Dear CPS Families,

It certainly is encouraging to see every nook and cranny in the office being filled with teachers and parents exchanging knowledge about their children. Each opportunity we utilize for dialogue moves us that much closer to creating the best learning environment for all the children at CPS.

The Harvest Feast continues to be a sight to behold. The entire program, children, staff, volunteers and interns all converge in the gym to enjoy each classrooms contribution to the feast. Our special thanks to Mr. Clarke and the students from Binghamton High School that assisted with making our feast a success.

Traditionally, December is a short, busy month at CPS, our seasonal events and parent finals. When compounded with all the excitement and anticipation the holiday season brings, please remember to 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 12/7 and the Sing-A-Long on 12/18 with Steve Tammariello and friends as they graciously accompany us through some holiday favorites!

Wishing you Peace, Health, and a Happy Holiday Season!

Peg Smith
Director

Board of Directors

Campus Pre-School Families and Staff,

Here we go into one of the busiest seasons of the year. I know it is going to be one filled with lots of fun here at Campus Pre-School. Please make plans to attend the wonderful holiday activities that Campus Pre-School has planned, particularly the Holiday Breakfast. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Best,

Jackie McKenna
Board President

Community Family Events

Attend one of the area’s Art Walks. The First Friday Art Walk is the first Friday of each month in downtown Binghamton from 6-9pm which highlights our area’s growing art community. Visit www.gorgeouswashington.com for information on where to go. The Owego Art Walk is the third Friday of each month from 5-9pm.

Roberson Museum & Science: Home for the Holidays event runs from November 20th – January 5th. www.roberson.org
**WEE BEAR**

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).

There is a parent/teacher conference sign-up sheet next to the snack sign-up.

Enjoy your holidays,

Kelly, Louise, & Sue

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**BEAR CUB**

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 gifts for our parents. The Bear Cubs are also responsible for the bulletin board in the main hallway for the month of December. Be sure to stop and admire your child’s artwork, they are very proud of their creations.

One other exciting activity is the making of our piñata to celebrate with the Wee Bears at the end of the semester. We are looking forward to a busy and fun-filled month!

Thank you to all of the parents for bringing in the proper outdoor clothing. We are sorry for all the “nagging” but it is important to have all the proper outdoor gear to have fun! 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.

Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season! Enjoy every minute of this with your child! They are only young once.

If anyone wants to share any holiday traditions or activities, we would love to have you! Please see Chris.

Happy Holidays!

Chris Jamie Sheila

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**POOH BEAR**

The Pooh Bears will spend most of our time in December talking about the upcoming holidays!

If you have any special traditions/activities you would like to come in and share with the class, let us know!

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be taking place from December 10th-13th. If you have not signed up yet, the sign up sheet is on our counter. We hope you have a wonderful holiday!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Naveen, TJ, Cassius, and Alexa!

Alisha
Nicole
Meghan

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**HONEY BEAR**

We all had a wonderful time getting ready for our Thanksgiving Feast and celebrating together!!! We made pumpkin fluff for the party and it was a great day for all. We hope you all had a joyous Thanksgiving with your families. The holidays will be continuing and we will be discussing many different holidays in the classroom over the next few weeks. If anyone would like to come in and share a specific holiday tradition, please come talk to one of us. The children LOVE visitors!

We also launched our “Fill a Bucket” curriculum in the classroom and the children love it! We ask the parents to continue to discuss ways to fill buckets at home as well as school. The book will continue to be sent home with all of the families and then placed in the lending library.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of the families that donated a book to the library. You are part of the reason this will be a big success in the classroom, foster literacy and create a true love for reading with the students!

Just a reminder about the parent/teacher conferences; If you would like to meet with me, the sign-up conference sheet is near the sign-in attendance sheet.

A few other reminders:
It is COLD outside, but we are still going out! Please make sure your child has the proper coat, gloves, hats, boots, and snow pants so we can have a blast outside!!! Also, please check your child’s bin for extra clothes just in case they need to change and PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

Each student has a designated snack day once a month, please make sure you are continuing to contribute a nutritious snack for 14 students on your day. If you aren’t sure, please come see one of us for a reminder.

Please call if your child will not be making it to school that day, this helps us set up for meals and activities for the day.

Happy Holidays to you and your families. Enjoy this wonderful time of the year with your little ones.

