



GROWING TIMES

GARDEN OF KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

In This Issue

- ◆ Letter from Robyn
- ◆ Classroom Plans

School Hours

6:30am - 5:30pm

Contact Us

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follow us on face book!

Parent Night Out

Friday, Dec 14th

5:30 – 9:30

G.O.K. will be closed

Tuesday the 25th &

Wednesday the 26th for

Christmas and then Tuesday

the 1st, 2019. Happy New

Year!!!!

*Growing Times is a
monthly newsletter for
the Garden of
Knowledge in Plymouth,
MA.*

*It serves as a tool to keep
parents and teachers
connected with the
education and care of
our precious children.*

Letter from Robyn

Can you believe that we are already in the last month of 2018?

It's December, winter will be here and soon we'll bring in a Happy New Year!

GOK is certainly having a very positive year and we credit all of you wonderful parents, teachers and children for who you really are and how all the dynamics come together to create such a "Happy Family Like" atmosphere for all!

Who really reads this monthly newsletter? If you have read it, please write "IRN" for "I read newsletter" near "**DECEMBER**" on your child's sign-in sheet.

We had a wonderful visit with our senior friends from Sunrise Senior Living in November. The children did a flannel board story; "The Thanksgiving Story" for our seniors and sang some songs. The seniors love to join in with the children when they sing. They will be coming back this month for some holiday fun! Like many activities and opportunities, children can learn a great deal during experiences like these and the more we realize it -the more we recognize it to be even more worthwhile. The children and seniors look forward to seeing each other at each visit. Some little friendships have started growing, it's very sweet.

GOK will be offering a "**Parents Night Out**" on Friday Dec. 14th. It's a great time for the kids and some "time" for you, moms and dads. Information will follow soon.

Reminders:

- Tuition is due weekly.
- Please remember to sign your child in and out each day.
- Please make sure your child has an extra set of cloths in their cubby.
- Please send in a warm coat, hat and mittens as we go out daily even in the cold weather.

We also want to add a reminder about trying to encourage your child with self-help skills. A little extra time invested will save you a lot of time in the long run. (i.e. putting on shoes and coats, carrying backpacks, etc.)

To all our GOK families, we would like to wish you Happy Holidays! We hope you make time for relaxing and making wonderful memories to share for years to come.

PRE-K, PRESCHOOL & TODDLER CLASSROOM PLANS FOR DECEMBER

Pre-K

English Language Arts

Reading and Literature

- ◆ Listen to, identify, and manipulate language sounds to develop auditory discrimination and phonemic awareness.
- ◆ Link letters with sounds in play activities

Mathematics

Number Sense

- ◆ Examine, manipulate, and identify familiar U.S. coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter) in play activities.

Patterns & Relations

- ◆ Explore and describe a wide variety of concrete objects by their attributes.

Science & Technology/Engineering

Earth and Space Sciences

- ◆ Identify the characteristics of local weather based on first-hand observations.
- ◆ Explore sunlight and shadows and describe the effects of the sun or sunlight.
- ◆ Observe and describe or represent scientific Phenomena meaningful to children*s lives that have a repeating pattern (e.g., day and night).

History and Social Science

- ◆ Discuss examples of rules, fairness, personal responsibilities, and authority in their own experiences and in stories read to them.

Health Education

Physical Development

- ◆ Use thumb/forefinger in pincer grasp.
- ◆ Use a variety of tools and materials to build grasp-and-release skill.

The Arts

Music

- ◆ Sing songs with repetitive phrases and rhythmic patterns.
- ◆ Listen to various kinds of instrumental music and explore a variety of melody and rhythmic instruments.
- ◆ Play instruments using different beats, tempos, dynamics, and interpretation.

Preschool

December is here and excitement is in the air! Throughout this month the preschool children will explore winter and all it has to offer. We will learn about the changes in nature and discuss family traditions. We will also begin our holiday preparations while transforming our classroom into a winter wonderland!

English Language Arts

Stories will be read that will describe various cultural holiday celebrations. The children will continue working with letter recognition as well as focusing on their complete name, first and last.

Mathematics

We will continue to practice our counting while constructing paper snowmen and snowflakes. We will explore small, medium, and large and discuss more and less. The children will attempt to count to 25 while we are preparing for the big day!

Science & Technology/Engineering

Our science exploration will hopefully include snow, ice and salt. We will manipulate holiday play dough while pretending to make holiday goodies. Mid-month we will bake Christmas cookies. We will begin discussions on "where do some animals go when winter comes?" and "how do others eat when snow covers the ground?"

Health Education

We will discuss winter clothing reminders (hats and mittens everyday) and practice putting them on. We will continue to revisit healthy food choices.

History & Social Sciences

We will discuss different ways various cultures celebrate holidays by making dreidels, baking Christmas cookies, and creating Kwanzaa cards etc.

The Arts

The children will sing holiday songs with repetitive phrases and rhythmic patterns. We will listen to various kinds of holiday instrumental music as well as play instruments using bells and drums. We will be creating ornaments for the classroom Christmas tree and designing holiday gift wrap and cards in pretend center.

Special Note

In addition to each classroom curriculum, all children are offered enrichment activities such as:

- * Yoga *
- * Weekly Cooking Projects *
- * Character Building *
- * Behavioral Skill Development *

We will also have monthly themes to support our philosophy and extra-curricular provisions. This month's theme will focus on Holiday traditions, baking, crafts and other holiday themed activities.

TODDLERS

In December, we have lots of fun activities planned to learn all about the many different holidays that our families and friends celebrate during this special time of year. We are also going to decorate some cookies, make gingerbread houses and make special holiday gifts for those we love.