January 2017

Dear Parents,

It is exciting to be back in the classroom with the children. Starting today, we will be introducing a monthly calendar for the children to use at home. We encourage you to talk about the name of the month as well as the day of the week and date. At home, your child may either trace the numerals that correspond with the date or simply cross off the day. This is great practice for learning to recognize numerals. The children will make a new calendar each month until the end of the year. We also continue practicing name recognition, including first and last names. Soon we will start our name initials.

Many themes at Nursery School relate to holidays and seasons. Beginning this month, we will also introduce favorite books and authors. I'm sure you have family favorites and I would welcome your input and would love to have you join us as a guest reader. Please let me know if you are interested. Our topics for the month are:

January 3 & 5 Dinosaurs Both days we will have dinosaur show and tell where you may send a dinosaur from home. We will show during first circle and the items go home the same day. Please put a name on the item. On the 5th we will decorate our D page with dinosaurs. We practice the sound that "D" words start with as well as trace the letters.

January 10 Opposites Our book today is Dinosaur Roar, by Stickland.

January 12 We will have a guest, Debbie Nissley, bring a service dog in training. She will show us how she trains the dog, Glenn, to get him ready to help people with special needs.

January 17 Winter Weather We'll do some snow and ice related art and activities.

January 19 Animals in Winter We will learn about animals that live in Pennsylvania. Sallie Gregorie from the Lancaster County Conservation District will bring pelts and share information with the class.

January 24 Winter Dressing (and the concept of left and right) We will read A Hat for Minerva Louise, by Janet Morgan Stoeke. Our letter of the day is Z and we will do zipper rubbings. Please continue to work at home on zipping and buttoning winter coats. We will practice at school, too.

January 26 Penguins A favorite story is If You Were a Penguin, by Minor.

January 31 Shapes We will make our February calendar using hearts.

NOTE Sadly, I am having computer and e-mail difficulties. Please bear with me during this inconvenience. Until further notice, you may contact me by telephone, 367-9438 or at school 367-6772.