Tina, Brenda, Scott and Megan
**TEDDY BEAR**

In the month of December, we will be sewing stockings to hang on 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. It is nice to teach them that not everyone celebrates the same holiday 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 during this holiday season so they may need a little extra attention and patience from you.

We have enjoyed the music students who have come down to share their talent with us. We had the chance to experience singing and the piano. Thank you for taking the time to come in and expose us to your talent.

We would like to wish Gwen and Olivia a Happy Birthday. They will be turning 4 this month.

Have a very happy holiday season.

Gabe
Michele
Renee

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**PANDA BEAR**

The CPS annual Thanksgiving Feast was a hit! The children enjoyed making and wearing their turkey hats and sampling all the delicious food that the classes made. We hope your Thanksgiving celebration was as much fun!

We are fast heading into winter. Let’s be sure the children are ready. Please send in hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants. These items can be left at school if you wish. As the Pandas prepare for winter, we will be learning about what animals do to prepare and survive the winter months: hibernate, migrate, or acclimate.

Parent conferences will be starting soon. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Parent News Board for you to schedule a time.

The holidays are fast approaching. If you have any traditions that you would like to share with the class, please be sure to see Stacy or me. We would be glad to make the arrangements.

Happy Birthday to Jakob Kansteiner on December 17th and TJ Moylan-Falardeau on December 27th!!

Claire & Stacy

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**GRIZZLY BEAR**

We can’t believe it is December already; this year is flying by!

November was a blast as we learned about our shapes, did lots of fun science experiments and learned about our food groups and healthy eating. Our Harvest Feast was delicious and the children had a great time coming together as a school to share all of the delicious treats that were made by all of the classrooms. The Grizzlies made some beautiful centerpieces to help decorate the tables.

In December we have another busy month in store, which will be over and done with before we know it. We will be getting into the holiday spirit by learning about Hanukkah (including making and tasting potato latkes), doing a unit on Gingerbread (and turning our new play house into a gingerbread house) and then finally having some Christmas themed fun.

On December 6th we will be taking the class up to the Anderson Center on campus to see a musical performance of the story Hansel and Gretel. On December 18th we will be having our yearly Holiday Sing-A-Long in the Gym at 10am. All families are welcome to join us for that event if you would like. On Friday, December 20th the Grizzly Bears will be hosting our Second Annual Family Holiday Cookie Decorating Party. It is from 10am to 11am. All parents and siblings are welcome to join us. It is a fun and festive way to celebrate before winter break. Please watch for a sign-up sheet to be going up soon, as we need to know how many people to expect so we can make sure to bake enough cookies!

Parent/Teacher conferences are December 3rd-7th. If you have not done so already, please see the sign-up sheet outside our classroom to reserve a time.

We still love to go outside and play, even in the cold and the snow. If you have not already done so, please provide us with hats, gloves/mittens, boots, and snow pants for your child. We’d like to ask that you please take the time to label these items as they are easily mixed up and misplaced.

We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season, filled with joy! See you in 2014!!

Miss Nicole & Miss Kat

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**POLAR BEAR**

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, ate traditional Indian fry bread, and read some Seneca Indian Legends. We also learned all about the Pilgrims and their journey to the New World on the Mayflower. Together, we turned our loft into The Mayflower and explored the lives of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans through dramatic play, fun art creations, and great literature. In addition, we celebrated the First Thanksgiving and shared our thankfulness for many of the loved ones and 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 different Festivals of Light. We are going to honor diversity as we learn about Hanukkah, Diwali, Las Posadas, St. Lucia Day, and Christmas. We will also enjoy a week 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! Also in December, the Polar Bears are to be attending a special performance of Hansel and Gretel at the Anderson Center. We are very excited for what December will bring! We hope you enjoy the end of the year 2013 as much as we will!

Nicky, Carolyn, Jane and Andrea
The CPS Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long will be held on December 18th at 10:00 am in the CPS gym.

Thank you to Steve Tammariello & 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 your children safe!!!

**Holiday Closing**

CPS will be closed December 23rd through January 1st.

We will reopen January 2nd.

**CPS HOLIDAY BREAKFAST**

Our Annual Holiday Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 8:30am-11:00am.

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 for $2.00 using our camera or yours.

**TOYS FOR TOTS**

During the month of December, we will be collecting toys for Toys For Tots.

A collection tub is located in the main hallway.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

**Staff Birthdays**

Philip Strawn 12/2

Alisha Ortu 12/29

**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.

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!!!