukkah

Burn little candles
Burn, burn, burn
Hanukkah is here.
Burn little candles
Burn, burn, burn
Burning bright and clear.

Children's Corner

Who is Santa Claus?

- Zyrous Cantoria – He gives candies.
- John Paul Cosino – He gives me toys.
- Kira Federoff – He gives presents.
- Dylan Francis – He makes toys.
- Jordan Hill – He brings toys.
- William Langley – I am going to ask him to buy more paint for my Mommy's house.
- Sofia Martinez – He brings toys to the kids.
- Kevin Ong – Christmas.
- Daniel Ouidiani – He says ho-ho-ho!
- Michael Shibata – He gives presents. I saw him in the mall with my cousins.
- Gaia Splendore – He gives presents to the children.
- Hannah Sustal – He gives us toys.
- Julius Villanueva – He gives us presents.
- Vinnesa Whitaker – He rides the reindeer and he gives all the presents to the kids who are good.
- Scott Wong – He gets presents for the kids.
- Donte Yasukawa – He brings toys.

Learning Corner

Theme: Spirit of the Season

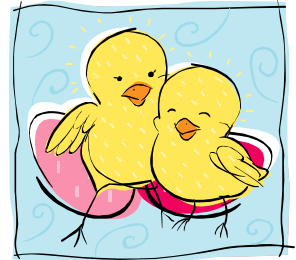
Shape: Star

Color: **Purple**

Chicks:

Letters – J, K, L

Number – 3



Pandas:

Letters – J, K, L

Number - 5

Caterpillars :

Letters – Review Hh – Ii, Jj, Kk

Numbers – 9, 10



THE CHILDREN WILL BE WORKING ON many exciting holiday art projects. They will learn the real meaning of the holidays, which is giving and sharing.

SHARING IS LEARNING

Young children have a hard time understanding the concept of sharing. They are *egocentric* – that is, they are at a stage where they view themselves as the center of the world and see the world only from their own perspective. They do not easily see the viewpoint of another person.

As parents and teachers, we sometimes mistake egocentricity for selfishness. But they are not the same. Egocentricity refers to the total inability to see another's viewpoint. It is normal in young children. Selfishness, on the other hand, is doing something for one's benefit, knowing that it may inconvenience or even hurt someone.

Sharing is a learned behavior. It is up to us to instill in our children the value of sharing. We can help kids learn to express their feelings and understand the feelings of others. At the same time, we should not shame any child for not sharing.

Most children do not begin to *de-center* until they turn 5 or 6, when they begin to see themselves in relation to other children. Even then, some traces of egocentricity remain until 11 or 12. Instilling the values of sharing requires continuous support and encouragement by teachers and parents.

Please encourage your child to bring something to share for Show and Tell every Tuesday. Your child may bring a favorite snack to share with her/his friends, too.



Reminders



SHARE THE JOY

Parents are encouraged to help out by spreading the news to prospective parents about what a great program Early Learning Academy has. Please know that we really appreciate your support and recruitment efforts! **Parents, you are our best advertisers.** Please pass flyers on to a friend or neighbor with preschool children. You will be assisting them with their search and will keep enrollment strong at Early Learning Academy.

We are currently offering \$100 off the first month's tuition for new students.

No Refunds or Credit

We do not offer refunds or tuition credit for vacation or illnesses or when school is closed. The days of closure are accounted for by being spread out in the monthly tuition.