

ALL THE NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2011 and JANUARY 2012

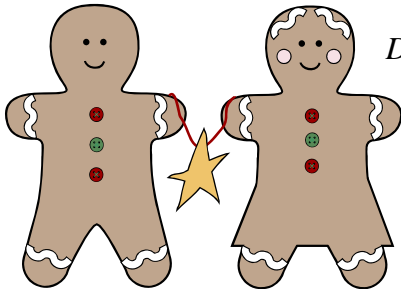


Can you believe 2012 is just around the corner? Before we turn that corner, however, we have an exciting December to get through! So take a deep breath and add the following dates to what we know is an already jam-packed holiday season!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Dec. 2nd: Our Holiday Songfest will take place at Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church. Norbeck will be closed for the entire day. At least one adult family member must attend the performance. If you are unable to attend you must keep your child home for the day and inform your child's teacher of their absence. If Montgomery County Schools are closed this day due to snow then our performance will be canceled and school will be closed as well. If there is a delayed opening due to snow, we will begin everything on time, as scheduled. There is no snow date for the performance.

Dec. 8th: Shopping Night for parents. Norbeck will be open til 9:00 p.m. for those who have already signed up for this service. Please see attached form.



Dec 15th: Gingerbread Girls and Boys are being made! The children will spend some time in the morning decorating their very own cookies to take home to you this day. Parent volunteers are not necessary – thank you!

Dec. 26th - Jan. 2nd: Norbeck is closed for winter vacation. Child care will be available Dec. 27, 28, 29 and 30 for children who have signed up for this service. Registration forms are attached and must be returned no later than Friday, Dec. 9th. Space is limited and available on a first come first serve basis. We will be closed for all children Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd. Our regular program resumes Jan. 3rd at 7:00 a.m.

January 16th: Norbeck is closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday.

January 19th: Kindergarten Round-up. A question and answer session for parents with children who are eligible for Kindergarten (Big K) beginning 2012-2013 school year. Snow date is January 26.

January: 2011-2012 enrollment begins.

FEBRUARY 3rd: Parent-Teacher Conferences. Norbeck is closed all day. Babysitting services will be provided for your child for your 15 minute conference time only in Anastasia's room. Sign up sheets will be posted January 3rd in the classrooms.

SAFETY IS OUR TOP CONCERN

We know that many of you have other children that often come with you to pick up your child at Norbeck. Many times parents think “it’s just a quick trip. . . I can leave them in the car.” Not only is this very concerning to all of us but, **IT IS ILLEGAL**. We have had several incidents over the years of belongings being stolen out of vehicles while the parents are just making that “quick trip inside.” Please be sure to **LOCK** your cars (and take your keys with you!). For your own safety, and your child’s safety, **NEVER** leave children or valuables in the car while you are inside the building or on the playground.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please take a minute to check the information on your emergency card we have on file in the office. There have been several times when we have tried to reach a parent and the phone numbers we have are no longer accurate. We need to have updated numbers so you, or your emergency contact, are reachable at all times. This might be a good time to think about getting a cell phone since many of you can not be reached at your office or at home during the day!



SNOW and DELAYED OPENING POLICY

SNOW POLICY:

In the event of severe weather conditions; snow storms, icy roads, etc.: please be advised that if Montgomery County Public Schools are closed then our school will be closed as well.

DELAYED OPENINGS:

If Montgomery County schools open 1 or 2 hours late, our school will open at **8:00am** and the Montessori program will begin at 10:00am. Teachers will be outside at 9:50am to start helping children into their classrooms.

In the event of early dismissal, the school will close no later than **5:00pm**. Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up as soon as possible so our staff can leave on time and get home safely.



Please listen to your radio, WTOP, for changes to school schedules due to inclement weather. Normally, we will follow Montgomery County School closing and delays, however, during winter vacation (when MCPS is closed) Norbeck will have its own announcement if we need to make any changes to our schedule.

