

little people

Of Mahopac

Child Care & Learning Center

Volume 2, Issue 15

January 2009

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From Our Director and Assistant Director...

Winter has certainly shown its fury this season! Sometimes it can be difficult to anticipate road conditions. We must consider the safety of all especially when the hazardous condition is ice. Our decision to delay or close will continue to be with everyone's best interests in mind. We understand the dilemma for working parents and will try to keep to our scheduled hours of operation. Thank you for understanding our situation with weather issues.

I am available for any questions about your child, curriculum or otherwise. In addition, my door is always open to help you in the same way I support my staff. It is always nice to hear how the teachers and assistants have helped you and/or your child adjust, transition or learn something new or facinating.

Your comments and positive suggestions will help to build a stronger program. Please continue to share your thoughts as we enter another year.

Have a joyous holiday and a happy and healthy 2009.

Sincerely,
Anne Malcolmson



Upcoming Dates and Events

- Thursday, January 1st the center is closed for New Year's Day.

- Friday, January 2nd look in your mailboxes for Scholastic Book Club Forms.
- Thursday, January 8th Scholastic Book Club Orders are due.
- Thursday, January 29th Backwards Day. Wear something backwards to school.

Community Happenings

- Do you know anything going on in the community that you would like to share with the center? Please stop by the office and let us know.

A Few Important Reminders

- Before the snow arrives this winter we wanted to remind you of our snow policy. We will have a delayed opening in accordance with the Mahopac School District. This is the schedule we will follow
 - If Mahopac Schools are delayed for 2 hours we are delayed for 2 hours.
 - If Mahopac Schools are closed we are delayed for 2 hours.
- For a 2 hour delay the center opens up at 9:00AM. For a delayed opening it will be safer for the staff and parents to arrive at the center. Please listen to WHUD or call the center for the most updated information.



Our Incredible Infants

Infant 1

It's holiday time again and the Infant 1 babies are very jolly. Let's begin by welcoming our newest and youngest baby, whose name is John (Jack). He is 11 weeks old and again welcome to Little People. We would also like to wish Grace, Happy Birthday. She celebrated her first birthday and Grace along with her buddy Alison are transitioning into Infant 2 this month. Joshua is also in Infant 2. He graduated this month, and he is doing very well. Of course let's not forget Landon and Violet who are crawling! They are both enjoying finding their way across the room by doing their army crawl. Joseph and Riley are almost ready to take that first step and trying to walk by holding onto the shelves and moving from shelf to shelf. Their favorite words are Dadada and Mamama! Last, but not least, Jack is enjoying the bouncer and the yummy veggies at lunch time. He enjoys the sound of his voice and watching his older buddies cruising along the room. Again, this month we enjoyed working with green and brown paint for the Christmas wreaths and our famous red-nosed reindeer. We also enjoyed listening to Christmas music and read [Santa Clause is Coming to Town](#), but some of the babies especially enjoyed singing "Row Row Row Your Boat"! Have fun and sing with your child at home. The entire Infant 1 babies, myself and Johanna would like to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a



Happy and Healthy New Year.

-Miss Anna and Miss Johanna

Infant 2

Infant 2 welcomes Joshua, Alison and Grace to our room this December. We have been very busy little people this month. Our bulletin board is decorated to the theme of holidays around the world, celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hannukah. We read stories to help the children see and hear words that coincide with all our projects. The children continue to improve their small motor skills as we do many projects using our hands. We fingerpainted large yellow stars and glued small squares of blue paper on white star shapes. We traced our hands on green construction paper to make our big evergreen. Rudolph the reindeer was sprinkled with cinnamon so the children could enjoy the smell associated with the holiday season. Ryder especially had fun playing in cornstarch at the big table when he suddenly portrayed the Pillsbury Doughboy covered in white powder. Ashley, Olivia, Julia, and Dillon helped to make our own tree. Strands of lights decorated the walls. We scribbled with crayons, glued small squares of red and green paper onto paper plates to make wreaths. Our menorah was made simply using our hand prints in orange paint to make the flames on each candle. Please remember to look for your child's work hanging up in the room.



-Miss Joyce

Our Terrific Toddlers

Tots

The tots have been very excited about the upcoming holidays. We were busy like elves working on many fun projects. They made personalized Christmas stockings, using glitter for their names. We also made menorahs and Christmas trees. The children enjoyed all of the different materials and textures used to create these projects.



Sensory activities were focused on this month. Math skills were introduced in a fun way as the Tots measured and poured water into different size cups. The water even changed color from day to day. Science and small motor skills were worked on as they explored with goop (cornstarch and water).

