

Children's Circle Montessori

Established 1981

130 Skyway Rd - Primary I

Primary I: 402-489-0872

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ON SNOW AND COMMUNICATION!

In all the years I have worked at Children's Circle (and it has been 28 years!) I cannot recall Lincoln Public Schools closing for 3 days in a row in such close proximity. As they have communication with weather people and city officials, I will usually agree with their call about no school due to snow. As our parking lot and streets need to be cleared, usually it is the right decision for us, too. However, this year I feel they closed several days due to the cold weather, rather than snow only. That is understandable for them, but it doesn't make much sense for us as our children do not walk to school. So I made the decision to open school on several of those days.

The problem is letting you know about that decision. I just cannot call 60 families at 10:00PM at night! Fortunately the internet and email is pretty efficient. But it is only efficient if you are checking your emails and if I have the correct email address for you. I believe that I have an email address for all but 4 families (the families are Carson and Tina from P1 and Amelia and Gabriel from P2). If your name was listed and you have an email address that you can check at home, please let me know!

In the future when LPS closes school, I will send an email confirming that we also will be closed. I will usually go with their decision on a 1st day closing. The problem I have is with multiple days when the snow has stopped. I will send an email about 6:00PM on a snow day to let you know our plans for the following day. **If you are not receiving the emails about snow from me, please let me know. Or if you have a different one you want me to use!** Of course I want to be open if possible as I know parents need to get to work, but my staff has to be able to get to work, too!

As we did miss several days of school and the staff got an unplanned break during those days, **we will be open for regular school sessions on Monday, February 15th.** This was to be a staff workday and staff meeting day, but I feel it is important to be open for a regular school day due to the snow days missed. This is the only day we had scheduled off in January, February and March.

We had planned a movie and popcorn day for both buildings during the extreme cold spell, but I couldn't get the TV from my daughter's house due to the snow. So we postponed it to another week. I am pretty sure the cold will be back! I do have the TV at my house now, so don't be surprised if the children come home and tell you we had a "movie and popcorn day".

The Primary 2 children do enjoy going out in the snow, and most of the children have been bringing snow pants, boots and hat/mittens. Thank you for your help. It is a little more difficult to take the Primary 1 children into the deep snow, but if we get a little melting, we will have them outside, too.

The last 2 weeks of January we will be talking quite a bit about Dr. Martin Luther King in the Primary 2 building. Valentine's Day will be here before you know it! We will send a note about our plans for Valentine's Day the beginning of February.



MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Monday, February 15th:

SCHOOL OPEN

Friday, April 2nd and Monday, April 5th:

SCHOOL CLOSED—Spring Break

Correction to School Calendar

Monday, June 28th-Friday, July 2nd:

SCHOOL OPEN

Monday, July 5th-Friday, July 9th:

SCHOOL CLOSED—Summer Break

Please remember that if Lincoln Public Schools close due to snow, Children's Circle will also be closed.

WELCOME!

Primary 1:

...to Silas Hepburn, son of Megan and Jacob Hepburn and youngest brother of former students Noah and Graham Hepburn

...to Emma Letts, daughter of Josh and Kim and younger sister of Aubrey Letts

...William Norton, son of Robert and Jessica Norton

Primary 2:

...Ava Kupke, daughter of Kevin and Sarah Kupke

...Eloisa Swinehart, who is transitioning to Primary 2 from Primary 1

NOTES OF INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE!

Tuition Tax Report: If you need a statement with your tuition that was paid for 2009, you must request one. An email to me will work, but I will need at least a day to get to my records and have one ready for you. So please ask early! If you have kept your receipts or your own records our tax number is 47-0697751.

Primary 2--Pickup Time: As it gets colder, please wait in your vehicle as your child gets their belongings together to go home. When you see them come out the door of the school, you can greet them at the gate. We ask parents not to come into the school when you pick up your child. It slows down the children as they get distracted by your presence and we simply don't have a good place for you to wait! Please help us make departure smooth by waiting outside. If you are in a hurry, please call ahead and ask us to have your child ready. If you have a grandparent, other relative, or friend pick up your child, please let them know to wait outside, too. If you are not picking up your child, we must have your permission to release them to another person. Letting us know the vehicle this person is driving is helpful.

