

Red Room December Newsletter

We can't believe it already December this year has just flown by and the kids have really enjoyed a lot of the activities we have done. Winter is upon us, if you haven't yet please make sure to check your child's extra clothes buckets and exchange any warm weather clothes for cold weather attire. Our annual Christmas program will be on December 10th at 5pm, red room will be hosting Santa, and we will have gifts to give away to the kids. Please sign up to bring a dish if you are able to, for our Christmas program. Sign up sheet is on red room door.

This month we will be saying goodbye to some of our teachers. Ms. Carmen and Ms. Paige will both be leaving us towards the end of the month. We will miss them a lot! We will be welcoming new teachers in the next month, they will be training for the next few weeks. Ms. Rachel will be joining us every morning, she is currently going to school to be an Occupational Therapist.

Important dates:

DEC 10th @ 5pm- CHRISTMAST PROGRAM

UCP will be closed DEC 24th, 25th and Jan 1st!

Themes this month:

Dec. 7th-11th Hanukkah

Dec. 14th-18th Holidays around the world

Dec. 21st-25 Christmas

Dec. 28th-Jan 1st Kwanzaa

WEE LITTLE WHISPERS

by

Mary, Ashley and Gretchan

December is the month to celebrate many holiday traditions. We will be starting off the month with the **Mexican festival, Las Posadas**. Las Posadas is celebrated in Mexico from December 16 to December 24. Although Las Posadas (lahs-poh-SAH-dahs) is part of the Mexican celebration of Christmas, it is also a vibrant festival in and of itself, with many unique traditions and symbols.

Jewish festival, Hanukkah (or Chanukah) begins on December 6 and will end December 14 this year. Hanukkah marks the reconsecration of the Temple in Jerusalem after its recapture from the Syrian Greeks around 165 B.C. A miracle recorded in the Talmud accounts for the festivities held over eight days and nights. A few Hanukkah symbols are the Menorah (a nine candle holder), a dreidel (a spinning top game), presents and Latkes (a Yiddish word for pancakes).

December 25th is Christmas each year for Christians everywhere. It celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born in a manger over 2000 years ago. In the story of Christ's birth, three kings, or wise men, brought the baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense (incense) and myrrh (perfume). Other Christmas symbols are angels, holly, Santa Claus, reindeer and candy canes.

Kwanzaa begins December 26 and is celebrated until January 1st. Kwanzaa is a seven day family event celebrated by more than five million people of African descent. It is based on traditional African values and harvest festivals and was created in the United States in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili. A few Kwanzaa symbols are a red, black and green flag, 7 colorful Kwanzaa candles in a holder which represents the seven principles of Kwanzaa, fruits and vegetables symbolizing the harvest and the way they work together and creating crafts which show how they use their minds and hands to make things.

Since this month has so many celebrations, our theme will be

Celebrating the Winter Holidays

Nov. 30-Dec.4	Las Posadas, Posada Party
Dec. 7-11	Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights
Dec. 14-18	Merry Christmas
Dec. 21-25	Kwanzaa Harvest Festival
Dec. 28-Jan.1	Happy Chinese New Year

Please watch for information on the **UCP holiday party, December 10th, 5 to 7pm**. It will be a delightful cultural gathering that celebrates traditions of many foods from different customs. The infant room is adding some physical activity this year to balance out all the good foods we eat. Come join the fun jumping rope to Jingle Bells or dancing to the Hanukkah Hop. Other special events to remember are:

- Dec. 16 Las Posadas begins
- Dec. 6, Hanukkah begins at sundown
- Dec. 24, UCPCDC closed for a work day
- Dec. 25, Christmas Day, UCPCDC closed for the holiday
- Dec. 26, Kwanzaa begins
- Jan. 1, UCPCDC closed for New Year's holiday

Reminders: Make sure your baby has extra clothes for the cold weather. We will be going outside when we have a chance each day for the healthy fresh air, weather permitting. **Don't forget the family holiday party, December 10th, 5 to 7pm**. Also please sign the sheet on the days your child will be gone during the holidays so we can calculate on numbers to cover shifts, thank you.

Any questions or concerns please contact Mary or Christy. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Dear Blue Room Parents,

We hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday weekend! It seems that the winter weather is already creeping up on us. Please be sure that your child has what they need to keep them warm outside. We will be trying to go outside as many days as possible.

We welcomed our new friends Suveda and Camille last month and said goodbye to Elena and Lawson, who have moved onto Yellow Room. Kadri will also be transitioning to Yellow Room soon.

Our annual Holiday Party and Program will be held on Thursday, December 10th at 5:00 PM. We ask that each family bring in an appetizer or a traditional dish that your family enjoys. Please sign up on the sheet posted by our door. We will eat and have activities first. At approximately 6:00 PM, we will gather the kids to start our Holiday Program. The Blue Room kids will sing two short songs before the Yellow Room Program. Some of the kids will want to participate, and some of the kids may not (especially that night when they see all of the guests). Either is ok! This is a fun night! Santa will be in the Red Room to visit with the children and hand out gifts, and the Infant Room will feature some holiday physical activity ideas and a pull-string piñata! We hope that everyone can attend and are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

We will be closed on Thursday, December 24th for a teacher workday and on Friday, December 25th for Christmas. We will also be closed on Friday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

As always, thank you for sharing your children with us!

Have a great month of December!

YELLOW ROOM NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We are so excited for all the hustle and bustle that December always brings, especially our Holiday Party! We've already begun practicing our songs and counting down the days on our calendar. We hope you all can join us on Thursday, December 10 from 5-7 for food, activities, Santa, and our singing program; it will be tons of fun!

This holiday season we also take the opportunity to give to others by doing a service learning project. The week of December 7-11 we will be baking goodies for a Bake Sale on Friday. This year, all of the proceeds will go towards making "goodie" bags for homeless shelters. We always have a lot of fun with this project and use it to discover how blessed we all are! Please support our project by purchasing something from the Bake Sale; it will be open from 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm on Friday, December 11th!

Yellow Room is not only going through the excitement of the holidays, we are also excited to welcome some new friends to our room! Elena and Lawson joined our big happy family from Blue Room! We will be saying a sad good-bye to all of our MU volunteers this month; we will definitely miss all the help they provided but we wish them the best in their futures!

Please continue to check the classroom door as well as your child's cubby and mailbox for important notes and sign ups. We will be gathering information to help us plan the Holiday Party as well as staffing for the holidays. Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Important Dates

Dec. 7	First day of Hanukkah
Dec. 10	UCPH Holiday Party
Dec. 11	Yellow Room Bake Sale
Dec. 21	First day of Winter
Dec. 24	UCPH Closed for Teacher Workday
Dec. 25	UCPH Closed for Christmas
Jan. 1	UCPH Closed for New Year's Day