Dear Pre-K Families,

The winter holidays are around the corner! In this newsletter, we feature activities to support at home learning, and information on local events for your family during the holiday season.

For additional information and activities, visit the iTrails website.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Pre-K Team

Family Activity Corner

Winter is fast approaching, and a fun book to read with your child during the Winter Holiday is The Mitten by Jan Brett.

After you read the book together, review the book pages with your child and have your child name the animals in the story. As you look at the animals, work with your child to identify the differences between the animals. For an additional learning experience, have your child select an animal from the book and create their own story about that animal. This will help build your child’s language skills.

Activity Idea: “Look Out for Animal Tracks” - Use play dough and small toy animals for this activity. Have your child use the small toy animals to make animal tracks in the “snow” (play dough). Discuss and compare the different tracks, such as the track’s size and shape. This activity also develops your child’s fine motor skills.

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For More Activities & Information Visit: www.iTrails.org

Contact Information
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Pre-K Department
(615) 298-6766 Ext. 5

MNPS District Important Dates
December 16th
MNPS Half-Day Schedule for Students

December 19th - January 4th
MNPS Winter Holidays

January 5th
MNPS Students Return to School

Get Ready for Kindergarten Tip

Winter can bring bad weather, and it can also bring colds and fevers. These can be barriers to your child attending school.

Here are tips to help you prepare before those situations happen:

- Create a backup plan to get your child to school.
- Practice healthy habits with your child. Such as getting plenty of sleep, consistent hand washing and dressing warmly for the weather.
- Talk to your doctor or school nurse ahead of time to know when your child should and should not come to school when they’re not feeling well.

December 2016
More Important Information

Parent Spotlight
There are many fun family activities to do locally during the Winter Holiday break. Below are a few resources for you during the break:

Nashville Public Library
The Nashville Public Library’s main branch and local branches have great learning opportunities during the Winter Break. Whether you read a book with your child at the library, participate in their Story Time or attend one of their events, it’s a fun activity for the whole family. Visit their website for event information:
https://library.nashville.org

iTrails K-Readiness Website
iTrails provides information and resources to support kindergarten readiness. The website features an activity calendar that you can print or view online with fun at home activity ideas.
https://itrails.org/itrails-kindergarten-readiness-calendar

Ms. Cheap’s Guide to Holiday Events
Ms. Cheap is a reporter for the Tennessean and offers a Holiday Event Guide in late December, and information on local events throughout the year.
http://www.tennessean.com/lifestyle/ms-cheap

Continuing the Conversation with Your Child’s Teacher
If your child is in school, you may have had the opportunity to connect with their child’s teacher during Parent-Teacher conferences. The conference provided a great opportunity for you to meet and discuss your child’s academic success.

It’s important that you continue the conversation with your child’s teacher throughout the year. Below are a few tips on how to connect with your child’s teacher:

- Ask your child’s teacher how you can volunteer in your child’s classroom.
- Ask your child’s teacher what support or needs does the classroom have.
- At drop off or pick up, connect with your child’s teacher and ask how your child’s day went.
- Let your child’s teacher be aware of any significant changes in your child’s life (i.e. moving to a new home, new baby at home, etc.)
- Schedule a meeting with your child’s teacher, if you have additional questions or concerns about your child.

Pre-K Family Support Corner

Routines are important for Pre-K students during the Winter Holiday break.

Prior to the break, explain to your child how long he/she will be out of school, and what will be happening instead (i.e. staying at home with a parent, going to day care, etc).

During the break remember to maintain regular bed and nap time routines, as well as meal routines.

Keeping your child on a consistent schedule will support their transition back to school after the winter break.