If walkway conditions are icy, please be sure that you, or a staff member, assist your child in exiting from your car. If no staff member is outside to greet you, always walk your child inside to a staff member.

ARRIVAL SCHEDULE FOR LATE OPENINGS

If you are signed up for

Then you will arrive at

7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

8:00 a.m.

8 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

8:00 A.M.

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

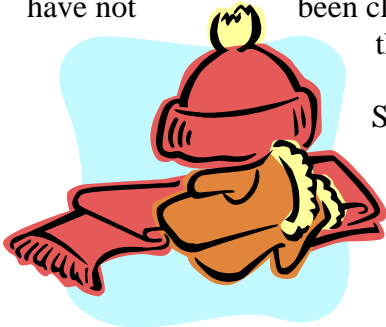
9:50 a.m. car pool line

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

9:50 a.m. car pool line

A FEW REMINDERS:

We have several jackets hanging on the coat rack in the large classroom that are unmarked and have not been claimed. Please check to see if you might be missing a jacket you thought was already safely tucked away in the closet at home!



Speaking of jackets, please be sure your child has a warm, labeled coat to wear to school. We try to take the children outside everyday, especially those that stay all day! We ask that you send **LABELED** mittens (not gloves), hats, scarves, etc. so your child can stay warm.

If you have not already done so, make sure you change over your child's spare set of clothes in their backpack to warm clothes!

Have a wonderful holiday season!!!!

'Tis the season to go shopping!!

Have you finished all of your shopping yet? Could you use a night without the kids in tow? We have the solution!

A night of babysitting!

Date: Thursday, December 8

Where: Norbeck

Time: We will be here until 9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per child



What: You leave your child here for the day and into the evening (as late as 9:00 p.m.). We will provide fun and games and videos as well as pizza dinner. You can even come in your pajamas! For those that get sleepy, we will have cots available to rest (we can not be held responsible for those that fall asleep and then are bright-eyed for you at home!)

Who: This service will be available only to children enrolled in Norbeck and siblings 3yrs - 8yrs.

If you typically pick up your child anytime before 4:30 p.m. do the same on this day. You can then bring them back to Norbeck for dinner and babysitting no earlier than 6:00 p.m. **If you normally pick up your child after 4:30 p.m.** feel free to leave them for the entire afternoon into the evening festivities beginning at 6:00 p.m. (child care charges will be applied as necessary up to 6:00 p.m. at the normal rate of \$10/hr./child)

So enjoy some uninterrupted shopping time and leave the babysitting to us!!!

If you are interested in taking advantage of this special night out you must return this form to us no later than **December 5th**. Space is limited and available on a first come first serve basis.

_____ Yes!!! I want to have some adult-only shopping time.

_____ I will be bringing siblings, name(s) age(s) _____, _____

_____ I have included \$20.00 per child as part of my registration

Student's Name (please print)

WINTER VACATION 2011

Our regular Montessori and Kindergarten program close for two holiday breaks during the year. During winter break we are closed December 24th thru January 2nd.

In order to accommodate working parents we will offer a special child care program on the following days listed below. There are days when child care will NOT be available and parents will need to make alternate arrangements.



Children enrolled in the full day program (7am - 6pm) must apply for this service and are eligible for this service at no additional cost. This program is offered, by application, to all others enrolled in our Center at a cost of \$40 per day. We do not offer child care on an hourly basis. All parents interested in reserving a place for your child during winter break can register by completing and returning the form below by Friday, December 9th. Spaces are limited and available on a first come first serve basis.

_____ Tuesday, December 27th
_____ Wednesday, December 28th
_____ Thursday, December 29th
_____ Friday, December 30th

I have checked all of the days I wish to reserve a place for my child. I realize that I will be billed for each day I have reserved unless I give notice, in writing, one week in advance.

CHILD'S NAME (please print)

** We are closed to all families Monday, December 26th and Monday, Jan. 2nd.
** We re-open to all families Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00 a.m.