

Tree House Hollow Newsletter

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Rainy Weather

When the weather gets so bad that there's a possibility that schools will be closed, listen to your radio-AM 1650. Our policy in the past has been to close if the Sebastopol/Twin Hills schools are closed. Let's hope this doesn't happen this year.

Our tax id# is 56-2654669

Please remind your child to bring in a picture or photo of something you did over the winter vacation.

Thanks to Joseph and Gavin and their families for showing up today !!!

Wishes for the New Year

We always like to start the New Year by making New Year's Wishes for the Earth. We ask the children to reflect on what their dreams for a better world might be. Last year we made dream catchers but this year we will make "magic wands" to insure our dreams come to fruition. One of the trips we'll take will be to the crystal store downtown to get special rocks for our wands.

The idea of having dreams and hopes echoes that of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream as we celebrate his b-day this month.

The New Year, as celebrated by most of our families, leads us to thinking about the coming year so we make birthday cakes as a way of graphing the new year. Other cultures celebrate the new year at different times, such as Rosh Hashanah and Chinese New Year.



If your family has a special new year tradition please let us know about it. I know some Middle Eastern families plant grass for the new year.

The 12th day of Christmas is Dia de Los Reyes, the day the kings come. I celebrated this when I lived in Spain and many families from other Latin countries do too. We will make crowns and make a special cake with a bean in it. Whoever gets the bean must throw a party on Feb 2.

May 2010 bring Peace, Love and Joy to your families and the world.



Please join us as a new parenting class begins on Thursday, January 21. See the flyer on our website or in your latest email for details. Please do not let the money stop you from coming. We can always work something out. It's a great chance to get to know each better and learn new ideas about parenting.

A change in enrollment... We are saying goodbye to Madison and Samantha and hello to Maida, Joe's sister. Remember Joe from last year? Please welcome Mac and Kate, Maida's parents to our community. We are so happy that we had a space to accommodate this returning family!

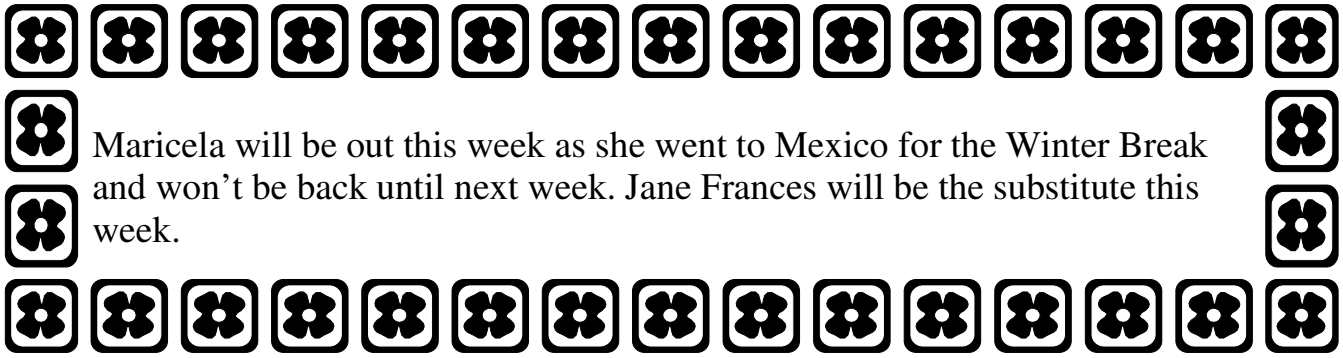
Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday is observed on Monday, January 18. School is closed. Telling the story of Rosa Parks and the bus boycott and talking about freedom and what it means to each of us are interesting activities. Ask your child some open-ended questions about their ideas of freedom and human rights.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, January 21 Parenting Class begins

Wednesday and Thursday, January 13/14 Visit Crystal Shop

Monday, January 18 No School MLK's B-day



Maricela will be out this week as she went to Mexico for the Winter Break and won't be back until next week. Jane Frances will be the substitute this week.

Dramatic Play: Veterinarian Hospital

Maybe you've noticed the kitties, puppies, lions, bunnies and birds here in the classroom. This group of children is especially interested in "pretend play" and the play they love is acting as animals and doctors who take care of the animals. The teachers and children have set up the Dramatic play area as an animal hospital. There's a waiting room and a kitchen to fix the animals' meals. The operating room is under the stairs.

There are cages, bandages, stethoscopes, masks and other medical equipment. Do you have anything to add to our collection?

During pretend play children are learning so much besides having lots of fun. Children develop interpersonal skills, especially cooperation, negotiation and conflict resolution, and they improve their language and problem-solving abilities. Vocabulary is extended as children play. This kind of play offers the most "talk" time.

Two year olds aren't usually ready for this kind of play. The three years olds are beginning to participate, but it's really the older threes and fours who are so able to rehearse adult roles and begin to make sense of the world. And what a reflection of your families it is as the children care for the animals. Ruby says, "the animals need food, space, love and care."

While observing children's play, our teachers notice what "themes" are developing. We try to enrich and extend the play by adding items and asking open-ended questions.

What else could you use in the animal hospital? "We could have a bell and the person could come in and ring it so the doctor knows she's here." (Kashawna's idea)

By asking children to draw their ideas and extending them by going on a field trip or having a veterinarian come to school, we stimulate critical thinking skills and hopefully, generate more ideas.

Parents can encourage pretend play at home by listening to your child's interests and adding props and library books to an area in your home. Providing a home environment that is conducive to play stimulates intellectual, social and emotional development. Besides creating lasting memories of playing for both you and your child.

I've called my friend, Nancy Kay and hope she will come. Maybe a trip to the animal shelter is in order. Any drivers out there? Please feel free to add your ideas.