



Little Star Montessori

Newsletter

December 2009

General Updates

Office News

Holiday Performance and Potluck

Thursday, December 17th, 11:30am

AT THE TWISP COMMUNITY CENTER

Please arrive before 11:30 and bring your favorite potluck dish. Santa will arrive around noon.

- Toddlers must be picked up at school at 11:00 and taken to Twisp
- Preschoolers need car seats and drivers to help carpool at 10:30
- Kinders need car seats and drivers to help carpool at 10:30

There will be NO Afternoon Program on December 17th!

Children do not need to bring lunches or snow clothes to school this day.

Please remember to clean out your child's cubby and check lost and found for clothes. **We will be closed from December 21st through January 3rd. School will begin again on Monday, January 4th.**

Lost and Found

Before you leave for break, please be sure to check our lost and found (at the top of the entryway ramp) for clothes or other belongings.

Mittens and Hats!

PLEASE remember to pack mittens and hats for your children each day. Even on these colder days, the children spend quite a bit of time outside. Thanks!!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

"The need is higher this year for donations of food, gifts and cash as Neighbors Helping Neighbors gears up in preparation for filling Christmas baskets." – Methow Valley News

Please bring non-perishable items in a box or bag to the Little Star entryway by December 17th. We will help collect your donations to pass over to those in need.

Thank you for giving!

Parent Nights – Mark Your Calendars!

In response to your feedback, we have scheduled 3 parent education/discussion nights:

Thursday, January 14th –Topic: Montessori 101

Time and details TBD

Thursday, February 11th – Topic, time and details TBD

Thursday, March 11th – Topic, time and details TBD

Methow Values Coupon Books

The Methow Values coupon books are now available! GO LOCAL and save over \$2,000!

Books can be purchased at the following locations:

Carlton General Store

Hank's Harvest Foods

Little Star Montessori School

The Mazama Store

Tenderfoot

Twisp Chevron

Winthrop Red Apple

Stop by to see what they have inside!

From the Little Star Board of Directors

The Little Star Board of Directors is responsible for the overall well-being of the school. For example, we develop the annual budget and priorities for Little Star, we guide fundraising activities, and help with infrastructure planning and maintenance of the school building. We are currently working on the final draft of Little Star's new Strategic Plan, which outlines our main goals and objectives for the next three years. The plan was drafted by a group of Little Star parents, teachers, and community members. Before final approval, the document will be shared with all of you for review and feedback.

We welcome three new board members this fall, Laurel Canan, Tirzah Quigley and Baylie Peplow. We're looking forward to working with them. Also, as of January 1st, Ashley Lodato will be the President of the Board. After more than three years in this position, I am very grateful to Ashley for taking on this important responsibility. Heidi Smith will support Ashley as the Vice-President. Ingrid Patterson remains in the position of Secretary and Julie Palm stays on as the Treasurer. Committee Heads this year are Sara Crum (Event Fundraising), Eveline Wathen (Donor Development), Fran Kaul (Scholarship) and Julie Grialou (Infrastructure).

If you have a question or are interested in joining a committee, please contact any board member.

Happy Holidays from all of us,

Eveline Wathen

A Note from Rayma

Holiday time is family time and meant for joy and sharing. It can also result in melt downs or temper tantrums in public places due to over-stimulation, hunger, tiredness or a war of wills in the case of the "holiday gimmies". Here are some tips to help you through this holiday season:

Try to keep your child well rested and well fed as close to their normal schedule as possible. Naptime may be in the car on the way to an activity and food may be a healthy snack in a car-seat, but a tired or hungry child is an unhappy child.

Keep your child involved in your plans. Make a gift list and let him/her help make the gift choice, as well as help with the wrapping and card. It may take more time and energy but it's more fun and will let your child share in the joy of giving. Believe it or not, a child wrapped gift is really appreciated by adults (especially grandparents).

Before shopping, set clear expectations on behavior and clear limits. If you are not planning to buy your child the kazillion tempting things in the store, explain that ahead of time. "This trip we're going to buy a present for daddy and granny. Afterward we will go for a pizza" ...or whatever... a treat at the end of the day is in order! But don't stay too long – several shorter trips are easier for children than one long one. If you have to go to Wenatchee for an entire day, try to find a way for the children to stay home – or splurge and get a motel room.

Make a holiday wish list with your child. When s/he makes demands at a store, simply say "let's put it on your wish list!" with hope and enthusiasm in your voice – or "oh, that's already on your wish list, let's wait and see if your get it for Christmas" (or Hanukah or Kwanzaa).

We need to teach our children the importance of gratitude (before they open the socks from Uncle George and say "UCK, socks!") Practice finding something good in everything: "Blue socks – blue's my favorite color". Of course, the younger the child, the less possible this is! Then you need to step in and say what needs to be said leaving only the "thank you" for the child.

No matter what you do, the excitement of the holiday season can be overwhelming. Keep it as much fun and as light-hearted as you can. This is no time to lose your sense of humor! Most important, enjoy every age and stage your child is going through – even the exasperating ones will be fondly remembered one day.

*HAVE A WONDERFUL, SAFE HOLIDAY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.
See you in 2010. With love, Rayma*



Thank you!