Dear Pre-K Families,

MNPS 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.

If you would like additional supports, please connect with your child’s Pre-K teacher.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Pre-K Team

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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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Follow MNPS Pre-K on Facebook & Twitter: @MNPSPreK

For More Activities & Information Visit: www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten

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Contact Information

Metro Nashville Public Schools
Pre-K Department
(615) 298-6766

MNPS District Important Dates

December 21
MNPS Half-Day Schedule for Students

December 24 – January 7
MNPS Winter Holidays

January 8
MNPS Students Return to School

Get Ready for Kindergarten Tip

It’s not too early for Pre-K families to start exploring their child’s kindergarten school options. Your family will be receiving information on the School Choice process. School Choice is an opportunity for families to apply to schools that they are not zoned for.

You will receive information on:
- School Choice Application Process
- School Choice Application Key Dates
- School Tours Information

For more information, visit: https://www.mnps.org/school-options

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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/Countdown to Kindergarten 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://www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten

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

Preparing for School Tours
In the following weeks your family will receive information on MNPS’ School Choice. School Choice provides families an opportunity to apply for schools that they are not zoned for.

One of the best ways to know if a school is a good fit for your child is through school tours. School tours provide you an opportunity to learn more about a school and find a school that provides a comfortable learning environment for you and your child.

Here are a few tips to consider for school tours:

- Visit more than one school. Make a list of all the schools you want to visit. Visiting several schools will provide an opportunity for you to compare different learning environments.
- Contact the school you are interested in to schedule a tour.
- When you are on the tour, listen to the interactions between teachers and students, as well as among the students themselves.
- Make observations about the school’s environment.
- Take notes during and after your tour.

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.