Director’s Corner

Dear CPS Families,

The classroom teachers have been working with the parents to complete the fall conferences. It is exciting to share all the growth that has occurred in the past few months.

The Harvest Feast was a great success. The entire program, children, staff, volunteers and interns all converged in the gym to enjoy the classrooms contribution to the feast. Our special thanks to Mr. Clarke and his eight students from Binghamton High School that assisted with making our feast a successful event.

December is a short, busy month at CPS, with our seasonal events and parent finals. Compounded with all the excitement and anticipation the holiday season brings, please be mindful of children’s routines and take time to enjoy the simple pleasures of the season.

We hope to see you at the Holiday Breakfast on 12/20 and the Sing-A-Long on 12/23 with Steve Tammarrello and friends as they graciously accompany us through some holiday favorites!

Wishing you Peaceful, Healthy, and a Happy Holiday Season!

Tonya Rivera & Freedom Morehart
Director & Assistant Director

Board of Directors

Campus Pre-School Families and Staff,

Happy December! As the year (and more importantly to some of you, the semester) comes to an end, we enter a busy time here at Campus Pre-School as we prepare for the holiday season. We are currently planning to hold our annual Holiday Breakfast fundraiser on the morning of Saturday, December 20. Sign-up forms have been placed in each classroom. More information will follow in the coming weeks. If you have any interest in helping out with the Holiday Breakfast, or with future fundraising efforts for Campus Pre-School, please email us at CPSBOD@binghamton.edu.

In addition, we continue to accept applications for an open position on our Board of Directors. We are searching for candidates with various backgrounds and hope to fill the opening as soon as possible. If you are interested in joining our Board, either now or in the future, please visit our website and complete the Application form at www.binghamton.edu/campus-pre-school/board.html. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Zach Staff, Board President

Seasons Greetings
There are snowflakes in the air and excitement in our room. As the holidays approach, we know that everyone’s life is a little hectic. In our classroom, we try to keep it low-key, low-stress as we learn about this special time of year. We will be making decorations, attending a couple of sing-a-longs, and decorating a small tree.

We will continue to venture outside, so please provide labeled outdoor clothing (boots, hats, mittens, snow pants).

Enjoy your holidays,

Kelly and Nicole

In December, the Bear Cubs will be busy getting ready for the holidays. We will be making decorations for home and school, as well as special parent gifts. We will also be making a piñata and have a special time to share it with the Wee Bears. We are looking forward to a busy and fun filled month.

If there is anyone who would like to share any family traditions or activities, we would like to have you. Please see Chris to make arrangements.

As a reminder, please remember to bring in the proper outdoor clothing for your child (hats, boots, gloves, snowsuits). Outdoor play is an important part of our day and the children look forward to this every day. Physically a child develops well balanced, fine and gross motor skills during recreation. Gross motor play allows the toddler to independently explore his environment and learn through doing.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parents for the tremendous support they have given the teachers as well as the Campus Pre-School during our recent difficult time. This school has been a huge part of my life for the past 30 years and thanks to all of you we will continue to be a great school, truly dedicated to doing our best for your children.

Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season, and enjoy every moment with your child! (They are only little once!)

Chris Jamie Sarah

December brings a lot of exciting topics to our classroom. We will start the month off by learning all about the Winter season. We will explore the color white, snowflakes, and snowmen! We will listen to many stories about Winter, and learn about animals that are white, like polar bears. Hopefully, we will experience a little snowfall, so we can watch the snowflakes falling and be able to go outside and touch the snow.

To follow the winter theme for the month, we will be learning about circles by creating a classroom snowman out of construction paper. We will practice drawing circles in fun art crafts. We also have a fun reindeer craft that involves painting our feet! We will end the month with learning about all the holidays that are celebrated in our classroom through stories, crafts, and decorating cookies before we break for the holidays.

We would like to thank all the parents who purchased books last month. We were able to order new books for our classrooms!

Happy Holidays!

Larissa, Kate and Jo

We all had a wonderful time getting ready for our Thanksgiving Feast and celebrating together. We made pumpkin chocolate chip cookies for the party and it was a great day for all! We hope you had a festive Thanksgiving with your families!

The Holidays are fast approaching. The Honey Bears will be discussing the different celebrations of the season. If you have any traditions you would like to share with the class, please let us know. The children love visitors! We have several seasonal projects and fun activities planned.

The cold weather is upon us and we still like going outside, so please make sure your child has the proper coat, mittens, hat, boots and snow-pants at school so we can have a blast outside.

Happy Holidays!

Claire and Brenda
In December we will be sewing stockings for our fireplace bulletin board. We will be talking about different holidays that people celebrate. If you would like to come in and share your holiday tradition with us, we would love to have you! Many children at this age are only familiar with the holiday that their family celebrates, and it is nice to teach them that not everyone celebrates the same holidays as they do.

Please remember that the holiday season can be a busy and stressful time. Be mindful that your children can be affected by this, and they may need a little extra attention and patience from you.

We enjoyed the students that came down to perform Disney songs with us! Thank you for taking time to come in and expose us to your talent.

We would like to wish TJ, Naveen, Alexa and Cassius a happy Birthday as they will be turning four this month!

We would also like to thank Nathaniel’s mom for coming in to make pumpkin pudding with us—it was yummy!