We are looking forward to 2009 and guiding and working with your children. We also wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and a blessed New Year.

-Miss Lisa and Miss Jen

Toddler 1

Happy Holidays everyone! Wow has the time flown by! We've been very busy this past month. The kids have really enjoyed all of our holiday songs. Their favorite was "Frosty" and "Rudolph". There have been a lot of projects we have done that have kept our little hands busy. They all loved making their Christmas trees with their handprints. They also enjoyed making our menorahs using their hands and our Hanukkah collages.

We also baked Rice Krispie treats and made them into Christmas trees. They love to mix! Of course, it was some marshmallows into the pot and some in their mouths. They were really fun to watch. We made ornaments using dough. They loved rolling out the dough. Baking cookies at home is a fun activity you might like to do at home together.

Please remember to bring in hats and gloves. We try to go outside when we can.

-Miss Julie and Miss Amy

Toddler 3

The children are very excited this month knowing that Santa is on his way. They enjoyed the first snow of the season and we began the month of December learning about winter, a theme that incorporated art, science and self-awareness. The children made hats and mittens. They mixed together sugar and glue to make frost. Along with this, we read, Frozen Noses, and we learned a new song called, "Winter Clothes". We saw how ice cubes turn into water when they melt.

The second week we were busy preparing for the holidays. We decorated our classroom with lights and garland to make it look festive. We painted Christmas bells, candy canes and pinecones and finished them off with glitter.

We learned about Hanukkah. We made menorahs by tracing our hands and using our fingers for the candles. We spun dreidels and learned a dreidel song. Our favorite story was Light the Lights. We also enjoyed mixing all of the ingredients together to make latkes (potato pancakes).



Our last week, we worked on many Christmas projects. Decorating Christmas trees with glitter, paint and string. We made Santa's reindeer by tracing our feet for their face and our hands for their antlers. We made Christmas ornaments for our trees using our hand prints. The children really got into the holiday spirit as they watched "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman." The children learned about the joy of giving this holiday season.

This month we celebrated Quentin's and Christian's birthdays who both turned 3. Congratulations to Brendan who is now an official potty user!

The children are looking forward to their holiday party and the coming New Year. We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

-Miss Erin, Miss Toni, Miss Alyssa and Miss Isabel

Our Precious Preschoolers

The month of December proved to be fun filled. The children began the month by discussing winter. We made gloop (flour, salt, water and oil) for a science activity and the children really enjoyed measuring and pouring all the ingredients together. This expanded on their math and language skills as they talked to each other about the different textures and kept count of each scoop put into the bowl.



The children worked collaboratively as they created a giant mitten and a mitten tree. This followed along with the book we read, The Mitten Tree, that began our season of giving. As the month continued, the children were introduced to Hanukkah and Christmas. We not only talked about how we celebrate Christmas, but how it is celebrated around the world.

-Miss JoAnne and Mr. Dan.

Our Precocious Pre-K

December has been a fun filled, busy, learning experience. We have been working hard on our "workshop" gifts. Thinking, touching, mixing and feeling were the skills used to make our holiday gifts. Taking the gifts nature has given to us, and adding kindness, produced our "gifts from our hearts," for our families. I am sure you will agree, the children have done a beautiful job! Being a good role model and responsibility were also instilled as the children received reindeer tokens when "caught in the act of a good deed!"

You may like to know that "stars were born in our room!" The acting that took place through our role play of the story, The Hat, by Jan Brett was amusing as well as amazing. Our class continues to work on our ongoing science centers that include critter observation, (ask your child about the critters they have seen), sensory centers, and the ingredients and items used to make their gifts. It is hard to believe that the month of December, along with the holidays, is about to pass by, however, I can tell you the childlike glint in their eyes and the excitement that we have had the opportunity to share with them, will last as a wonderful memory, and has added so much enjoyment to our own holiday season.



Once again, thank you for sharing your very "special gift" with all of us. Have a wonderful holiday, enjoy every creature great and small. We are sure your child will tell you about the critter they like most of all!

Happy Holidays!

~Miss Carol Lynne, Miss Christina and Miss Jen

P.S. January News Flash - The acting and arts continue, as well as science, as we take The Mitten by Jan Brett, and run with it!!

Little People Parents

- The Preschool and Pre-K children are now staying in their building until the center closed.
- We welcomed John (Jack) to the Infant 1; Eliana to Tots; and Corey to Toddler 3.