



December 2024



### **Directors Corner**

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we've reached the final month of 2024! The holiday season is a magical time filled with traditions and special activities, but it's also important to remember that young children thrive when they stick to their regular routines. While it may be tempting to stay up for that 8:00 holiday special, recording it for later can help everyone maintain consistency. Staying on track with routines supports your child's ability to self-regulate—an essential life skill for us all.

During family-teacher conferences, we've had many conversations about fine motor development. With the holidays around the corner, here are some gift ideas to help your child strengthen those small hand muscles while having fun:

- Silly putty, play dough, modeling clay, or slime
- Small writing utensils
- Wikki Stix

- Mini Magna Doodles
- Tweezers and small objects for sorting
- Beads and string
- Small chalkboards with chalk
- Dry erase boards and markers
- Coloring books
- Stress balls
- Small stickers to peel and stick

As we are preparing to close out this year and welcome a new one, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each family, staff member, and community partner for your unwavering support. Jack and Jill is a truly special place, enriched by the diverse backgrounds and shared commitment of everyone involved. It's heartwarming to see us all come together to support our children and one another.

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful holiday season.

Be well,  
Katrina



### **Literacy**

#### **Month Wrap Up**

Thank you for your amazing participation in our November literacy program! Together, our families recorded an impressive total of 1306 books read. Reading is such a vital part of learning and development, and your dedication truly makes a difference.

Here are the class totals for books read:

5 Day Pre-K: 413  
4 Day Pre-K: 233  
Mixed Age: 660

Congratulations to our **Mixed Age** class for reading the most books and earning a special reward party!

Great job, everyone!

#### **Our top readers were:**

5 Day Pre-K: Emma Jones

4 Day Pre-K: Ryan  
Wietecha

Mixed Age: Johanna  
Monson



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### **Holiday Break**

Jack and Jill will be CLOSED for our holiday break from Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> through Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>! See you on Thursday, January 2, 2025!

We know that the holiday break is long for our little friends. Here are some ideas to do at home to pass the time, until we are back together again!

**Ice Block** – freeze a bunch of small items in a block of ice and give the kids some salt water and an eye dropper to melt the ice and retrieve the goodies.

**Puzzles** – great for concentration and small motor development.

**Playdoh play** – this will keep their small muscles moving.

**ABC Scavenger Hunt** – this can be done as you are waiting in a check-out line or while driving in the car. Give your child a letter of the alphabet and ask them to point to as many as they can find. Eye Spy activities – books, puzzles, games that require children to find specific items.

**Board Games** – great for social skill development.



### **Spaghetti Supper and Candy Bingo**

We're excited to announce an upcoming fun-filled family event! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 18, 2025**, and join us for Spaghetti Supper and Candy Bingo!

This evening will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, enjoy a delicious meal, and have some exciting Bingo fun with sweet treats as prizes. It's an event the whole family will love, and we can't wait to see you there!

Stay tuned for more details as the date approaches.

### **Cold Weather Outdoor Play**

A reminder that we do go out to play every day! Please send your children with warm coats, hats and mittens every day. When you arrive at school, mittens are placed in your child's hat and the hat is placed in the sleeve of their coat. Please do not leave hats and mittens in backpacks. Please label

all items so that it is easy for us to figure out what belongs to whom! Also, keep in mind that mittens are MUCH easier for our friends to put on and take off!



### **Family Cookie**

#### **Swap**

Please join us for a family coffee and cookie swap on Wednesday 12/11, right after drop off. Bring 2 dozen cookies and take 2 dozen assorted cookies home with you! Children are welcome to attend. Participation in the swap is optional! If you have the time and desire, bake, store bought is okay too! If not, please still join us!

We look forward to seeing you there!



### **Polar Express**

#### **PJ Day**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our food drive! Your generosity and kindness made it a huge success, and we are so proud of our Jack and Jill community for coming together to help those in need.



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As a celebration of everyone's efforts, all classes have earned a special reward: **a Polar Express Pajama Party!**



Mark your calendars:

**Dates:** December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Mixed Age will be celebrating on both days to allow all children to enjoy the celebration. Both Pre-K classes will be celebrating on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**What to Bring:** Have your child wear their coziest pajamas, bring a small stuffed animal or lovie and get ready for a day of fun, stories, and a special treat!



**Looking Ahead**  
**to 2025**  
**DO NOT LET THIS**  
**SCARE YOU!**

This holiday season, take time to relax and enjoy special moments with your family. That said, please note that registration for the 2025-2026 school year opens on January 14, 2025.

To help families plan for the upcoming year, I will be hosting a Parent

Information Session to discuss the differences between our 3-year-old and 4/5-year-old programs. This will provide valuable guidance as you consider the best fit for your child. This will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. I am also available to discuss options individually starting the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>.

For families with children graduating from Jack and Jill and heading to kindergarten, we'll ensure you're well-informed! As we receive updates from local public schools, we'll share everything you need to know to make this transition as smooth as possible.

We're here to support you every step of the way!

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**12/2** School Closed - Conferences

**12/10** Tuition Due

**12/11** Family Cookie Swap and Coffee

**12/16** Board Meeting

**12/17 & 12/18** Polar Express Celebration

**12/19 & 12/20** Holiday Sweater Days

**12/23 – 1/1/2025**  
School Closed

**1/2** School reopens

**1/18** Spaghetti Supper and Candy Bingo