Have a very happy holiday season!

Gabe, Michele and Renee

The Grizzly Bears kicked off November with “Our Five Senses”. We had a classroom graph of our senses and how we use each sense every day. The children used descriptive language as they guessed objects out of a sensory box—they loved the spaghetti in the box the most because they thought it was worms! They created many art projects for this unit, one of which was “I Spy” bottles. They also taste cocoa, peppermint, and lemon, and went on a listening walk. The Grizzlies loved smelling and guessing different scents as well.

We also had fun learning about Thanksgiving and making many crafts to explore Thanksgiving themes, including Turkeys, Indian Headbands, thankful pumpkins, Indian and Pilgrim placements, and (our favorite) Thanksgiving cookies for our feast. We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

We learned the letters ‘T’, ‘O’, and ‘X’, and the children are reading their second book by themselves. They are all doing a wonderful job reading! We are so proud of all of them. We also started our “Popcorn Word Wall.”

As we welcome December and much cooler weather, please supply warm coats, hats, mittens, boots and any other appropriate clothing so that we can still go outside!

In December, our theme is “Seasons All Around.” We will discuss what happens in each season. Later on we will be focused on many different craft projects, such as making snowflakes, cotton Santa advent calendars, glittery stockings, stained glass Christmas scenes, Christmas trees, and Christmas ornaments. We will also focus on the color blue, patterns, sorting, and the numbers 30-50. Our letters will be ‘U’, ‘Y’ and ‘W’.

Ms. Kristy and I would like to say how much we have enjoyed getting to know your child thus far. We are so very proud of all of their hard work and accomplishments. They all bring something special to our class, and we—as their teachers—are very blessed!

Ms. Miranda
Ms. Kristy

Happy Birthday:
Hadley (12/4)
Helen (12/12)
E’Sean Young (12/23)

Wow! We can’t believe it’s December already! November and Thanksgiving flew by at lightening speed and here it is nearly winter. That being said, please make sure that your child has the appropriate winter gear (hat, mittens, snow pants, boots, heavy coat) to either leave at school or bring every day to ensure that we can get outside when the weather allows.

December brings about many holidays and traditions. We would love for you to share any and all winter holidays you celebrate or traditions you have—please speak with us if you have either to share. We would like to take time before winter break to celebrate you, the parents, and thank you for all your help and support thus far, so mark your calendars for Friday, December 19th. This day we will have a special breakfast just for you!

December themes are weather, dental health, and winter holidays. We are looking forward to another enriching and exciting month!

Stacy and Julie

We had so much fun in November! We did a Native American study. Everyone had fun learning about the traditional lifestyle of the Iroquois Indians. We built a longhouse, came up with our own Native American names, and learned about pictographs. We also learned all about the Pilgrims and their journey to the New World on the Mayflower. Together, we built our own Mayflower ship and explored the lives of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans through dramatic play, fun art creations, and quality literature. In addition, we celebrated the First Thanksgiving and shared our thankfulness for our loved ones and the good things in our lives.

December is going to be a month full of fun activities and events. We are going to explore the world in our celebration of various Festivals of Light. We are going to honor diversity as we learn about Hanukkah, Diwali, Las Posadas, St. Lucia Day, and Christmas, among others. We will also enjoy several days of fun and imagination as our classroom transforms into Santa’s Workshop. In addition, our last day in December will be themed around the Polar Express. On this day, children are welcome to come to school in their pajamas for a day of special activities and treats.

We hope you'll enjoy the end of the year 2014 as much as we will!

Nicky and Carolyn
The CPS Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long will be held on December 23th at 10:30 am in the CPS gym. Thank you to Steve Tammarielo & friends for agreeing to accompany us as we sing holiday favorites. All are welcome to attend!

Did you know......
That leaving your car running either occupied or unoccupied is unsafe and against the law. Leaving your child(ren) unattended in the car is also against the law. Beware, we don’t want anyone to receive a ticket and we want to keep your children safe!!!

SEEEKING BOARD MEMBER APPLICANTS
The CPS Board is currently seeking applicants for an immediately open board position. If you are interested in serving on the board, please e-mail a completed application (found on this website: http://www.binghamton.edu/campus-pre-school/board.html) to the board at cpsbod@binghamton.edu

TOYS FOR TOTS
During the month of December, we will be collecting toys for Toys For Tots. A collection tub will be located in the main hallway. Your donations are appreciated!

During the month of December we will be collecting mittens for the SOS Shelter. Please bring your donated mittens to the office. We will have a mitten tree waiting to be decorated!!!

### Snow Policy
CPS will only close if there is a State of Emergency. Also, it is important to remember that state facilities may be closed only by order of the NYS Governor, however, university presidents are authorized to cancel classes and release employees. In this situation, parents will be informed through RAVE Alerts and major TV & radio stations. We are usually short staffed in bad weather, so please do not brave dangerous roads to bring your child if it is not absolutely necessary.

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CPS HOLIDAY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER
Our Annual Holiday Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 20th. This family breakfast is a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit. *Santa will be attending our Holiday Breakfast also! Your child can have their picture taken with Santa. Be on the lookout for more details on this wonderful event!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to you and your families this wonderful season!

Staff Birthdays
Philip Strawn 12/2