Snow Day Adjustment: With the snow days we have had, I have made a decision that there will be a regular school day on Monday, February 15th. This was originally a staff planning day, but we will have regular school sessions on that day.

~ BIRTHDAYS ~

December:

Jimin Ha 27th 2nd Birthday

January:

Savannah Denker 3rd 2nd Birthday
Neko Rowan 8th 5th Birthday
Nora Turner 10th 5th Birthday
Eiden Srisa-an 10th 4th Birthday
Tyler Mahlman 21st 4th Birthday
Daniela Castaneda 23rd 2nd Birthday

February:

Ella Prochnow 11th 5th Birthday
Amelia Richardson 18th 4th Birthday
Jack Ohler 23rd 3rd Birthday

Congratulations to you all! Birthdays are such fun!!

The above listed children will be celebrating birthdays in January and February! Happy Birthday to them all!! Please remember to write a sentence or two about each year for your child. As the children walk around the globe to symbolize each year we will read your remembrance of the year.

Montessori Education Our Gift to Tomorrow



Teaching partnership and peace, we help children to discover their own power, to find their own voice.

We encourage them think for themselves, to think outside of the box, and to think about others.

At no time in our common history has this been more important to our common future.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all the families who gave holiday gifts to the Primary 2 and Primary 1 communities. In addition to some great books--"A Little Peace" and "Danny and the Dinosaur", we received twistable crayons and pencils, markers, and playdoh and a gift of money which was used to buy puzzles and a work activity for the Primary 2 classroom..

Your gifts of food were enjoyed by all the staff!

A special thanks for our birthday gifts....

....Grace Pearson for her birthday book "On Earth".

....Avery Kirkland for her birthday gift of a puzzle "Children of the World".

....Neko Rowan for the birthday book "White Rabbit's Color Book".

....Francis Borden for the birthday book "A Snowy Day".

....Savannah Denker for her birthday gift of playdoh.

STAFF CHANGES

Sadly we said goodbye to staff member Kathleen Crosmer at the end of December. Kathleen wrote this goodbye note for the parents of Children's Circle.

Dear Parents,

After much consideration I have decided to make a change in my career plans. I have completed my Montessori training, but I feel called in a different direction at this time. I am going to begin working for Eastridge Presbyterian Church here in Lincoln. I have enjoyed my time here at Children's Circle, and I really loved getting to know all of you and your children. I will probably be back at the school once in a while, but until then I will miss everyone there very much. Thank you for sharing your children with me, and remember, they are your most precious gift.

On a happier note, our current staff member Sarah Allison has agreed to work more hours and she will be working in Kathleen's place in the Primary 2 community. Sarah has worked at Children's Circle in both classrooms since the end of September, but now will work all her hours in Primary 2.

It was necessary to hire a new staff person to work Sarah's hours. I decided it would be best to hire two staff persons. We welcome Kassie McKinnon who will be working some hours in each classroom and Cecily Lorenz who will be working hours in Primary 1.



MEET CECILY LORENZ!

...Cecily will be working part time in the Primary 1 community

I grew up: born and raised in Lincoln, NE.

My family: is amazing. My mom Chrsitine is my best friend. My brother Aidan, 16, is wonderful and a bowling star at Southeast High.

My hobbies: Just relaxing with family and friends. I am an avid reader and I really enjoy sitting down with my cat, Megara, and just reading and reading!

My education: I graduated from Southeast high and I am a current student at Southeast Community College in the Human Services Program.

How I came to Children's Circle: My cousin, Isabella, was a student here and really enjoyed being here. My Girl Scout troop and I created the Peace Garden in the back of Primary 1 building. I have always enjoyed working with children. This is a dream come true!

MEET KASSIE MCKINNON!

...Kassie will be working part time in both the Primary 1 and Primary 2 communities

I grew up: I was born in Lincoln and currently live near Denton, NE. I am 24 years old.

My education: I attended Southeast High School as well as the Arts and Humanities Focus program. I am currently working toward a degree in Fine Art.

My hobbies: I enjoy painting, music, and nature. (I studied art and horticulture in my undergraduate studies.) I am currently reading 100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

How I came to Children's Circle: I have always been interested in education which brought me to Children's Circle. I am glad to be here for the experience and to see if it is something further I would like to pursue.